
THE ARTS IN SCHOOLS

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE:

Purposes, Principles and Practice

Timeline 1982-2022

Introduction **Timeline 1982-2022**

Our new report, *The Arts in Schools Foundations for the Future: Purposes, Principles and Practice*, looks back at the seminal 1982 Gulbenkian Foundation publication, *The Arts in Schools: Principles, practice and provision*. The original report was hugely influential with local authorities, which then managed the country's schools, and with the professional arts sector. It paved the way for the arts to be included in England's first National Curriculum in 1988, and inspired many professional arts organisations to engage with the education sector for the first time.

The new report, *The Arts in Schools: Foundations for the Future*, covers the context in which the original report was written: the practice and provision that it envisioned; the immediate impact it had; and how society, education policy and the arts have changed over the past 40 years. Working with A New Direction, we published a think piece in May 2022, and consulted widely through nine online roundtables around the themes of the original report. These spanned the purpose of education and the role of the arts; primary provision; secondary provision; 'cultural capital'; creativity; assessment and accountability; equity, diversity and inclusion; arts organisations and artists; and arts provision beyond schools.

The organisations formerly funded by Arts Council England as part of the Bridge network generated a rich bank of [case-studies](#) profiling excellent arts education practice across the country, and enabled a series of consultations with a [young people's group](#) which has informed this report. (The network, although not all its organisations, was dissolved in March 2023.)

This revised 40-year timeline complements our new report, and gives an overview of the political, social, technological, educational and arts landscape over the decades since the original report's publication. It also includes a few relevant landmark developments from the 1970s. It lists papers, policies, reforms, funding, initiatives and changes which are relevant to the themes in the original report, and to our new report on the arts in schools today.

**Sally Bacon and Pauline Tambling,
March 2023**

This 40-year timeline gives an overview of key developments across the political, social, technological, educational, and arts landscape over the decades since the original report's publication.

80s

1980s

1980s

Political landscape

- 1976** *Support for the Arts in England & Wales*, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation
- 'A rational debate based on the facts', education speech delivered by James Callaghan at Ruskin College Oxford
- 1978** Warnock Report, *Education in England*, the first comprehensive review of special educational needs (SEN) in England & the basis for subsequent legislation
- 1981** Education Act: makes provision for children with special educational needs, taking forward some of the 1978 Warnock Report recommendations
- 1984** School Examination Council & School Curriculum Development Council replace Schools Council
- BTEC qualifications introduced (Business & Technology Education Council)
- 1985** Swann report, *Education for All*, proposing that a broadly-based, multi-cultural approach to the curriculum should be adopted by all schools
- 1986** GCSEs replace O Levels & CSEs

- 1988** Education Reform Act: based on the principles of making schools more competitive (marketisation) & giving parents choice. National Curriculum & Local Management of Schools introduced. SATs introduced
- 'Section 28' prohibited 'the promotion of homosexuality' by Local Authorities, including in schools
- 1988**
1989 First National Curriculum programmes of study including art & design, & music. Dance was included as part of physical education & drama as part of English

Technology | economy | society

- 1980s** Millennials (b. 1981-96)
- Home computing grows
- 1982** 12% of school pupils accessing free school meals
- Channel 4 launch
- 1983** World Wide Web launch

Arts education

- 1978** Arts Council of Great Britain (ACGB) sets up an Education Unit for the first time
- 1980s** Start of increase in number of arts organisations with learning teams from 1982, following the Gulbenkian Report's recommendations, ACGB guidance & new funding programmes
- 1988** ACGB begins working with subject associations including National Drama, the National Society for Art & Design (NSEAD), the Music Teachers' Association & the newly formed National Dance Teachers' Association (NDDTA) to advise DfE on curriculum developments

Reports | publications

- 1978** H.Lashley, T.Rose, *Cultural Pluralism: Implications for Teaching Arts in Schools*, Commission for Racial Equality
- 1981** *The Arts Council & Education: A Consultative Document* (ACGB)
- 1982** *The Arts in Schools* published (Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation)
- 1983** *The Arts Council & Education: a policy statement* (ACGB)
- 1989** *The Arts in Schools*, republished with a new introduction (Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation)

90s

1990s

1990s

Political landscape

1990 Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) abolished

1992 Department of Education & Science renamed Department for Education

Education (Schools) Act: Ofsted established

1993 White Paper *Choice & Diversity: A New Framework for Schools* paved the way for the introduction of the Specialist Schools Programme

Education Act: School Curriculum Assessment Authority created & Special Needs defined

