

Statement of Policy on Arts

[Agreed at the Full Governing Body meeting held on November 2004 and reviewed at the Curriculum Committee meeting on 5th November 2008]

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Our philosophy and approach to the Arts at City of Ely Community College is one of encouraging creativity within a secure and structured environment. Students learn skills in combination with their creative and individual application. Contextual studies and knowledge of their broader cultural environment is also strongly encouraged. Although our work is influenced to a great extent by the national curriculum and examination criteria we nevertheless pride ourselves on the enthusiasm and energy generated within each department.
- 1.2 We believe in fostering and directing the creative energy of the students in a positive way, and our strategy is one of encouraging independent thought and making, recognising the importance of each student finding their own voice.

2.0 The Role of Art Education

- 2.1 Fundamentally, the Arts are markedly different to most other subject areas; they offer a freedom in the diversity of responses and outcomes. Learning need not solely hinge upon the acquisition of a predetermined body of knowledge. Instead, the Arts engage us in highly creative and interrogative learning, where the process and what is learned on the way is just as important as the final product. At City of Ely Community College we encourage 'individuality' and self discovery, helping students to learn ways to express their thoughts and ideas through the development of skills, techniques and styles. Furthermore we believe strongly that Arts education should be accessible to all and that at whatever level or ability, students should be able to achieve
- 2.2 Part of our role is to make students aware of the opportunities and applications of the Arts in modern culture and careers. Transferable skills are acquired by all involved in the Arts: creative thought and action, skills in planning, time management and problem solving to name but a few.
- 2.3 Our **Mission** for the Arts at City of Ely Community College is;
 - 2.3.1 To provide students with the opportunity to experience the joy and pleasure of creating and the means and language to express and communicate ideas
 - 2.3.2 To recognise individual worth and to develop the full potential of all
 - 2.3.3 To share our passion for the Arts with all, subsequently engaging and enthusing every student whether engaged on an Arts based course or not
- 2.4 Our **Vision** for the Arts at City of Ely Community College is:
 - 2.4.1 To ensure that the Arts are perceived as subjects of academic parity with others
 - 2.4.2 To maintain the high profile of the subject areas and subsequent uptake/success at examination level
 - 2.4.3 To expand the departments and their range of courses/facilities
 - 2.4.4 To raise awareness and knowledge of the career opportunities available in the Arts

AIMS and OBJECTIVES OF THE ARTS POLICY

- 1. Equality of opportunity – an entitlement to a range of high quality arts experiences for every pupil, whatever their background and ability**
 - 1.1 Provide all students with given equal access to opportunities and facilities with all arts subjects.
 - 1.2 Provide all students with the opportunity to take part in all activities and to use all facilities; the college belongs to the students and is here for their education.
 - 1.3 Ensure students are not limited because of ability, gender, economic situation, or transport difficulties.
- 2. Effectiveness – a strategic and co-ordinated approach to arts education, which meets the needs of the school**
 - 2.1 Ensure students receive Arts Education within a wide variety of subjects at City of Ely Community College. Whilst this education will be centred around Art, Drama, and Music it forms a major part of learning in English Literature, Design and Technology, Media Studies, PE and Photography; and is inherent in other subjects either directly or through creative teaching.
 - 2.2 Ensure all students study Art, Music and Drama across Key Stages 3.
 - 2.3 Provide the opportunity for students to study Art, Media, Music and/or Drama in KS4, with the addition of Photography. In KS5 Theatre Studies is included.
 - 2.4 Teach Schemes of Work which are student-centred following National Curriculum, GCSE, AS/A2, through which they learn new skills, make visible progress, increased control and technique, increased knowledge and understanding, and are encouraged to be creative.
 - 2.5 Provide opportunities for cross-curricular work
 - 2.6 Provide opportunities for students to learn about the arts of diverse cultures
 - 2.7 Provide for students with special educational needs; provide for the able students through extension activities, leadership opportunities, in depth theory, workshops, classes; provide arts mentoring and individual tuition for all students in need of additional support.
 - 2.8 Ensure arts teachers have access to regular continuing professional development that refreshes their own creativity and keeps them up to date with developments in the arts
- 3. Efficiency – the best use of resources inside and outside school**
 - 3.1 Maintain and develop the purpose built facilities for Music, Drama, Art, Ceramics, and Photography.
 - 3.2 Maintain and develop links with partnerships such as ADeC (Arts Development in East Cambridgeshire, and Beacon school)
 - 3.3 Ensure students have the opportunity to work alongside professional artists.
 - 3.4 Give all students the opportunity to take part in out-of-hours arts activities.
 - 3.5 Take students to see work exhibited and performances by professional artists
- 4. Extension – making links with the community, which strengthen and broaden arts provision in school**
 - 4.1 Present regular exhibitions of Art work to parents and the wider community.
 - 4.2 Provide students with the opportunity to perform Music and Drama to parents and the wider community
 - 4.3 Provide opportunities for lifelong learning as befits a Community College.

ACTION PLAN

A full audit of curricula and out-of-hours provision is outlined in the 2004 Artsmark application. Areas for improvement include;

- a) Increase opportunities for subject specific professional development.
- b) Increase the opportunity for teachers to develop and refresh their own creativity.
- c) Increase training to ensure teachers can offer new forms of expression through the use of ICT, and increase knowledge of different art forms, including those from different world cultures
- d) Develop the provision of Dance both within the curriculum and as an extra curricular activity.
- e) Develop the range and availability of out-of-hours opportunities.