

To the Chair and each member of the Cultural SPCReport on Creative Youth Plan : Creative Ireland

In December 2017 An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, T.D., together with the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ms. Josepha Madigan, T.D., the Minister for Education and Skills, Mr. Richard Bruton T.D., and Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform Paschal Donohoe T.D., launched **Creative Youth** - A Plan to Enable the Creative Potential of Every Child and Young Person, as part of Pillar 1 of the Creative Ireland Plan.

Underpinning the vision behind **Creative Youth** are four long-term strategic objectives:

1. Supporting collaboration between Formal and Non-Formal approaches to Creativity in Education;
2. Extending the Range of Creative Activities for our Young People;
3. Embedding the Creative Process by developing programmes that will enable teachers to help young people learn and apply creative skills and capacities;
4. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for teachers working in Early Years, Primary and Post Primary Schools.

One of those actions relates to the very successful **Music Generation** programme. Music Generation currently reaches over 41,000 children and young people, both inside and outside of school. That number will increase substantially as a result of nine new Music Education Partnerships which were announced in 2017. As part of the **Creative Youth**, Music Generation programme will now be extended countrywide as soon as possible. The Department of Education and Skills will work closely with Music Generation in developing the arrangements for this roll-out.

The first stage of implementation of Creative Youth, is a five-year Programme, involves a series of key actions for 2018-2019 that will be developed in partnership with The Arts Council of Ireland.

- An Early Years CPD Project will be developed and existing Primary Schools and Post-Primary Schools CPD Projects will be mainstreamed.
- Increased opportunities for students to learn coding and computational thinking will be introduced.
- A Creative Clusters Scheme will be piloted: Commencing in September 2018 as a pilot project, the opportunity for schools to form clusters will be made available in order to generate creative cultural and artistic projects.
- Opportunities to participate in drama/theatre outside of school will be expanded.
- A strategy to develop and extend choral singing will be developed.

- Cruinniú (formerly Cruinniú na Cásca) will be redesigned and developed as a national creativity day for children and young people in consultation with the local authorities;
- Local Creative Youth Partnerships will be established on a pilot basis.
- Implementation of additional elements of the Arts in Education Charter will be supported
- Scoileanna Ildánacha/Creative Schools initiative, bringing artists into the classroom, will be piloted.

How will Limerick roll out on this National Strategy?

In Limerick a Scoileanna Ildánacha / Creative Schools initiative has been agreed as part of the delivery of the Limerick Cultural Strategy. This initiative aims to put the arts and creativity at the heart of children and young people's lives and will be delivered with the Arts Council in partnership the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

An open call for Creative Associates to work with a cluster of schools in Limerick will be issued. The Creative Associate is essential in embedding inspirational creative practices in teaching and learning. Creative Associates will work in partnership with a number of schools, to develop the knowledge, expertise and approaches that will sustain each school's creative practice. Together they will provide a mechanism for schools to begin to share their learning and good practice together.

Participating schools will be asked to look at ways of developing and celebrating their engagement with the arts, empowering them to bring about real change. Drawing on a range of resources within the school and wider community the Limerick Creative Schools initiative in line with the Creative Youth Plan will provide new ways of working that reinforce the impact of creativity on student learning, development, and wellbeing.

Putting the arts and culture at the centre of education is important not just for developing creative capacities and skills but also for encouraging social responsibility and personal qualities such as resilience, empathy, and a capacity for friendship.

Sheila Deegan

Culture and Arts Officer