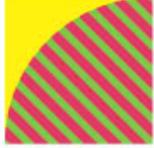


**Scoileanna  
Ildánacha**  **Creative  
Schools**

**Briefing Document**

## **An Introduction to the Scoileanna Ildánacha / Creative Schools Initiative**

Scoileanna Ildánacha/Creative Schools is a flagship initiative of the **Creative Ireland Programme**, a five year all-of-Government initiative to place creativity at the centre of public policy. (<https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en>).

The Creative Schools Pilot is a nationwide initiative involving 150 schools led by the Arts Council in partnership with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Department of Education and Skills with support from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. (<http://www.artscouncil.ie/creative-schools/>).

Scoileanna Ildánacha/Creative Schools aims to put the arts and creativity at the heart of children's and young people's lives. It is a pilot initiative that will support schools to develop and begin to implement their own Creative Schools plan.

Participating schools will understand, develop and celebrate their engagement with the arts, empowering them to bring about real change in the way they work. They will draw on the range of resources within their school and wider community, developing new ways of working that reinforce the impact of creativity on student learning, development and well-being. Children and young people will have a central role in this process.

The Creative Schools initiative will provide opportunities for participating schools to share their school's experiences and learning with the networks and partnerships in which the school is already engaged, as well as with other schools, policy-makers and the general public.

Participating schools will be supported to design, deliver and report on elements of their Creative Schools plan in the 2018–2019 school year. However, schools are expected to develop a feasible plan that can continue to be implemented by the school beyond 2018–2019.

## Background to Creative Schools

Creative Schools is a flagship initiative of *Creative Youth – A Plan to Enable the Creative Potential of Every Child and Young Person*, which was published in December 2017 as part of the Creative Ireland Programme. The plan aims to give every child practical access to tuition, experience and participation in art, music, drama and coding by 2022. The Creative Schools initiative is one component of a wider range of measures being undertaken as part of *Creative Youth*, which will be delivered to realise the aims of the plan.

Creative Schools, formerly Arts Rich Schools/Arís, draws on the commitments set out in the Arts in Education Charter. The initiative is also informed by the Arts Council’s ten-year strategy (2016–2025), *Making Great Art Work: Leading the Development of the Arts in Ireland*.

<http://www.artscouncil.ie/arts-council-strategy/>

Creative Schools is led by the Arts Council in partnership with the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

## Who is in the Creative Schools Pilot?

150 schools were selected for Creative Schools Pilot in the school year 2018/19. These schools have approximately 38,000 pupils. There are a diverse range of school types involved, in different parts of the country, rural and urban, primary and post primary, DEIS schools (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools), special schools, and Youthreach centres.

A full list of participating schools is available at <http://www.artscouncil.ie/creative-schools/pilot-schools/>

## What do we mean by understand, develop and celebrate the arts?

Schools will work through a process which comprises of three key, interrelated elements:

**Understand** Schools will explore and share experiences of arts and creativity in their school. Schools will identify areas for development, including their next steps in achieving these.

**Develop** Schools begin to implement their programme, supported by their Creative Associate, reviewing and refining it as they go.

**Celebrate** Schools reflect on and celebrate the achievements of their programme using this process to impact how they move the programme forward.

This process will support schools to:

- place the arts at the heart of school life
- refine how the arts and creativity influence the values that drive the school
- develop and begin implementing an action plan
- adopt new pedagogies and techniques for the classroom
- be informed about the arts and cultural opportunities available to them
- share their learning and good practice with others
- reinforce the impact of creativity on student learning, development, and wellbeing

## What are the benefits of participation?

Schools selected to participate in the pilot initiative will receive the following:

- School coordinators (plus two other teachers) will receive one day's induction/training where they will meet with other participating schools and with the Creative Schools team.
- Schools will be allocated a Creative Associate who will support the school for up to a maximum of nine days over the 2018–2019 school year. The school will have flexibility in how they wish to schedule these times and days, in consultation with their Creative Associate. The Creative Associate will support the school to develop a school plan for the arts and creativity, and will assist in creating or developing links between schools and with artists and arts and cultural organisations locally and/or nationally. Where schools have existing school plans encompassing artistic, cultural and creative activity, the Creative Associate will assist the school to review and further develop these plans. In addition, schools can avail of a once-off grant to implement their plans in 2018–2019.
- Schools will receive a once-off grant of €2,000 for the 2018–2019 school year.

(In the case of a collaborative application, the total available grant of €2,000 and the allocation of Creative Associate time will be the same as for all other applications. Lead schools in a collaborative application will be expected to work with their collaborating schools in determining how funding will be spent.)

## **What is a Creative Associate?**

Creative Associates are artists, creative practitioners and educators who will help schools to draw on the range of opportunities within their school and wider community.

Creative Associates will work in partnership with schools to develop a sustainable Creative School plan which will deepen the arts and creative opportunities for children and young people in your school and develop their creativity.

They will establish a range of collaborative opportunities for schools and will develop and strengthen the relationships between schools and the broader cultural and community infrastructure within which they operate. They will provide a mechanism for schools to begin to share their learning and good practice with others.

The work they do in schools can include:

- responding to a school's individual priorities and needs
- understanding a school's current engagement with the arts and creativity
- devising a plan that identifies area(s) for development, in partnership with the school
- developing the range and quality of each school's arts practice
- engaging children and young people directly in the design and implementation of programmes
- engaging a school in a continuous process of reflection and evaluation
- initiating a range of collaborative opportunities between schools and the broader cultural and community infrastructure within which they operate

**While all Creative Associates do the same work, there are two types of Creative Associate:**

**Artist Creative Associates** will be engaged by the Arts Council and can be individual artists/creative practitioners or named individuals employed by arts and cultural sector organisations.

**Teacher Creative Associates** will be selected by the Arts Council to work on a part-time basis with Creative Schools. These applicants will be fully qualified and registered teachers

who are working in a Department of Education and Skills recognised post and have a creative practice.

## **What is a Creative Schools School Coordinator?**

Schools are expected to identify a School Coordinator to support their work in the Creative Schools Initiative.

Schools Coordinators play a key role in making schools programmes successful. They are responsible for driving the programme, and ensuring it is integrated into the wider practice of the school. School Coordinators will influence the thinking and practice of colleagues and other stakeholders across the school community. The Creative Schools Initiative provides an opportunity for the teacher concerned to harness or develop their leadership skills.

School co-ordinators will receive one day's induction/training in October 2018.

## **The role of children and young people**

Ensuring the involvement of children and young people in decision-making at all stages of the process is a key focus of the initiative. Working with the Department for Children and Youth Affairs we have been supported to incorporate The Lundy Model as a valuable framework for supporting the active participation of children and young people in the work of Creative Schools. It is recommended that this model is used during all stages of work including where decision for activities, projects or areas of enquiry are being made. Children and young people should also be actively involved in the implementation and evaluation of the work of a Creative School. Creative Associates will receive training on The Lundy Model and have a manual to use as a guide.

Creative Associates will also receive training on the Creative School Planning Framework and will provide support to schools in using it and will share the responsibility for its completion with the School Coordinator.

## **What do schools get by being a Creative School?**

Participating schools will receive the following:

- A Creative Associate who will spend time in the school, familiarising themselves with the school and helping the school establish their priorities
- School Coordinator and up to 2 other members of the school community will receive training on participation in October 2018
- The Creative Associate will explore new links for schools with artists and arts and cultural organisations locally and/or nationally
- To assist them in their work schools have €2000 to spend.