



## Making The Case for Art Education in Schools

### The Facts:

A creative education not only gives young people access to a wider selection of future jobs and increases their employability, but actually helps them perform better in other school subjects too. The arts also have a hugely positive impact on mental health, confidence and wellbeing.

- Participation in structured arts activities can **increase cognitive abilities by 17%**.
- Learning through arts and culture develops skills and behaviour that lead children to **do better in school**.
- Students from low-income families who take part in arts activities at school are **three times more likely to get a degree**.
- **Employability** of students who study arts subjects is higher, and they are more likely to stay in employment

### [The Case for Cultural Learning, Cultural Learning Alliance](#)

- The Creative Industries contributed **£115.9bn in GVA** to the UK economy in 2019, which is greater than aerospace, automotive, life sciences and oil and gas sectors combined.
- It is **growing at four times the rate** of the UK economy as a whole and experienced strong growth in all parts of the UK.
- Almost **1 in 8 UK businesses are creative** businesses and 95% of these employ 9 people or fewer.

### [Creative Industry Statistics, Creative UK](#)

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- The World Economic Forum lists **creativity as the third most in demand skill** by employers in 2020, up seven places from 2010. (research produced 2016)

#### [The Future of Jobs, The World Economic Forum](#)

- Creativity is likely to become even more important in the **future job market** and creative occupations don't have a monopoly on creativity. (2018)

#### [Creativity and The Future of Skills, NESTA](#)

- In 2017, 98% of teachers and school leaders came into contact with pupils they believed were experiencing **mental health problems**.

#### [What can schools do to spot and avert mental health issues? Open Access Government](#)

- Arts subjects provide many young people with a **crucial outlet** to release pressure and provide a way of processing and articulating difficult emotions.

#### [We Must Listen to Pupils About Arts Education, TES](#)

*“We are on the brink of deskilling our students on a massive scale... I can see from the work I do in my school that the arts are a lifeline.”*

Andria Zafirakou, winner of the 2018 Global Teacher Award

### And Yet:

- There has been a **40% decline in arts GCSE** entries arts since 2010.

#### [Arts Exam Entries Paint Worrying Picture, Arts Professional](#)

- The number of hours that art and design are taught in state schools **decreased by 16.5%** between 2012 and 2017, according to analysis by the National Society for Education in Art and Design.

#### [Art Under Threat, The Royal Academy](#)

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- Two thirds (68%) of primary school teachers in England say there is **less arts education** now than in 2010, and half (49%) say the **quality** of what there is has got **worse**.

[Primary Colours: The Decline in Arts Education in Primary Schools and How it Can Be Reversed, The Fabian Society](#)

- There are **20% fewer art teachers** in secondary schools since 2010.
- Primary school children often get **no art teaching** from one term to the next.
- 97% of National Union of Teachers members agreed that SATS preparation did not support children's access to a **broad and balanced curriculum**.

[Crisis in Primary Education, National Education Union](#)

## What Can Schools and Teachers Do?

- Talk to colleagues and parents about the vast benefits (see above!) of art education for ALL children, at all stages of their lives. [NSEAD](#) has some great resources for this.
- Talk to students about the huge variety of jobs available in thriving creative industries. [Creative UK](#) has more information you can access.
- Acknowledge the impact arts and creativity have on student wellbeing; from increased confidence, to providing an outlet for difficult emotions. Read more from [The Arts Council](#).
- Celebrate art work within your school - create displays and [exhibitions](#) showcasing the talents of your young artists.
- Take part in [Art Bytes!](#) Signing up your school for our annual programme is proven to nurture talent, raise ambition and develop confidence, as well as support mental health and help develop vital skills for future employment.

Questions? Email [hello@artbytes.co.uk](mailto:hello@artbytes.co.uk)