



**creative learning
& curriculum
for excellence**

*enabling class teachers to share
& develop their thinking...*

CREATIVE LEARNING & CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE

As a higher order skill for learning, life and work, creativity is an essential element that runs across all curriculum areas and themes. Creativity is central to the achievement of the four capacities: successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. In addition, a creative learning environment has known benefits in supporting each of the principles of curriculum design: challenge and enjoyment; breadth; progression; depth; personalisation and choice; coherence; and relevance to learning experiences.



Creativity is a vital element of a good education and the development of creative skills is crucial to the futures of our children and young people*



Creativity is important on a national and global level for economic growth and development and also on an individual level.

Creativity improves self-esteem, motivation and achievement; children and young people who are encouraged to think creatively become more interested in discovering things for themselves; are more open to new ideas and challenges; are more able to solve problems; can work well with others; become more effective learners and have greater ownership over their learning.

*Ministerial foreword - Fiona Hyslop, Michael Russell and Keith Brown
(Education and the Arts, Culture and Creativity: An Action Plan, Sept 2010)

The challenge for educators is to nourish and develop children's natural creativity.

Providing regular opportunities for hands-on experimentation, problem solving, discussion and collaborative work.

Actively encouraging children and young people to question, make connections, envisaging what might be possible and exploring ideas.

Using failure or setbacks as opportunities to learn.

Facilitating open discussion of the problems children and young people are facing and how they can solve them.

Asking open-ended questions such as "What if...?" and "How might you...?"

CREATIVE LEARNING NETWORK (CLN)



Enabling class teachers to share and develop their creativity in the classroom and across the curriculum



The CLN focuses on developing the role and impact of creativity across the curriculum for the benefit of children and young people. A key aim of the network is to champion creativity, to develop a shared understanding and language around creativity and stimulate the development of creativity and creative skills in learners. Using communication channels such as the Creativity Portal and Glow, networks can support participants to share good practice, ideas and resources; form creative partnerships; benefit from CPD opportunities and keep up to date with relevant learning opportunities.



Education Scotland (ES) is working in partnership with Creative Scotland (CS) to support the development of local networks together with a National Creative Learning Network (NCLN).

The SBC CLN is managed by the Creative Learning Manager, based within Arts Development. The network consists of Senior Management, Head Teachers, Cultural Ambassadors, Bridge Builders, Youth Workers, parents and pupils.

Cultural Ambassadors are a key representative for creative learning in their school. This can be a Head Teacher, Class Teacher or parent. The role of the Cultural Ambassador is to share information between their school and the wider network. Our aim is to have one Cultural Ambassador in every school.

Bridge Builders are artists and cultural practitioners who can work with schools or community groups on creative projects, workshops and residencies. The directory is available at www.cabn.info/bridge-builders-directory

YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE (YMI)

The Youth Music Initiative (YMI) is funded by Creative Scotland. Its' purpose is to ensure that by the time they reach P6, all pupils will have received one years free musical experience. These musical activities and experiences take place within the classroom to enable access and participation for all and are particularly aimed at children who would not normally have access to music opportunities.



Children felt a sense of pride in the quality of the singing they achieved together



The funding enables Scottish Borders Council to employ a small team of instructors and a Traditional Song Development Worker and a Traditional and World Music Development Worker. These instructors work on a term by term basis with class teachers to deliver music and song based projects which link into topics being studied in the class. For example, African drumming as part of a world cultures project or local, traditional songs as part of a Scots Language project. In addition, funding is also provided for the very popular Big Drum Adventure and TRASH drumming to bring their unique whole class drumming projects into schools.



In the last year the YMI instructors have worked with class teachers to deliver projects including:

Citizenship song writing

School song writing for new school opening

Class composition – Chinese March

African drumming and singing

Whole class band

Ballad of Canonbie Dick song writing

WWII songs

Enterprise project producing a CD of 1960's tunes

Pupils saw the purpose of their learning, staff were motivated and enthusiastic and parents were impressed.”



Partnerships with local and national organisations maximise the opportunities for pupils to broaden their musical experiences. Most recently YMI has collaborated with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the National Trust for Scotland and the Creative Learning Network on a music composition project inspired by St Abbs. Future collaborations involve working with local heritage sites and initiatives across the Borders to explore creative ways of engaging with local culture and heritage through music and song.

Music and song provide pupils with rich opportunities to be creative and to experience inspiration and enjoyment. Through both performing and creating music, pupils are able to develop their vocal and instrumental skills, explore sounds and musical concepts and use their imagination and skills to create musical ideas and compositions. Music also offers opportunities to work together as a team through choirs and bands and to understand how each individual contributes to the wider experience of playing / singing in harmony.

How can the CLN & YMI support you?...

Contact:

Creative Learning Manager
Arts Development
Scottish Borders Council

 01750 724901

 clnmailbox@scotborders.gov.uk

 #scotborders

scotborders.gov.uk



CREATIVE
LEARNING
NETWORK



YOUTH
MUSIC
INITIATIVE

Find out more...

Creative Learning on Glow:

Creative Learning Glow Group

<http://bit.ly/cinglowgroup>

Creative Learning Glow Group

<http://bit.ly/borderscinblog>

To contact artists and cultural practitioners to work with your school:

www.cabn.info/bridge-builders-directory.html

The Creativity Portal

The Creativity Portal is a collaborative environment for practitioners. It is designed to inform, inspire and encourage debate around creativity. It aims to stimulate new approaches to learning and teaching through partnerships between education and the cultural sectors, supporting Curriculum for Excellence.

www.creativityportal.org.uk

Education Scotland:

www.educationscotland.gov.uk & search for creativity

Creative Scotland:

www.creativescotland.com & search for Creative Learning Networks

Facebook:

<http://bit.ly/clnfacebook>



LOTTERY FUNDED

