

Creative Classrooms

Teachers in Doncaster primary schools have shared that their students are struggling to communicate effectively, build confidence in the classroom, and listen and retain information - all key skills which are necessary for effective learning. This anecdotal evidence is supported by significant evidence of a national crisis in children's mental health. ([ADCS Report on Children's Mental Health](#), Nov 2022, [CYP Mental Health](#) by Health and Social Care Committee, Dec 2021.)

Creative Classrooms has proven to be a successful intervention in supporting children in developing these skills; 100% of teachers engaged over three years of delivery have seen improved confidence and engagement in their students both during Creative Classrooms and in lessons, while 92% agree that their students are better able to communicate their thoughts and feelings effectively. Year 4 Teacher Janet said **"I couldn't find a single fault with the project. Students are more confident across year groups, and teachers are using the skills they've learnt in their own lessons."**

If you joined a Creative Classroom, you would see an experienced drama facilitator leading six sessions with a whole class of students, from Year 1 to Year 4, slowly and surely. Exploring one story for six weeks allows a class to immerse themselves in a new world where they can make mistakes, explore characters' differing emotions, and imagine alternative endings.

Creative Classrooms was developed with four primary schools across Doncaster over three years and built in partnership with Elaine Burke, Art Therapist and Consultant. The pedagogy is rooted in darts' 30 years of experience working with children, in substantiated theories of child development and the importance of play and is informed by the knowledge and expertise of the teachers, senior leaders, and teaching assistants we have worked with across Doncaster.

We support schools in developing a whole-school approach to creativity, wellbeing and understanding ourselves. We also share key techniques with teaching staff through CPD sessions so staff can continue to build a creative classroom in their own practice.

The core principles that underpin our work are:

- Self: Understanding myself and my feelings.
- Relationships and Empathy: Understanding other people and making friends
- Curiosity: Trying new things through exploring and taking risks. Building resilience.
- Feeling Calm: Finding ways into feeling calm, creating boundaries.
- Choose What You Do: Agency, having power and ownership.

Address

The Point, 16 South Parade,
Doncaster, DN1 2DR

Telephone

01302 341 662

Email

hello@wearedarts.org.uk

Each of these focuses are directly tied to Erikson's theory of psychosocial development, developing key building blocks for children. Teachers can choose which focus best supports their class's development.

Creative Classrooms in your school

To explore how Creative Classrooms could support your school, please contact Sarah (Director: Arts and Education) on sarah@wearedarts.org.uk or on 01302 493844.

Full Programme

Creative Classrooms includes 32 weeks of delivery in a school year, with a half term dedicated to each year group. Each half term includes 6 weekly workshops for each of the 2 classes in a year group, regular meetings with teachers and senior leaders to oversee the progress of this work and termly CPD tailored to your staff to be delivered in school. The cost is £7500 for a school year.

Taster Offer

If you would like a taster of Creative Classrooms, we can provide a half term's work with two classes in one year group and three CPD sessions for staff to utilise some of the initial learning. The cost is £1575 for the Taster Offer.

If you like this model and cannot afford these costs, together we can apply for funding for Creative Classrooms in your school. We have an excellent success rate with this work.

Teacher and Student Feedback

Teachers have told us:

"I couldn't find a single fault with the project. Students are more confident across year groups, and teachers are using the skills they've learnt in their own lessons."

"Creative Classrooms was a chance for the children to learn life skills differently and it encouraged less academic children to shine."

"Classrooms is the best CPD you could ask for. In Creative Classrooms the children are collaborative, cooperative, accepting of each other and creative. This isn't always the case in our classrooms, and it was an absolute joy to see."

Students have fed back:

"I love Creative Classrooms, we always go on really big adventures!"

"The best thing about it [Creative Classrooms] is I get to show what I'm good at."

"We try really hard and show all our feelings"