

**Glasgow City Council****Education Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee****Report by Executive Director of Education Services****Contact: Douglas Hutchison x74551****EDUCATION SERVICES – CREATE****Purpose of Report:**

To report on the progress of Education Service CREATE Expressive Arts Service as outlined in Standards and Quality Report 2023 – 2024.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to note Education Services CREATE work to support Expressive Arts across all our establishments.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ü

Local member(s) advised: Yes o No o consulted: Yes o No o

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

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1. Background

- 1.1 At Glasgow CREATE, we are committed to transforming expressive arts education by ensuring that every child and young person in Glasgow has access to high-quality, inclusive, and inspiring creative learning experiences. In alignment with Education Services' All Learners, All Achieving strategy, we strive to foster a culture of creativity that enhances attainment, equity, and wellbeing for all learners.
- 1.2 Through our city-wide groups and ensembles—including the Glasgow Schools' Big Band, Youth Theatre, Brass Ensembles, Choirs, Concert Bands, and more—we provide exceptional opportunities for children and young people to develop their artistic skills, collaborate with peers, and celebrate their achievements on local, national, and international stages.
- 1.3 Beyond performance, we are dedicated to embedding expressive arts across the curriculum, supporting schools in delivering high-quality creative learning experiences that nurture innovation, critical thinking, confidence, and wellbeing. We recognise the transformative power of the arts in equipping children and young people with essential skills for life, learning, and work—fostering resilience, adaptability, and leadership.
- 1.4 At the heart of CREATE is a commitment to equity and inclusion, ensuring that every learner—regardless of background, ability, or circumstance—can access and benefit from expressive arts education. We actively support teachers through professional learning, co-designing approaches that integrate creativity into teaching and learning.
- 1.5 By working in partnership with schools, cultural organisations, artists, and the wider community, CREATE champions collaboration and innovation in arts education. Through continuous reflection and improvement, we aim to build a vibrant, dynamic, and inclusive creative learning culture that empowers children and young people to thrive in an ever-changing world.

2. CREATE Staffing Structure 2024 Overview



2.1 Funding is provided by GCC and a Scottish Government Fund.

3. What the CREATE Music Service Provides to our Learners

In 2023–24:

- 3.1 8,498 young people received weekly instrumental tuition in primary and secondary schools.
- 3.2 All Primary 1 pupils received direct input from Youth Music Initiative Tutors, focusing on phonological awareness and early literacy.

- 3.3 All Primary 7 pupils participated in a six-week music block through Celtic Connections, covering traditional music, tin whistle, voice, drums, fiddle, and chanter.
- 3.4 Youth Music Initiative projects, such as Ready Steady Sing, are currently in 28 schools and available to all on a rolling basis.
- 3.5 The Youth Music Initiative digital project It's Our Home Glasgow was shared with all primary schools as part of CREATE's digital offer and the city's 850th celebrations.
- 3.6 Over 550 young people attended city groups, ensembles, bands, orchestras, and choirs, representing every secondary school in Glasgow.
- 3.7 All secondary schools receive 1 FTE Music Tuition, with additional provision based on school roll. This is reviewed annually.
- 3.8 The CREATE Instrumental Service ensures all children and young people can access music tuition without testing or auditions.

4. Music Performance Opportunities

- 4.1 Christmas Concerts: 2 events, 500 participants, 1,800 audience members.
- 4.2 Spring Concerts: 2 events, 500 participants, 1,800 audience members.
- 4.3 Chamber Concerts: 2 events, 150 participants, 360 audience members.
- 4.4 Big Band & Guests Concert: 1 event, 119 participants, 390 audience members.
- 4.5 Glasgow Schools Symphony Orchestra (GSSO) Summer Concert: 85 participants.
- 4.6 String Ensemble Tour (Valencia – Turing Project): Collaborated with Llira School of Music.
- 4.7 City Events Participation: Lord Provost Concert, Young People's Conference, Inclusion Conference, Holocaust Memorial Day.
- 4.8 CREATE Schools Festival 2023: 12 schools, 200+ young people.
- 4.9 Young Musician Competition 2024: 28 secondary and 27 primary schools.

