

### **Arts, systems and experiences**

Art will enrich your life in all aspects. All of us are more than our qualifications, background, appearance and experiences. We are more than labels and tick boxes. I want to be part of a movement which dismantles a misrepresentative ecology. I feel it is very important to question the systems we live and work in and to challenge the status quo. I believe in conscious decision-making and to understand our conscious and unconscious bias in order to make changes & decisions.

It is important to support artistic responses to social and political events because I feel it is important to hold people accountable to what they say and do in society. Artists can create a revolution in giving messages to audiences in varied artistic forms and reach people worldwide. Since the rise of the internet and social media, accessing information has become an easier task for those who can get access to these privileges. Therefore, I feel it is important to recognise the misuse of information can affect social and political events and source authenticity is becoming weak. All of this can affect how a child is introduced to art and the influence of art on a child's life. I think it is important to understand that now more than ever before children are exposed to a lot more content that sits outside the remit of education; therefore having a space where a child can explore their talents in school as part of the curriculum is beneficial to the growth and learning of the child.

The most beautiful aspect of artistic expression is that it is subjective. And, no matter how much societal structures want to keep you in a box, one needs to keep pushing through the tick boxes and labels to create work. For an artist/company to be bolder and authentic in their creativity requires support and guidance, just as much as a child with varied needs would require. Every child has the ability to express through art no matter their physical or social needs; it is the education system's responsibility to ensure art activities are accessible and inclusive as possible and to find solutions to involve all.

If a child cannot access art subjects at school due to funds and resources then there should be a way where local or national programmes, workshops or activities are promoted at the school. This could be by having a monthly or bimonthly newsletter for parents or noticeboard at school for children to be aware of activities and the possibilities of attending.

We cannot hide away from the truths that there are racial bias systems in place; class affects the opportunities you are part of; discrimination on your gender, sexuality, disability and race exists; and lack of employment exists. These lived experiences affect and influence who gets the opportunity to access, make and experience art.

Our everyday life experiences are perpetuated in the different systems we experience and art impacts us all. Therefore, art education is key to implementing a structure for individuals to find their sense of self through expressing and learning themselves.