



EIF Programme Team
Ofsted
Clive House
70 Petty France
London
SW1H 9EX

Date
19.03.19

Crafts Council
44a Pentonville Road
Islington
London N1 9BY

Phone +44 (0)20 7278 7700
Fax +44 (0)20 7837 6891

www.craftscouncil.org.uk

Dear colleagues

Education inspection framework 2019: inspecting the substance of education

As the national agency for craft, the Crafts Council's vision is of a world where the transformative power of craft is celebrated - driving individual fulfilment, enriching society and developing enterprise. The Crafts Council is responsible for advancing craft in the UK, harnessing the power of craft to:

- Inspire new audiences
- Champion new makers
- Empower new making.

An education in craft develops creativity, inventiveness, problem-solving and practical intelligence. It also produces the makers of the future. Craft and making are vital to our society, culture and economy.

Responses to questions

Proposal 1: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to introduce a 'quality of education' judgement?

The Crafts Council wholeheartedly agrees with this proposal. We agree with the findings – cited on p.5 of the Education Inspection Framework Overview of Research that “the test anxiety felt by teachers and school administrators is leading to the study of the arts becoming increasingly diminished”.

We have been watching closely the steady decline in participation in Art & Design and Design & Technology GCSEs with the latter having fallen 57% between 2010 and 2018¹. This comes at a time when elsewhere around the globe investment in creative education and making is on the rise, particularly where it combines creative and technical skills. Cuts to funding and successive government reforms (including the introduction of Progress 8) have been partly responsible, as shown by research from the Policy Education Institute². We hope that a new 'quality of education' judgement – taking into account a

¹ Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) annual results tables.

² Entries to Arts Subjects at Key Stage 4 (2017): <https://epi.org.uk/publications-and-research/entries-arts-subjects-key-stage-4/>

provider's educational intent, implementation and impact – would go some way to rectifying this decline. The proposed 'holistic approach' would also be more able to take into account some of the extraordinary secondary benefits of arts subjects to student performance – including increased rates of good behaviour, resilience, wellbeing and creativity, as detailed in the research of UCL professor Dr Daisy Fancourt³.

Proposal 2: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed separation of inspection judgements about learners' personal development and learners' behaviour and attitudes?

We strongly agree with this proposal.

We hope that having a separate judgement for 'Personal development' will lead to more emphasis on a student's sense of personal identity, their sense of belonging within a community and their sense of self-worth. As stated above, we believe that craft and arts subjects more generally have a positive impact on personal development, and that this in turn leads to an improvement in 'behaviour and attitudes'. Separating out these two judgements will allow this correlation to be more clearly measured.

Proposal 3: Early Years

The Crafts Council supports any amendments made to the tracking of Early Years Foundation Stage that results in more room for teachers to devote time to invention, crafts activities and creative 'play'. As elucidated in a report from the National Foundation for Educational Research⁴, an emphasis on paying attention to cognitive processes of children, rather than focusing on outcomes, is essential for encouraging creative play and building skills in creativity that will help them in all subjects later in life.

Proposal 4: increasing short inspections from one day to two days

We believe that teachers and school leaders are best placed to comment on the amount of time dedicated to inspections.

With regards to amendments to the criteria for 'good' and 'outstanding' schools, we strongly agree with the recent report by the Edge Foundation stating that schools should only be judged "outstanding" by Ofsted if they can demonstrate excellence in creative and technical teaching.⁵

The Crafts Council has no comments on proposals 5-10.

Yours sincerely



Rosy Greenlees, Executive Director

³ Effects of creativity on social and behavioral adjustment in 7- to 11-year-old children (2018) <https://iris.ucl.ac.uk/iris/publication/1576371/1>

⁴ Developing young childrens' creativity: what can we learn from research? (2004) <https://www.nfer.ac.uk/publications/55502/55502.pdf>

⁵ Skills Shortages Bulletin 3 (2018) <http://www.edge.co.uk/news/edge-news/schools-should-offer-creative-and-technical-subjects-to-warrant-top-ofsted-rating>