5. Play Day Statistics 23/24

- 5.1 26 Instrumental and Vocal Play Days and Masterclasses took place in City Halls.
- 5.2 1026 YP attended string and guitar days.
- 5.3 225 YP attended Woodwind days.
- 5.4 86 YP attended percussion days.
- 5.5 220 YP attended Brass days.
- 5.6 76 YP attended Vocal days.
- 5.7 49 YP attended Piano days.

6. Beyond The Music Offer

- 6.1 Sector leading secondary network structure including a weekly update newsletter to all secondary Expressive Arts teachers and middle leaders with content such as SQA updates, partner opportunities, offers of support & CLPL.
- 6.2 Identified subject leads for each Expressive Art who work collaboratively to plan and deliver curricular meetings and CLPL – 9 meetings held in 23/24 with a total of 150 teachers in attendance.
- 6.3 SQA support: identified examiners across the city, use this to offer CLPL. Provided specific Drama support to six schools via verification, Senior Phase exam queries, Early Career Teachers and SLT.
- 6.4 Support for Dance teacher qualification queries.
- 6.5 Attainment analysis at city level - Secondary spread – 100% secondaries have Art & Design and Music. 28/30 have Drama and 14/30 have Dance.
- 6.6 Glasgow Schools' Youth Theatre, September to February. Open to all secondary pupils in the city. Performed "Matilda" for three nights in Lourdes Secondary. Cast of 60 young people from 20 schools.
- 6.7 Glasgow Schools' Art Exhibition, 25th April – 29th June in Gallery of Modern Art – 17 schools involved, Glasgow 850 theme as part of city celebrations.

- 6.8 Glasgow Schools' Photography Exhibition, 17th – 28th November, in the ARC, University of Glasgow. Glasgow 850 theme as part of city celebrations.
- 6.9 BGE Dance Day, May, University of Glasgow – one day for BGE pupils and two visiting choreographers.
- 6.10 BGE Come Act, June, City Halls – two days of acting workshops for S1/2 pupils.
- 6.11 Identified CREATE Leads, who lead for each Expressive Art and work collaboratively to plan CLPL and develop the CREATE Framework.
- 6.12 One identified CREATE Champion in every primary school, who leads and shares EXA opportunities.
- 6.13 Annual Champions Conference, attended by 73 teachers in 23/24, to develop and upskill Expressive Arts knowledge and confidence.
- 6.14 CREATE Framework available to every primary teacher via website and Glow tile, fully resourced with videos, lesson plans and glossaries.
- 6.15 "Glorious Glasgow" IDL resource with lessons plans for each curricular area and designed for Early to 2nd Level.
- 6.16 Glasgow Museums Art & Design partnership – 51 CLPL sessions for 632 primary teachers and early years practitioners.
- 6.17 INSET Day sessions in St Andrew's Learning Community – 100 primary teachers and Support for Learning Workers participated.

7. CREATE Partnerships

7.1 Education & Examination Boards

- Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music
- Music Teachers Board
- SQA
- Trinity

7.2 Further and Higher Education Institutions:

- City of Glasgow College
- Napier University
- Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

- University of Glasgow
- University of Strathclyde
- West College Scotland

7.3 Arts Organisations:

- BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra
- Benedetti Foundation
- Celtic Connections
- Children's Classic Concerts
- Citizens Theatre
- DF Concerts
- Disney
- Dunedin Consort
- Glasgow Barons
- Glasgow Museums
- Hamilton the Musical
- International Youth Symphony Orchestra
- Liria Music School
- National Gallery of Scotland
- National Piping Centre
- National Youth Choir of Scotland
- National Youth Jazz Orchestra Scotland
- National Youth Orchestra Scotland
- Red Note Ensemble
- Royal Scottish National Orchestra
- SCO (Scottish Chamber Orchestra)
- Scottish Association for Music Education
- Scottish Ballet
- Scottish Chamber Orchestra
- Scottish Instrumental Music Teachers Network
- Scottish Learning Festival
- Scottish Opera
- Scottish Schools Pipe and Drumming Trust
- Tramway
- Vox Liminis
- West of Scotland Schools Orchestras and Bands
- Tron Theatre
- Youth Arts Scotland