1994 Dearing Review: *The National Curriculum & its Assessment*, sought to relieve burden on schools following the introduction of the National Curriculum

1995 Departments of Education & Employment merged to create the DfEE

Modern Apprenticeships launched

1996 Dearing Review of Qualifications for 16-19-Year-Olds

Tomlinson Report: *Inclusive Learning*, exploring widening participation specifically for learners with learning difficulties or disabilities

Education Act stating that parents & carers must ensure that all children of compulsory school age (5-16) receive a full-time education that is suitable for their age, ability & aptitude & special educational needs

Tony Blair, Ruskin College lecture, to mark the 20th anniversary of James Callaghan's 1976 lecture on education which had begun 'The Great Debate' about the nature & purpose of public education

1997 Education Act: increased funding to education; reduced class sizes; introduced academies, Sure Start & Qualifications & Curriculum Authority

Major cuts in Local Authority discretionary funding affecting music services & discretionary grants for dance & drama students

Dearing Report: *Higher Education in the Learning Society*, paved the way for tuition fees

New Labour government; PM's 'Education, education, education' speech

Department of National Heritage becomes Department of Culture, Media & Sport

Kennedy Report on widening participation in Further Education

1997
1998 Devolution in the UK, allowing each home nation to pursue its own education agenda

1998 Literacy Hour & Numeracy Hour introduced & literacy targets set for all LAs

Education Action Zones established

Student university tuition fees introduced (£1,000)

1999 Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) introduced to encourage take up of post-16 education

Sure Start introduced for 0-3s, focus on health, wellbeing, & educational attainment in areas of disadvantage (£450m in first 3 years)

David Blunkett launches £180m Music Standards Fund with a pledge that every child will get the chance to learn a musical instrument

Technology | economy | society

1990s Millennials (b. 1981-1996) / Gen Z (b. 1997-2012)

The Internet launched

Mobile phone use grows

1994 PlayStation launched

1998 Google founded

1990s

Arts education | funding

- 1991** Gulbenkian Foundation publishes a report calling for an Ombudsman for Children
- 1994** National Lottery Act & establishment of the 'good causes' including the arts
- Devolution of Arts Council of Great Britain; Arts Council of England (ACE) established, responsible for investing grant in aid from government & Lottery funding
- 1996** Awards for Everyone (A4E) established by ACE
- 1997** *Leading through Learning: The English Arts Funding System's Policy for Education & Training*, Arts Council of England
- Interim Funding Scheme for dance & drama training ACE/ DfEE
- Government announcement that pupils would get 5 hours of arts lessons per week

- 1998** National Endowment for Science, Technology & the Arts (NESTA) launched to promote talent, creativity & innovation in science, technology & the arts
- Launch of national network of Clore Learning Spaces with £7m donation
- New Opportunities Fund launched to distribute lottery funds to projects including in education
- 1999** Arts Council Capital investment programme begins with £269m earmarked for 46 building projects
- Youth Music established

Reports | publications

- 1996** *Setting the scene* – the arts & young people, Department for National Heritage
- 1997** *Arts Organisations & their Education Programmes*, Hogarth, Kinder & Harland, National Foundation for Educational Research
- The Arts in the Curriculum, School Curriculum & Assessment Authority & Department of National Heritage*
- 1998** Creative Industries Mapping Documents, DCMS
- 1999** *All our Futures* published by National Advisory Committee on Creative & Cultural Education (NACCCE), commissioned by DfEE & DCMS
- Policy Action Team 10: The contribution of Sport and the Arts*, published by DCMS (PAT10)

Beyond schools | charities

- 1994** Russell Group of universities formed
- 1997** Sutton Trust founded, a UK educational charity aiming to improve social mobility & address educational disadvantage

2000s

2000s

2000s

Political landscape

- 2000** Academies launched as City Academies
'Section 28' repealed
- 2001** Department for Education renamed Department for Education & Skills (DfES)
Schools Achieving Success White Paper leads to Wider Opportunities pledge for all pupils in primary schools to learn a music instrument
- 2002** Innovation Unit set up within DfES as part of the measures in the *Schools Achieving Success* White Paper
Education Act provides for removal of prefix 'city' from City Academies so more schools can join the Academy programme
Launch of the Young Gifted & Talented programme
- 2003** Every Child Matters launched, takes holistic view of the welfare of children, supporting them to be healthy, safe, enjoy & achieve, make a positive contribution & achieve economic wellbeing; far-reaching reform for children's services with wide-reaching implications for education, health, social services, voluntary & community organisations & other agencies

