



ARTS POLICY

WHY DO WE HAVE THIS POLICY?

Notre Dame Catholic College is dedicated to promoting excellence and participation in the subjects of Music, Dance, and Drama.

In the spirit of our motto, ARTS FOR ALL, we strive to ensure that a wide range of Art forms is accessible to all of our learners, both within the prescribed disciplines of Music, Dance and Drama, and as part of the school's creative approach to Learning and Teaching. We strive to offer the very best in arts provision and enrichment for all our pupils and the wider Notre Dame community. In 2014 we were awarded ARTSMARK GOLD for the fourth time, in recognition of our inclusive programme of Arts provision for all our pupils.

We work to promote 'The Arts', not only for the benefit of our own learners, but also to aid learning and teaching, through the arts, with our local and wider community. Through our work we aim to inspire and instil understanding, appreciation and a love of 'The Arts' that we hope will lead to life-long learning for all our learners. We believe in the unique and inclusive power of the arts to build confidence, open doors and to create unity within diversity. Our mission is to promote the creative, spiritual, moral and health benefits of the arts as a vehicle for educating the whole person.

BROAD OUTLINES

CREATIVE CURRICULUM – THE ART OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

All subject teachers are encouraged to use Music, Dance, Drama and the Visual Arts as teaching tools in lessons to develop creative learners. Members of the Performing Arts Department have worked with other departments within the school to present cross-curricular programmes of study in which Dance, Music, and Drama skills are used to promote imaginative thinking and depth to learning. The Performing Arts Department's programmes of study are designed to create a wealth of opportunities for cross-arts projects offering pupils the opportunity to showcase their work in collaborative arts performances. The school promotes the National Arts Award qualification and has had significant success in pupils achieving the Silver and Gold awards.

QUALITY PERFORMANCES

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Through our extra-curricular arts programme and productions, we seek to give opportunities to all pupils to participate in high-quality performances that open up possibilities for work-related learning and inclusion. Within this brief, we seek to include those pupils who would normally lack motivation and be deemed as disaffected. We strongly believe that the involvement, self-discipline and reliability required of pupils working within Performing Arts, can help to develop a good work-ethic and create better citizens.

WIDENING THE APPRECIATION OF THE ARTS

Many of our pupils would not have the opportunity to visit a theatre or concert hall outside the school curriculum. We see it as our duty to open windows to what could otherwise be closed to many of our pupils and to promote a lifelong exploration of the arts. All pupils are encouraged to attend theatre and concert performances as part of their school experience and we offer a range of internal productions from professional practitioners as well from our own students. We seek to live out our motto: **ARTS FOR ALL!**

ARTS FOR ALL! – ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

All pupils are invited to take part in a wide range of enrichment activities as part of our extra-curricular arts provision. Performance opportunities abound within the school and at public events. Our School Chamber Choir, School Band, dance and drama group performances include local, national and international venues. The school has a reputation throughout the city for its high standards of performance and, as such, provides entertainment for a wide range of prestigious events in the city including a performance for HRH the Prince of Wales on a visit to Liverpool in. Other performance opportunities include pupils appearing as part of the BBC Music Day at Liverpool's Pier Head and guest slots in The International Mersey River Festival.

We offer a wide range of performance opportunities with showcases in music, dance and drama, specialist services such as 'Carols by Candlelight', large scale winter and summer productions plus a great number of lunchtime performances.

OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE PERFORMING ARTS INDUSTRY

Pupils have the opportunity to take part in work-related learning experiences as part of their Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 courses. In addition, our regular performances, Arts Cafés, Showcases and large scale productions, provide a wealth of opportunities for our learners to gain insight into the work of the Performing Arts industry. The regular performances also provide a vehicle for pupils to gain valuable life-skills while working with like-minded pupils across a wide range of

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year groups, abilities, ethnicity and art skills. These performance opportunities not only benefit our pupils but also provide us with points of contact with parents who are keen to support their sons and daughters. The School has a professional standard recording studio and media suite that provides pupils with the opportunities to develop filming, recording and engineering skills. Pupils have the opportunity to record and produce their own albums as well as gain experience in TV presenting, filming and editing.

PERFORMANCE VENUES

We are fortunate to have two unique state-of-the-art performance venues and the facilities have given us the potential to attract a host of professional Performing Arts organisations. Visiting companies include the BBC, Welsh National Opera, The Young People’s Shakespeare Company, Rambert Dance Company, and Liverpool International Music Festival. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic’s ‘In Harmony’ project will take up residence at Notre Dame in September 2016 and will use the performance facilities for twice weekly rehearsals and public concerts. Our auditoria, with tiered seating, enable us to invite members of our local community to performance and workshop events.

ARTS IN THE COMMUNITY

In addition to the extensive work in the school, Performing Arts’ activities are provided as part of our Community Outreach Programme. 2014 saw the launch of the ‘LET’S PLAY’ scheme in which pupils from 9 local primary schools come together every Thursday to make music. The success of the scheme, run in partnership with ‘Resonate Music Hub’, has led to the ‘Let’s Play Orchestra’ and encourages children of all abilities, from the beginner to the more advanced, to take part. The *LET’S PLAY* sessions also provide an avenue for our own pupils to work with the younger children as Young Leaders, thus promoting good citizenship and work-related learning experiences and many of our pupils have used this opportunity to gain their National Arts Award certification. The success of ‘Let’s Play’ is to be rolled out further across the city in 2017 with new schemes planned for other centres.

Notre Dame Catholic College has managed Liverpool’s Music Support Service, now ‘Resonate Music Education Hub’ since January 2009 and continues to collaborate on new and exciting initiatives. We also work in partnership with a number of organisations in the city including The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Hope University, John Moores University, The Shakespeare Schools Festival, The Liverpool International Music Festival and the ‘Out Of The Blue’ Festival to deliver workshops and performances in the community. Notre Dame is a leading member of Liverpool Creative Educational Partnerships and seeks to promote collaboration and innovation throughout the city.

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MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Members of the Performing Arts Department meet to work, discuss, create and evaluate projects and performances. Pupil progress is monitored closely with an emphasis on the personal touch to aid motivation and confidence. Our aim is to promote participation and excellence in the Performing Arts and we strive to find new and exciting ways to engage young people in the arts.

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