CREATIVE GLASGOW × GLASGOW CREATE

# Scottish Curriculum Changes and the Future of Creative Education in Glasgow

Creative Glasgow x Glasgow CREATE Member Meet-Up, Thursday 24 September 2026, City Halls, Glasgow

*On the 24th September 2026 at City Halls, Creative Glasgow and Glasgow CREATE co-hosted a special member meet up event, bringing together our respective communities: Glasgow-based creative practitioners and artists, and teachers, educators and those working in Glasgow Education Services.*

*The aim was to foster some new connections, explore recently delivered exemplar expressive arts and creative learning education projects and activities, and discuss the ways in which changes to Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence might offer new opportunities, or invitations to work collaboratively between Glasgow's creative and cultural sectors and education sectors, for the benefit of learners and communities.*

*This feels like a vital and important conversation for Creative Glasgow and its community, acknowledging that around 40% of our creative practitioner and arts organisation members work in educational settings, delivering creative learning and expressive arts educational opportunities in Glasgow.*

## The Event Highlights

### Glasgow CREATE

We heard from Glasgow CREATE (Creativity and Expressive Arts Transforming Education), part of Glasgow Education Services, about the broad and ambitious range of work they are involved in, from delivering Glasgow Schools Youth Theatre to the extensive programmes delivered as part of Glasgow's Youth Music Initiative (YMI).

Kirsty Ferns, Expressive Arts Education Support Officer for Glasgow CREATE, extended an open invitation for connections, collaborations, and knowledge exchange between education services and Glasgow's creative sector. You can find out more about their work and contact Kirsty through the website:
Glasgow CREATE website

### MAKE with the Knit Shop

Lucy McEachan, Co-Director of Panel, shared the work they have been doing through MAKE to develop craft and making education in Scottish Primary School settings through Make with the Knit Shop. Delivered in partnership with Craft Scotland, Knit Shop and Dundee Creative Learning Network, this two-year Paul Hamlyn Foundation funded project, supported through the Teacher Development Fund, was designed to embed craft approaches in schools.

It supported textile makers to work with teachers in six Dundee-based Primary Schools, building teachers' confidence and skills, developing transformative numeracy, literacy and health and wellbeing outcomes for learners through craft activities aligned with Level 2 Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes across Technologies, Expressive Arts and Mathematics.

The project has resulted in a range of teaching and learning resources which are FREE and available online, ready to be used and applied across Scotland.

Make with the Knit Shop: project and free learning resources
MAKE resources: toolkits and case studies for makers and educators

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**Disruptive Pedagogy**

Our third presenters, Project Manager Minnie Crook and Artistic Director Gary Gardiner of Glasgow-based arts collective 21Common, shared Disruptive Pedagogy.

Disruptive Pedagogy is 21Common's schools programme led by children, who become 'artists-in-residence' in their primary school. It is an innovative educational initiative designed to create a play-space within formal learning structures. It encourages active, on-your-feet learning through collaboration between young people, teachers, artists and the wider community. Minnie and Gary shared how this project nurtures creativity, critical thinking and holistic development by integrating arts-led learning into the curriculum.

The project, which has been delivered in collaboration with a number of Glasgow-based schools, is continuing. You can find out more here:

21Common: Disruptive Pedagogy

## The Workshop Findings

Creative Glasgow and Glasgow CREATE both want to champion and support opportunities to create new, ambitious opportunities for learners in Glasgow's Primary and Secondary schools to engage in meaningful and impactful expressive arts and creative learning experiences.

Beyond the Spotlight presentations, the meet up gave us an opportunity to find out what was happening at the intersection of creative practice and education, and think about what might be needed to strengthen bonds between these two sectors.

The conversations were wide ranging and engaging. Presented here is a short summary of some of the key discussion points relating to the opportunities and challenges for this work in the wake of the updates to Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence.

### 1. Collaborative Teaching & Classroom Delivery

Opportunities: There is a strong appetite to bring creative specialists into classrooms for "team" teaching and long-term artist residencies. This supports project-based learning and aligns well with the new CfE 2.0 (Curriculum for Excellence) focus on meta-skills and interdisciplinary learning.

Challenges: Primary teachers currently receive limited or no training in expressive arts disciplines, and there is a notable lack of teacher confidence in specific areas like music technology and the new film and screen curriculum, which continue to restrict ambition in these areas.

### 2. Professional Development (CLPL) & Resources

Opportunities: Both teachers and artists are eager to embed Career-Long Professional Learning (CLPL) within school creative projects. There are plans to develop a creative toolkit to help artists and creative organisations understand CfE 2.0, which will support the development of CLPL resources and teaching materials.

Challenges: Teachers have very little time to dedicate to professional development or embedding new learning. Smaller arts organisations in particular lack the scale, funding, and capacity required to produce and distribute high-quality CLPL resources, suggesting the need for more joined-up and coordinated responses.

### 3. Networking, Communication & Information Sharing

Opportunities: The sector sees a clear need for better coordination across Glasgow. Ideas include holding more joint events (via Glasgow CREATE and Creative Glasgow) to bring educators and creatives together, and creating centralised listings of free resources to improve access and awareness of these materials.

Challenges: Arts organisations find it highly difficult to make initial contact with schools due to competing priorities and limited time for school senior staff to follow up, suggesting the need for ongoing relationship building, and advocacy for the benefits of this joint work.

### 4. Funding, Administrative & Structural Barriers

Opportunities: Anchor organisations could step in to help individual artists access PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) checks, opening up a wider pool of talent for schools.

Challenges: The historical loss of School Cultural Coordinators across Scotland has left a massive, permanent gap in capacity. Funding is critically low for artist visits, research and development (R&D), and the youth work sector, which deeply impacts creative learning outside of mainstream schools.

### 5. Advocacy, Value & Progression Pathways

Opportunities: There is a call for joined-up national advocacy (via the Scottish Government, Creative Scotland, and councils) to champion the health and wellbeing benefits of the arts in schools. Stakeholders want to look at successful models like the Glasgow School of Art's (GSA) Widening Participation to improve the overall perception of expressive arts.

Challenges: Clear progression pathways between schools and further/higher education are currently lacking, and certain disciplines, like craft, suffer from not being explicitly included in the curriculum.

You can find out more about the proposed changes to the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence here: Curriculum for Excellence: proposed changes

**What's next**

**We'll be continuing to reflect on this event and its findings, collaboratively between Creative Glasgow, Glasgow CREATE and our respective communities, as we develop our plans for the year ahead.**

## Questions or Comments? Contact Us

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