



Education and Learning Policy

2017- 2018

Our Organisation

artsNK is an experienced team of visual and performing arts specialists that plays a strategic and developmental role across the North Kesteven District and the wider county of Lincolnshire.

We design and deliver ambitious, needs-led arts programmes that help people and places to flourish; working at grass roots level with communities to provide high quality experiences and products, ensuring increased engagement and participation in the arts, improving wellbeing and physical and mental health.

Our Mission

artsNK believes that the arts contribute significantly to the artistic, cultural and economic life of communities, building social cohesion, making special places as well as improving the health and wellbeing of individuals.

Education and Learning Policy

Education and lifelong learning sits at the heart of our work. We engage with people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities, embracing social, economic and cultural diversity; we recognise that individuals and groups have different skills, experiences and objectives.

Our Education and Learning policy contributes to and strengthens our mission aims and objectives. It helps us to widen participation in the arts and increase understanding about the arts' role in enhancing individual and community wellbeing. The policy enables us to offer flexible progression routes and skills-based career development across various art forms. It is reviewed annually and adapted to meet the changing needs of communities and demands of society.

artsNK is committed to the learning of its own staff and encourages continued professional development. It also encourages learning from the expertise of others through collaborative and partnership-working whenever appropriate.

Policy Aims

artsNK's Education and Learning policy aims to;

- Nurture creativity
- Develop creative skills
- Widen participation in the arts
- Increase understanding and appreciation of great art
- Inspire passion for the arts
- Promote social inclusion
- Enhance individual and community mental and physical wellbeing
- Encourage collaboration and partnerships
- Tackle rural isolation

Policy Objectives

artsNK will achieve its policy aims through;

- Artform specific projects and programmes including dance, outdoor arts and festivals, aerial, music, drama, visual arts, craft, film, photography and multimedia
- Consultation with children, young people, parents, carers, families, schools, teachers, partners and wider communities
- A range of opportunities that support the ladder of engagement (see appendix) in the short, medium and long term; allowing skills to flourish, supporting personal empowerment and developing ownership and leadership
- Developing new ways of working through partnership and collaboration with arts and other organisations and artists; sharing skills and resources where possible
- Continued and consistent support in the professional development of artists, arts practitioners and other arts professionals through opportunities to participate in the work of artsNK
- Supporting teachers and leaders of the value of the arts

Target Groups

Our core principles for engaging people are as follows;

- Learn and understand more about themselves and the world in which they live
- Create new art work, perform and present to others and evaluate their experience
- Develop creative thinking and practical application
- Encourage collaboration and partnership working
- Develop social skills, including relationship building
- Inspire continued participation in the arts
- Improve mental and physical wellbeing
- Enable an understanding and appreciation of great art
- Build ambition and aspiration for high quality arts experiences

In addition to the above the following groups have been identified as current or potential, specific beneficiaries of the Learning and Education policy;

- **Children and Young People**

artsNK will use the arts to engage with young people to;

- Aspire to a career in the arts
- Develop pathways for progression in the arts
- Contribute to curriculum based/academic learning
- Offer training, internship and work experience opportunities
- Develop partnerships with schools, colleges and universities

- **Older People**

artsNK, in addition to the above, will use the arts to engage with older people to;

- Promote social inclusion and reduce isolation and loneliness
- Enable later-life skills acquisition
- Revive, develop or inspire interest in and appreciation of the arts
- Develop partnerships with the NHS, care providers and other support organisations

- **Vulnerable Individuals – those experiencing physical and/or mental illness and/or NEET**

artsNK will use the arts to engage with vulnerable individuals to;

- Enhance social inclusion, reduce isolation and loneliness
- Develop confidence and self esteem
- Support other service providers
- Develop partnerships with the NHS, care providers and other support organisations

- **Community Groups**

artsNK will use the arts to engage with community groups to;

- Create or re-enforce a sense of place (place-making)
- Foster development of social capital
- Encourage critical, creative thinking
- Provide opportunities for individual and collective creative output
- Enable community collaboration and cohesion
- Enhance understanding of the arts' role in communities
- Develop partnerships with local authorities and other community-focussed organisations and individuals

- **General Interest Individuals and Groups**

artsNK will use the arts to engage with general interest individuals and groups to;

- Promote the arts in the district, county and region
- Provide high-quality arts experiences, from festivals, exhibitions to performances to practical workshops
- Develop partnerships with a range of organisations and individuals

The Education and Learning Resource

artsNK is a valuable resource for education and learning for Lincolnshire with a county-wide, regional and national reputation as a high-quality arts leader.

artsNK's artistic staff team, facility access and multiple partnerships across the sector make us a valuable partner in creating high quality artistic work in the county. artsNK has highly skilled specialists offering insight, knowledge, skills and proven successful delivery to a range of individuals and groups. artsNK ensures delivery staff are properly trained and qualified with an innovative approach to engaging with a diverse range of people.

artsNK has established partnerships with education and learning institutions such as the University of Lincoln, local schools and academies, children and young people's support services, local authorities, health, sports and physical activity organisations, artists, arts venues, and many more. These partnerships provide an enhanced and deeper experience for children and young people engaging with our work.

artsNK maintains policies in health and safety, child protection, safeguarding, equal opportunities, first aid and volunteering.

artsNK's education and learning outputs include;

- Website
- Social media, including Facebook
- Print media
- A range of practical workshops
- Exhibitions and installations
- Dance classes
- Performances
- Public art commissions
- Arts festivals and events
- Publications and tool-kits
- Work experience and internship programme

Policy Sustainability

artsNK is committed to the ongoing sustainability of our Education and Learning policy. We will achieve this through;

- Increasing project and revenue funding streams
- Developing new and existing partnerships
- Developing new opportunities for engagement
- Ongoing staff development
- Maintaining standards of excellence



Leisure in the Community Ltd working in partnership to develop and deliver high quality leisure services in North Kesteven District.



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