

Cultural Education Leadership Programme 2026/27

About the Team



Joanne Calladine-Evans is a Programme Leader at the UCL Centre for Educational Leadership, where she leads the development and delivery of National Professional Qualifications, with a particular focus on international programmes. She works with partners across the UK and globally to design leadership development that supports educators in diverse contexts.

With over 30 years' experience across secondary, further, and higher education, Joanne specialises in leadership development, programme design, and facilitation. Her work is rooted in a commitment to culturally responsive leadership, supporting leaders to build inclusive, equitable systems and to lead effectively across different cultural contexts.

She is currently undertaking a Doctorate in Education focused on leadership and educational improvement, is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching, and a Director of the De La Warr Pavilion, reflecting her commitment to the role of culture in education and leadership.



Dr Rob Legg is Programme Leader for Teacher Development at the UCL Institute of Education. His award-winning academic writing on themes in music education and cultural learning is published in journals such as Music Education Research, Research in Education, Psychology of Music and The Curriculum Journal while his book chapters, journalism, classroom materials and reviews can be found in many professional publications. He is an experienced teacher and school leader whose career since 2001 has spanned schools and universities across the UK, New Zealand and France. His responsibilities have included various

aspects of curriculum design, SEND, DEI, communications, arts leadership and technologies for learning.

Rob has also been extensively involved in initial teacher education and was previously director of large PGCE programme in the south of England. He designed, launched and taught a suite of music education courses at the national conservatoire of New Zealand, and was the inaugural co-director of a successful EdD programme. He has also supervised and examined MA, DMA and PhD students working on a range of topics in education.

Rob is an accomplished choral conductor and music educator, plays the cello and the piano, and regularly works as musical director and répétiteur in youth musical theatre. He lives in Oxford with his two children.



Laura Fuller is a Senior Programme Manager at A New Direction, and the lead for the Primary Arts programme. Her role involves the strategic development and management of programmes for schools and other educational settings. She leads the Primary Arts team and codelivers the Cultural Education Leadership Programme alongside Joanne and Rob. Over her 15 years at A New Direction, she has developed and delivered a range of programmes designed to support schools and other settings to develop their creative and cultural provision, including our recent work around the 40th anniversary of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's Arts in Schools report, our I Am programme for SEND schools, and our Cultural Leadership Community and Advocates programmes, conferences, INSET, and Artsmark support.



Mariah Dechavez is a Programme Officer for the Education and Culture team at A New Direction, supporting the delivery of our Primary Arts and Culture sector programmes. She oversees session delivery and the coordination of the Cultural Education Leadership Programme cohort, as well as supporting other Primary Arts strands such as Come & Try and Go & See. Alongside this, Mariah contributes to AND cultural programmes including the Cultural Sector Masterclass series and Best Practice Network, which equip and connect professionals working with children and young people across the creative and cultural sectors. Mariah previously worked as a Community Engagement and Public Art Assistant for UCL through the STEP Programme, an initiative by A New Direction that supports young East Londoners access careers in the creative and cultural industries.

About the UCL Centre for Educational Leadership

The UCL Centre for Educational Leadership is the UK's largest university-based centre for research, teaching, development and innovation in educational leadership. Our vision is to provide research-informed teacher and leadership development that makes a difference to pupil learning and achievement. CEL is housed in the [Department of Learning and Leadership](#) at the [IOE, UCL's Faculty of Education and Society](#), the leading school of education in the world.

About A New Direction

A New Direction is an award-winning not-for-profit organisation generating opportunities for children and young people to develop their creativity. Our vision is for a world where all children and young people achieve their creative potential.

Our mission is to enhance the capacity and agency of children and young people in London to own their creativity, shape culture, and achieve their creative potential.

We do 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.

Our Values

Equity

We believe in the talents and potential of all children and young people, and demand a fair and level playing field. We challenge the structural and systemic inequalities that influence children and young people's lives and opportunities, and prioritise those that experience these. We are committed to an inclusive working culture, where everyone who works for or with us is treated with dignity and respect. We have high expectations of those we work with to share this value and will not shy away from challenging discussions where needed.

Connectivity

We connect ideas, ways of working, and communities of people active in our spheres. By bringing people together, we can learn and move forward collectively; amplifying our voice and those of the children and young people we serve. We can share and challenge our thinking and approaches, identify and address gaps, pool our resources, design and deliver new and exciting opportunities, increasing our collective impact.

Trust and Respect

We listen to and respect the voices and views of all children and young people, our colleagues, partners and stakeholders, and in turn aim to earn their trust in us as a respected source of expertise and support. The trust that develops between us is our most valued asset and translates into strong, successful partnerships and genuine collaboration.

Creative Culture

We think creatively and value creativity within our team - it is an important element of what we do. Our creative culture enables us to dream and plan big, to connect in new ways, to innovate, and to create meaningful opportunities for children and young people. We believe that a creative culture at the heart of any school, place, organisation or business can promote happiness and success, and the right conditions for children and young people to reach their potential.

We are passionate about unlocking and sharing children and young people's own concept of 'creative culture' and exploring where individual creativity and collective culture converge.

Kindness

We act with kindness and generosity, understanding the challenges that children and young people in London are facing, and the pressures experienced by colleagues, stakeholders and partners in all areas of our work. Being present, listening and understanding the needs of those we work with is vital for us to be effective in what we do. We are open and supportive, and aim to be a positive and welcoming organisation to all.