7.4 Education & Development Organisations:

- Creative Learning Network
- Creative Scotland
- Education Scotland
- Glasgow Life
- GMAC
- Heads of Instrumental Teaching Scotland
- Lord Provost's office
- Music Education Partnership Group
- Music Matters UK
- Scottish Instrumental Music Teachers Network
- Scottish Learning Festival
- Screen Scotland
- West Partnership

8. CREATE's National Profile

8.1 Education Scotland Associate for Expressive Arts.

8.2 3 members of SLT involved with the Education Scotland Curriculum Improvement Cycle for Expressive Arts and Creativity.

8.3 At least 18 staff across the city are also involved with CIC for Expressive Arts.

8.4 Regular meetings with Education Scotland Expressive Arts Senior Officer.

8.5 The service also sits in an advisory capacity with several organisations such as those listed previously and Glasgow City Cultural strategy and the Scottish Government.

9. CREATE Website & Social Media Links

Website - www.glasgowcreate.online

YouTube - www.youtube.com/@GlasgowCREATE

Bluesky – <https://bsky.app/profile/glasgowcreate.online>

Instagram - www.instagram.com/GlasgowCREATE

Facebook - www.facebook.com/GlasgowCREATE

X - www.twitter.com/GlasgowCREATE

10. Standards and Quality Report

10.1 The 23 - 24 Standards and Quality can be accessed by the following link.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/public/glasgowcreate/uploads/sites/11068/2025/04/02134723/Standards-Quality-Report-2023-24.pdf>

11. CREATE Baby Strings Report

11.1 The 23-24 Baby can be accessed by the following link:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/public/glasgowcreate/uploads/sites/11068/2024/08/20160801/Baby-Strings-Standards-Quality-Report-2023-24-MEDIUM.pdf>

There are currently 13 Baby Strings schools with 1953 children participating.

12. Next Steps

12.1 CREATE SLT will support specific instrumental areas in terms of pedagogy, partnerships, performance opportunities, play days and masterclasses.

12.2 CREATE will continue to support schools to use PEF funding to raise attainment and achievement through enhanced music provision, for example Baby Strings and Brass Academies.

12.3 “Glorious Glasgow” teaching resource will be launched in 2025 for teachers to engage learners in creative learning experiences through Expressive Arts using an interdisciplinary approach.

12.4 CREATE SLT will continue to improve communication through our website, social media, and digital platforms to support Expressive Arts & Creativity across all schools, young people and their families.

12.5 Through a collaborative improvement approach, CREATE SLT will lead and support all EXA Curricular Networks to identify strengths and areas for Improvement, whilst adapting to the new GCC Model.

13 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: N/A within ongoing finances and grants.

Legal: N/A

Personnel: N/A

Procurement: N/A

- Council Strategic Plan:**
- Specify which Grand Challenge (s) and Mission (s) the proposal supports. Where appropriate the relevant Commitment can also be listed.

Grand Challenge 2 Increase Opportunity and Prosperity for All Citizens

Mission 3

- Build on the significant progress we have made in improving attainment and positive destinations; supporting education staff and improving early education.
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- Promote access to instrumental music tuition,
- Support accessible educational and social opportunities including arts and sport and explore ways to make better use of school facilities for community use.
- Make sure educational and social opportunities available in school are accessible to young people who are new to Glasgow

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify. Yes

<i>What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?</i>	Positive in relation to attainment, achievement and access e.g. outcomes 12, 13, 14
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<i>Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.</i>	Specific areas such as e.g. Baby Strings are targeted to areas of social economic disadvantage as decided by school leaders
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Climate Impacts:

<i>Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:</i>	NA
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<i>What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?</i>	NA
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<i>Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?</i>	NA
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Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report
No

14. Recommendations

- 14.1 The Committee is asked to note Education Services CREATE work to support Expressive Arts across all our establishments.