



**\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\***

**New Report: Creative Learning must take Lessons from the Past**

The education sector must understand the diversity young people's own cultural experiences and also reflect on historical good practice if creative learning is to achieve a lasting impact in schools. This is according to a new report from Creativity, Culture and Education (CCE) entitled, '*Culture and Creative Learning: A Literature Review*', which offers an historical and theoretical overview of the idea of culture as it has permeated policy-making, debate and teaching practice. CCE ([www.creativitycultureeducation.org](http://www.creativitycultureeducation.org)) is the new national organisation which aims to transform lives by harnessing the potential of creative learning and cultural opportunity.

'Culture and Creative Learning' focuses on the thoughts and practices in education after 1944 and identifies good creative teaching and learning practice which should be taken into account in today. It identifies three main currents of thought and practice from 1945-1965: a cultural conservatism based in traditional ideas of culture, a progressivism concerned with child-centred learning and a belief that 'culture is ordinary' leading to the notion that working-class and popular culture should be represented in schools. The 1980's then saw striking changes in culture and creativity within education with the introduction of the National Curriculum through The Education Reform Act with criticism of this conservatism following in the 1990's from the *All Our Futures* report which felt that education had become 'out of step' and 'remote from innovative currents of thinking'.

The Creative Britain strategy pledges to give all children a creative education and the recent education white paper aims to ensure that all pupils attend a school offering access to cultural opportunities. Creative learning is taking place in schools with Government's flagship creative learning programme, Creative Partnerships working with 5,000 schools producing real results. Research shows that young people who have

attended Creative Partnerships activities made, on average the equivalent of 2.5 grades better progress in GCSE.

Paul Collard, Chief Executive of Creativity, Culture and Education (CCE), said: "This report provides a useful overview of research and good practice for policy-makers, teachers and those involved in developing creative learning programmes. It highlights the need for a re-evaluation of the ever-changing cultural practices of children and young people and we must ensure these interests and skills are reflected in today's education system. Changes in society and historical beliefs about culture are all important in determining creative practices in schools. Students and teachers both offer powerful creative resources and there should be capacity to develop their creative practice in schools."

'Culture and Creative Learning: A Literature Review' can be downloaded at: <https://www.creativitycultureeducation.org/research-impact/literature-reviews/>

Date: 3 August 2009

Ends

**For more information please contact:**

Sarah Scott, PR & Media Manager at Creativity, Culture and Education on 020 7420 5423 or email: [sarah.scott@cceengland.org](mailto:sarah.scott@cceengland.org)

**Creativity, Culture and Education ([www.creativitycultureeducation.org](http://www.creativitycultureeducation.org)):**

Creativity, Culture and Education (CCE) is the new national organisation which aims to transform the lives of children and families by harnessing the potential of creative learning and cultural opportunity to enhance their aspirations, achievements and skills. **Our vision** is for children's creativity to be encouraged and nurtured in and out of school and for all children to experience and access the diverse range of cultural activity in England because these opportunities can have an enormous impact on their life chances.

CCE delivers the following cultural and creative programmes and initiatives:

- *Creative Partnerships* – the Government's flagship creative learning programme: [www.creative-partnerships.com](http://www.creative-partnerships.com)
- *Find Your Talent* – the Government's pilot cultural offer for all children and young people: [www.findyourtalent.org](http://www.findyourtalent.org)
- *Shine* – the annual celebration of the talent of all children and young people: [www.shineweek.co.uk](http://www.shineweek.co.uk)