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Turning ideas into action

HOW TO CHAMPION CREATIVITY IN SCOTTISH SCHOOLS

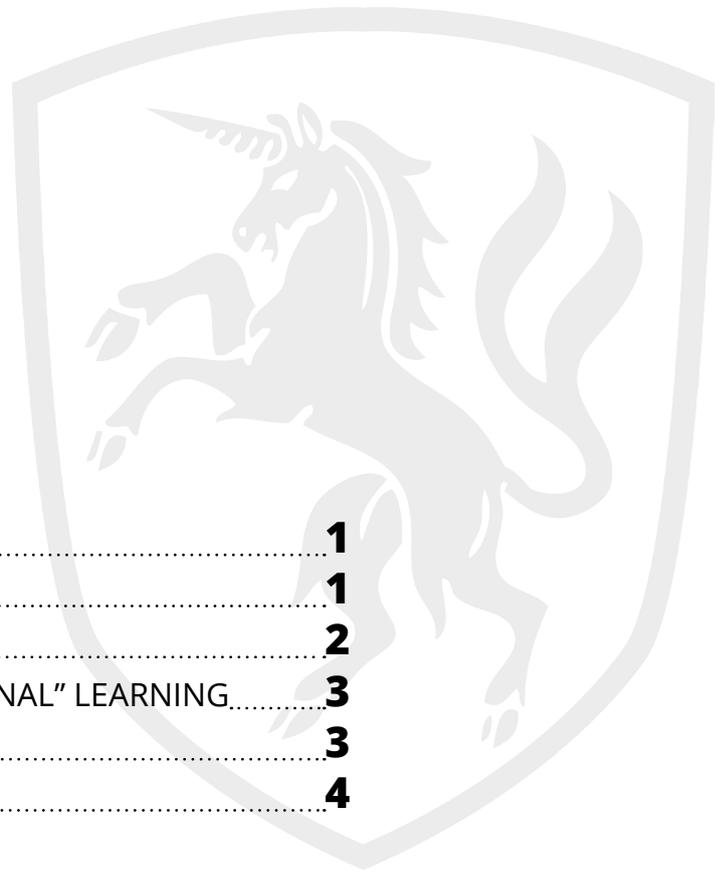
POLICY PROPOSAL

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CONTENTS



BACKGROUND.....	1
CREATIVITY PORTAL.....	1
CREATIVE CHAMPION.....	2
INCORPORATING CREATIVITY INTO “TRADITIONAL” LEARNING.....	3
SOCIAL MEDIA.....	3
REFERENCES.....	4

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A Creative Champion in every school to ensure a direct link between the 'Creativity Portal' and teachers.
- Ensure that teachers know more about the resources available in the Portal to enhance creativity in the classroom.
- Social Media campaign to incentivise role: #BeACreativeChampion.
- Development of Creative Branch to acknowledge and reward pupils' creativity.



BACKGROUND

The Creative Learning Network (CLN) initiated by Education Scotland in partnership with Creative Scotland has placed a CLN Coordinator within each local authority¹. The Coordinators are trying to develop innovative practice and partnerships, encourage collaborative working to improve Scotland's creative capacity. The interim report on CLN demonstrates the impact that CLN has had with more artist visits to schools, involving Creative Consultants in East Dunbartonshire and the increasing confidence of children involved in after-school arts activities such as the So Vocal Crew and Stamp². These successful initiatives should be used in other schools to ensure every child has access to a creative education. This proposal follows Education Scotland definition of creativity: "as a process which generates ideas that have value to the individual. It involves looking at familiar things with a fresh eye, examining problems with an open mind, making connections, learning from mistakes and using imagination to explore new possibilities."

CREATIVITY PORTAL

CLN has improved collaboration between schools and their communities as outreach programs and previously mentioned case studies have established. While improved engagement with external actors is a positive development, it becomes difficult to gauge whether teaching in the classroom is engaging with creativity. In order to increase creative education within the classroom teachers require resources to engage children creatively. The Creativity Portal by Education Scotland includes curriculum advice, successful projects and tools for teachers to use to improve Scotland's creative capacity³. The goal of this proposal is for teachers to use this resource more often in the classroom.



CREATIVE CHAMPION

To incentivise the use of the Portal, each school should have a Creative Champion. Teachers who feel passionately about creativity and want to engage with other teachers and professionals in enhancing the role of creativity in education would become Creative Champions. The role of Creative Champion would include:

- Increasing awareness of Creativity Portal within schools;
- Advising other teachers on how to incorporate creativity into traditional subjects and learning;
- Attending Creativity conferences and seminars;
- Building on links within the CLN to improve community participation with community members involving themselves with primary education through outreach programs and career experiences;
- Taking a proactive role in building Scotland's creative capacity.

The role itself should not add substantially to teachers' workload as it will be an extension of teachers' already extensive work in enhancing creativity in the classrooms.

The role should be available to every teacher ultimately but limited to one teacher per school initially would help ensure the success and take-up of the initiative. Pursuing creativity requires teachers to feel empowered enough to change the teacher-pupil dynamic and allow the pupil to pursue their own learning. This initiative will help to develop the four

capacities of the Curriculum for Excellence. Pupils will become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors following a greater emphasis on creativity. Creative Champions would facilitate and help any teachers who are unsure of how to do this.



INCORPORATING CREATIVITY INTO “TRADITIONAL” LEARNING

This can be done through redefining the current format of assignments to allow pupils to explore different options and expand their own learning. The grading criteria would be adjusted to include a ‘Creative Branch’ to acknowledge and reward pupils’ creativity, originality and thinking skills. With help from the Creative Champion, teachers would encourage innovative approaches and provide guidance to pupils pursuing their own choices.

Creativity would then become a learning outcome and a factor of assessment in the classroom. Students would learn to take personal initiative and make the most out of their potential from early ages, enhancing critical thinking and fostering a creative approach. The desired outcome is that students successfully integrate creativity into their learning. Having been given a broad task, such an approach would include:

- Thinking of different approaches and making deliberate choices;
- Choosing an original format;
- Communicating his/her thoughts in a comprehensive manner;
- Showing autonomy, spontaneity and curiosity.

This new approach to tasks and projects would still give high importance to the quality and relevance of the content. The role of creativity would be incremented to the benefit of both the students’ learning and the teachers’ mentoring. Through changes to the approach of teaching and evaluating, classrooms would

become a space for students to explore different options and gain from all aspects of learning.

SOCIAL MEDIA

To incentivise Creative Champions and to boost social media engagement with the CLN, a social media campaign across Twitter and Facebook with #BeACreativeChampion would fulfil many of CLN’s goals encouraging collaborative practices as well. This campaign would allow Creative Scotland or Education Scotland to use the hashtag when discussing creativity generally, it would direct users toward specific teachers who are already successful and teacher/parents would also use it on their personal streams to praise any pupils who have been successful due to a Creative Champion.

#BEACREATIVECHAMPION



REFERENCES

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- i. Education Scotland 2013, *Creativity Across Learning 3-18*. Available from: http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/Creativity3to18_tcm4-814361.pdf. [Accessed: 24th September 2015.]
 - ii. Creative Scotland 2013, *What is Creativity - Scotland's Creative Learning Plan 2013*. Available from: <http://www.creativescotland.com/resources/our-publications/plans-and-strategy-documents/scotlands-creative-learning-plan-2013>. [Accessed: 24th September 2015.]
 - iii. 'Creativity Portal'. <http://www.creativityportal.org.uk>. [Accessed: 24 Sept. 2015].

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