

Creative Classrooms

A Creative Classroom is a place where everyone can flourish and grow

What is Creative Classrooms?

Creative Classrooms is an evidence-based programme of drama work designed for primary schools - Years 1 to 4 - which supports students to develop their emotional literacy, while building communication and empathy skills.

How does Creative Classrooms support students' personal development?

Students' personal development is the primary focus of Creative Classrooms workshops and is one of the 4 key judgements on the current Ofsted Education Inspection Framework.

Statement from the Education Inspection Framework	How Creative Classrooms workshops support this statement
<p>'The curriculum extends beyond the academic... it provides for learners' broader development, enabling them to develop and discover their interests and talents'</p>	<p>Creative Classrooms supports learners' broader development by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing their emotional literacy and empathy skills; • allowing them to reflect on their own development and identify their skills and talents; • giving them chance to explore their interests in drama and storytelling in a low-stakes environment; • allowing them to experience and celebrate their own and others' successes.
<p>'The curriculum and provider's wider work support learners to develop their character - including their resilience, confidence and independence - and help them know how to keep physically and mentally healthy'</p>	<p>Creative Classrooms supports learners to develop their character by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helping them to understand and process their own emotions and needs in order to improve their well-being; • encouraging and celebrating participation which builds confidence; • recognising and verbalising resilience in both the stories that are being told and the work that is being created by the learners, allowing them to understand both resilience and empathy; • giving them ownership over decisions involved in creating the work, and letting them influence action, overcome obstacles and create alternate endings, leading to increased confidence and independence;

Statement from the Education Inspection Framework	How Creative Classrooms workshops support this statement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognising the importance of stillness and participating in a guided breathing session during each workshop.
'The provider prepares learners for future successes in their next steps'	Creative Classrooms sessions enable learners to recognise the needs and feelings of others and develop key life skills, such as decision making, emotional literacy and effective communication.

How does Creative Classrooms link to the National Curriculum?

In addition to the development of emotional literacy, communication and empathy skills of participants, another key focus of Creative Classrooms sessions is developing learners' language and literacy. The National Curriculum states, 'fluency in the English language is an essential foundation for success in all subjects'.

Through coherently planned and sequenced workshops, learners' spoken language skills and vocabulary are developed at an appropriate level. Our approach to telling and exploring stories slowly and steadily supports learners' reading comprehension and inference skills through the drama activities that are completed throughout the process.

A full list of the English NC objectives that are met through Creative Classrooms sessions is available for each year group from 1 - 4.

Creative Classrooms sessions also contribute to a school's offer for personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education. Liaison between the Creative Classrooms practitioners and school staff enable sessions to be tailored to reflect the specific needs of the pupils in the school.

What are some of the other benefits to bringing Creative Classrooms into your school?

- Children are better able to understand and articulate their emotions; 92% of teachers involved in the project agree that their students are better able to communicate their thoughts and feelings effectively.
- Participants in the project develop resilience, becoming increasingly resilient to setbacks, which is a key life skill and supports behaviour and attitudes in the classroom.
- Praise and celebration are essential elements of Creative Classrooms sessions. Participants are encouraged to take pride in their own achievements and recognise the success of others.
- Creative Classrooms develops teamwork, tolerance and creativity. One teacher involved in the project previously stated, 'In Creative Classrooms, the children are collaborative, cooperative, accepting of each other and creative.'
- CPD is available for all schools involved in the Creative Classrooms project, where practitioners share key techniques with school staff, enabling the work to be continued with schools beyond the project. One teacher stated, 'Creative Classrooms is the best CPD you could ask for.'