- 2004** The Children Act, established the role of Children's Commissioner with responsibility for promoting awareness of the interests & views of children; regulated intervention in the interests of children
£6bn Building Schools for the Future programme introduced
David Miliband (DfES) & Estelle Morris (DCMS) launch Music Manifesto
Tomlinson report on 14-19 reform, proposing raising the status of vocational qualifications; reducing the amount of assessment & the number of exams; & simplifying the system (largely not taken forward)
New Opportunities Fund and Big Lottery Fund merge to become the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF)
- 2006** Extended Project Qualifications (EPQs) introduced to be taken alongside A Levels

- 2007** Department for Education & Skills split into two: Department for Children, Schools & Families (DfCSF), & Department of Innovation, Universities & Skills
Ajagbo Report, Diversity & Citizenship
Sing Up created as a £40m government programme to reinstate singing in primary schools
- 2008** Education & Skills Act raised the education leaving age from 16 to 18
- 2009** Apprenticeships, Skills, Children & Learning Act paves the way for the creation of Ofqual in 2010

Technology | economy | society

- 2000s** Gen Z (b. 1997-2012)
- 2000** UK Broadband launched
- 2001** Xbox launched
- 2004** Facebook launched
- 2005** YouTube launched
- 2006** Twitter launched
Spotify launched
- 2007** Apple iPhone UK launch
Netflix streaming service introduced
- 2008** Global financial crisis

2000s

Arts education | arts sector

2000s ACE expands its work with young people

2001 Artsmark founded by ACE: 377 schools recognised in its first year

2002 Creative Partnerships introduced as an ACE flagship creative learning programme

Music & Dance scheme providing specialist provision in music (8-19s) & dance (11-19s)

2003 Grants for the Arts launched by ACE for the benefit of local communities

2004 Youth Dance England set up by ACE, DfE & DCMS

2005 Arts Award introduced

Creative & Cultural Skills established

Major arts capital projects for children open: The Egg in Bath; Seven Stories in Newcastle; & the Unicorn Theatre in London

2006 STEAM movement develops internationally

2008 Find Your Talent (£25m) set up

In Harmony launched by Schools Minister

2009 Creativity, Culture & Education (CCE) introduced, Creative Partnerships gradually transferred to CCE

NT Live launched to bring British theatre to cinema screens

National Art and Design Saturday Club established

Reports | publications

2000 Sutton Trust *Entry to Leading Universities*, highlighting private school advantage

Arts Education in Secondary schools: effects and effectiveness, Harland, Kinder et al, NFER

2001 *UK Review of Effective Government Structures for Children* published by Gulbenkian Foundation

£2.68: Survey of art & design resources in primary & secondary schools reveals level of annual school spending on art & design materials (CDF + NSEAD)

Culture & Creativity: the next ten years, Government Green Paper with Foreword from the Prime Minister

2003 *Space for Learning: a handbook for creative learning environments* (CDF + QCA, ACE & others)

Developing opportunities for talented children in music & dance, John Myerscough & Rachel Gibson, DfES

2006 Roberts Review, *Nurturing Creativity in Young People*, jointly commissioned by DCMS & DfES

2008 *The Dance Review: a report to the Government on Dance Education & Youth Dance in England*, DCMS

2009 *Get it: The Power of Cultural Learning*, feedback & recommendations from a public consultation by the Culture & Learning Consortium (led by CDF & including the Gulbenkian Foundation & others)

McMaster Report, *Supporting Excellence in the Arts*

Beyond schools

2008 Myplace launched: £240m to build world-class youth centres as hubs for young people to access a wide range of advice & support services in disadvantaged areas, transforming services for young people

10s

2010s

2010s

Political landscape

- 2010** New Coalition government: austerity driving policy making
- Department for Children, Schools & Families renamed Department for Education
- EBacc introduced
- Education Maintenance Allowance scrapped
- Student university tuition fees raised from £1,000 to £9,000
- Young Gifted & Talented programme closed
- Building Schools for the Future scrapped
- Academies Bill: Free Schools & Academies programme introduced, with schools to be run by academy trusts, not LAs
- 2011** Sure Start closed
- Specialist Schools Programme ended
- ACE/DfE-funded Music Hubs replace local authority music services
- Education Endowment Foundation founded by the Sutton Trust, as lead charity in partnership with Impetus, with a founding grant of £125m from DfE

