

How can Governors Support Craft in Schools?



by Nicky Dewar, Head of Learning and Talent Development

The challenges schools face to deliver a rounded education are unprecedented. Budget cuts, the impact of the Ebacc, child poverty, falling teacher retention and recruitment rates, and increased anxiety amongst pupils all grab headlines.

The role of governors in supporting senior leaders to navigate the complexity of decision-making is crucial. It is fundamental that the value of creativity and the arts is not overlooked. Providing a creative education is still a fundamental responsibility of schools with a charge of 'broad and balanced curriculum'.

At the Crafts Council we know that experiencing making, learning about materials, and using our hands helps to problem solve, provides new skills, supports development and raises children's confidence. As the creative industries continue to grow we know that employers are looking for employees who are innovative and creative to bring fresh thinking to all business sectors. The solutions to our everyday challenges are being dreamt up by those people with creative ways of seeing the world. Providing our next generation with these skills therefore gives them scope to choose rewarding careers as well as maintaining their own wellbeing and enjoyment and understanding of the world around them.

As the head of our learning team and a parent, the decision to become a school governor made sense for different reasons. So much of our work is about engaging with schools - by better understanding the demands on them and how teachers perceive creative opportunities we can build co-creative relationships rather than just 'suppling' arts activities and complaining about lack of take up. As I learn through this process I can give back to the school, drawing from my experience and knowledge to input into discussions and decisions. It is hugely rewarding to provide information, clarity through questioning and alternative viewpoints, and moreover, my children are proud that I am part of their school.

Taking this role has been possible with the encouragement of the Crafts Council. The organisation recognises the value of the role and so we shall be encouraging other staff to nominate themselves for governor posts too.

The resources listed below can help school governors demonstrate the value of the arts enriching young people's lives and their enjoyment of school:

Arts Council - [Cultural Education, a guide for Governors](#)

NSEAD - [Art and Design Education, a guide for Governors and Trustees](#)