

## **The Arts for Croydon Schools, Children and Young People**

In November 2007 the Children's Plan outlined the national aspiration that all children from 0 – 19 should have access to 5 hours of high quality cultural activities per week. The importance of the arts in the development of young people and the contribution to the Every Child Matters outcomes is reinforced in recent developments throughout the age range including:

- the creative development area of the Early Years Foundation Stage guidance
- the proposed understanding the arts and design area of the Primary Curriculum
- the new Secondary Curriculum
- the Creative and Media Diploma

A common theme in these developments is the need to consider collaborations across art forms and the contribution the arts make to creativity and cultural understanding and other areas of the curriculum.

This has prompted us to create a new service to support young people's enjoyment and development both in and through the arts. Our rationale is that the responsibility for the learning, enjoyment and development of young people through the arts, both in and out of school, lies with the schools, as described in 'A big picture of the curriculum' from QCA. Therefore the strategic direction of our service also needs to lie with the schools through the Strategy Board including 14 headteachers.

Our service has four main areas:

- Supporting schools to devise and deliver schemes of work in the arts
- Supporting schools in accessing arts projects for young people delivered by artists and arts organisations
- Supporting schools in developing and signposting out of school arts activities for young people
- Supporting schools in measuring the success of their arts programmes

The courses advertised here reflect the first area and also the instrumental music programmes which we provide directly.

To progress the other areas we are setting up an Arts Education Strategy Forum, to include contributions from Advanced Skills Teachers in the arts and the expertise in the music and arts specialist schools. Those developments will be consulted on more widely through the network meetings.

This is an exciting time for developments in the arts in schools. We are keen to hear from anyone with a contribution to make.

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