- 2012** Government funding for Sing Up stops
- The Schools, Students & Teachers Network (SSAT) created from predecessor organisations, including the City Technology Trust & the Leading Edge Network
- 2013** Revised National Curriculum introduced
- My Place (youth centres programme) closed
- 2014** Universal infant free school meals announced
- 2015** New Conservative government
- 2016** Progress 8 & Attainment 8 introduced in England
- UK European Union membership referendum (Brexit)
- 2017** DCMS renamed as Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport
- DfE introduces Opportunity Areas scheme
- 2019** Cultural Capital introduced in new Ofsted Framework

Technology | economy | society

- 2010s** Gen Alpha (b. 2013-)
- 2010** Instagram launched
- 2016** Vote to leave the European Union
- 2017** Me Too movement growth
- TikTok launched
- 2019** 190+ cultural organisations declare a Climate Emergency

2010s

Arts education | arts sector

2010 ACE launches 10-year strategic framework, *Great Art for Everyone*, with 5 goals, including goal 5: Children & Young People

Cultural Learning Alliance (CLA) founded, supported by Clore Duffield, Gulbenkian, Esmée Fairbairn, Foyle & Paul Hamlyn Foundations

2011 Find Your Talent scheme closed

ACE publishes new strategic aims for children & young people

Bridge organisations established by ACE

Creative Partnership closed, having reached 1m children, 90,000 teachers & 8,000 projects, 2002-10

2012 ACE takes on responsibility for In Harmony

National Youth Dance Company established, supported by ACE & DfE

2013 National Plan for cultural education published by DCMS & DfE (without delivery framework, investment or infrastructure attached)

2014 Creative Industries Federation launched

2015 ACE Cultural Education Challenge

Local Cultural Education Partnerships (LCEPs) developed by ACE with DfE to improve cultural education for children & young people (now 140 LCEPs)

2016 Culture White Paper, the first in 50 years, proposing that all publicly funded arts organisations increase access for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds

Gulbenkian Foundation launches Enquiry into the Civic Role of Arts Organisations

Paul Hamlyn Foundation introduces Teacher Development Fund

One Dance UK formed, incorporating the National Dance Teachers Association

2019 Year 3 Steve McQueen project unveiled at Tate, with AND & Art Angel

Reports | initiatives

2011 *ImagineNation: the case for cultural learning* published, together with *Key Research Findings* (Cultural Learning Alliance)

Music Education in England review published (Henley Report), commissioned by DfE & DCMS

The Importance of Music: A National Plan for Music Education (DfE & DCMS)

2012 *Cultural Education in England* (Darren Henley) commissioned by DfE & DCMS

Quality & Inequality in Music Education 2008-11, published by Ofsted

2014 *Step by step: arts policy & young people 1944-2014* (Culture at Kings, KCL)

2015 *Enriching Britain: Culture, Creativity & Growth* – Warwick Commission report on cultural value

Space for Learning: a new handbook for creating inspirational learning spaces in museums & galleries (CDF + ACE, Foyle Foundation & others)

2017 *ImagineNation: the value of cultural learning*, new edition launched by the Cultural Learning Alliance, together with updated Key Research Findings

2018 *Time to Listen* report published by the RSC, Tate & Nottingham University

2019 Durham Commission on Creativity & Education (1st report)

UNESCO's Futures of Education initiative: rethinking education to shape the future

Beyond schools

2010-2019 An estimated £400m axed from youth services; more than 760 youth centres closed

2019 Augar Review of post-18 education in England

Facilitating Subjects list (excluding arts subjects) scrapped by the Russell Group

2020s

2020s

2020s

Political landscape

- 2020** Withdrawal of the UK from the European Union (Brexit)
- 2021** New Curriculum for Wales published (with a very different purpose to England's)
- 2022** Levelling Up White Paper sets out government social & economic programme to spread opportunity, & cultural engagement, more equally across the UK
- English government publishes teacher guidance on avoiding political bias for the first time
- Changes to HE system announced in response to 2019 Augar Review
- Opportunities for All* Education White Paper: focus on literacy & numeracy; no changes to curriculum or assessment; sets out timeframe for new music education plan (2022) & a cultural education plan (2023), with DCMS & ACE
- SEND Green Paper

Technology | economy | society

- 2020s** Gen Alpha (b. 2013-)
- 2020** Global Covid-19 pandemic: school closures; learning moves online; public exam cancellations 2020 & 2021
- 2021**
- 2020** George Floyd death & resulting racial justice movement
- 2022** 20.8% of pupils accessing free school meals
- Increase in incidence of child mental health problems
- Covid restrictions end

Arts education | arts sector

- 2020** *Let's Create*, new ACE 2020-30 strategy published
- SHAPE introduced (Social sciences, humanities & the arts for people & the economy), led by LSE, British Academy, Academy of Social Sciences & ACE
- 2021** ACE launches Creativity Collaboratives, a national pilot testing approaches to creativity in schools
- 2022** PISA Creative thinking framework introduced
- 2023** Bridge organisation infrastructure ceases
- ## Beyond schools
- 2020** T Levels launched as new practical equivalents to A Levels
- 2022** Changes to HE funding system announced following the 2019 Augar Review

Reports | initiatives

- 2020** *Lit in Colour* (Penguin Books UK & the Runnymede Trust) reveals that fewer than 1% of students at GCSE study a book by a writer of colour
- 2021** *Skills for Every Young Person*, published by the Youth Unemployment Lords Select Committee
- A Great Education for Every Child: Blueprint for a Fairer Education System* (ASCL)
- Rethinking Assessment movement launched (Edge Foundation)
- Times Education Commission launched, reporting in 2022
- 2022** Big Change launches Subject to Change: rethinking the education system
- The power of music to change lives: a national plan for music education* published by HM Government
- 2023** *The Arts in Schools: Foundations for the Future* published by A New Direction & Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

Abbreviations

ACE	Arts Council England (post-1994)	GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education (from 1987)
ACGB	Arts Council of Great Britain (pre-1994)	HE	Higher Education
AND	A New Direction	ILEA	Inner London Education Authority
ASCL	Association of School & College Leadership	KCL	King's College London
BTECs	Business & Technology Education Council qualifications	LAs	Local Authorities
CCE	Creativity, Culture & Education	LCEPs	Local Cultural Education Partnerships
CDF	Clare Duffield Foundation	NACCCE	National Advisory Committee on Creative & Cultural Education
CLA	Cultural Learning Alliance	NESTA	National Endowment for Science, Technology & the Arts (now Nesta)
CSEs	Certificate of Secondary education (ended 1987)	NSEAD	National Society for Education in Art & Design
DCMS	Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (Digital added in 2017)	Ofqual	The Office of Qualifications & Examinations Regulation
DoES	Department of Education & Science (1964–1992)	Ofsted	The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services & Skills
DfE	Department for Education (1992-1995 & 2010-)	QCA	Qualifications & Curriculum Authority
DfEE	Department for Education & Employment (1995-2001)	RSC	Royal Shakespeare Company
DfES	Department for Education & Skills (2001-2007)	SATs	Standard Assessment Tests
DCSF	Department for Children, Schools & Families (2007-2010)	SEND	Special Education Needs & Disabilities
EMA	Education Maintenance Allowance		
EPQ	Extended Project Qualification		

Pauline Tambling CBE and Sally Bacon OBE have worked for many years in national roles in the arts and cultural sector as funders, practitioners, policy and programme makers, and trustees, with a special interest in education.

A New Direction is an award-winning non-profit working towards a world where all children and young people achieve their creative potential. Established in 2008, the organisation is a specialist cultural education agency with a mission to enhance the capacity and agency of children and young people in London to own their creativity, shape culture, and achieve their creative potential. It does this by working with a diverse range of partners, making connections, sharing practice, influencing change, improving the ecology that surrounds children and young people, and by providing real and transformative opportunities – from childhood, through school years and into employment. www.anewdirection.org.uk

About the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, established in 1956, is a philanthropic institution that is dedicated to the promotion of arts, charity, science, and education. It is committed to full independence and the preservation of its legacy. Its main priority is the development of a sustainable society that provides equal opportunities to all. The Foundation directs its activities from its headquarters in Lisbon and its delegations in Paris and London. <https://gulbenkian.pt/en/>

The Arts in Schools

The full new report and all associated resources in addition to this Timeline can be accessed on the following links:

- The full new report [*The Arts in Schools: Foundations for the Future*](#)
- [*Think piece*](#) published May 2022: A new conversation on the value of the arts in and beyond schools
- The Arts in Schools [*Case Studies*](#)
- The Arts in Schools [*Blogs*](#)
- The 1982 [*The Arts in Schools*](#) report with a later (1989) introduction

Contact details for *The Arts in Schools: Foundations for the Future*

Get in touch with the A New Direction team at info@anewdirection.org.uk
#ArtsinSchools40

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Artswork | South East

Arts Connect | West Midlands

Curious Minds | North West

Festival Bridge | East

The Mighty Creatives | East Midlands

Real Ideas Organisation | South West

Royal Opera House Bridge | East

Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums | North East

We are Ive | Yorkshire & the Humber



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