

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 2024/25 Overview:

- Carolyn Davren, Head of Service
- Pamela Black, Education Support Officer & Head of Instrumental Music Service
- Kirsty Ferns, Education Support Officer
- Ailsa Ansell, Principal Teacher of CREATE
- Ali Carberry, Principal Instructor
- Martin O'Neill, Principal Instructor
- Emma Pantel-Bowden, Principal Instructor
- 11 Youth Music Initiative tutors
- 87 Instrumental Music instructors

Funding is provided by GCC and a Scottish Government Fund.

3. What the CREATE Music service provides to our learners

In 2024–25:

- 8,455 young people received weekly instrumental tuition in primary and secondary schools.
- All Primary 1 pupils received direct input from Youth Music Initiative Tutors, focusing on phonological awareness and early literacy - **152 schools** approximately **7371 children**.
- 7156 Primary 6 and 7 pupils participated in a six-week music block through Celtic Connections, covering traditional music, tin whistle, Gaelic song, Scots song, pipe band drumming, drums, step dance, fiddle, and chanter.
- Youth Music Initiative projects, such as Ready Steady Sing, are currently in 28 schools and available to all on a rolling basis.

- 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 – 327 videos were submitted and the [video has been viewed](#) over 6000 times.
- Over 550 young people attended city groups, ensembles, bands, orchestras, and choirs, representing every secondary school in Glasgow.
- All secondary schools receive 1 FTE Music Tuition, with additional provision based on school roll. This is reviewed annually.
- The CREATE Instrumental Service ensures all children and young people can access music tuition without testing or auditions.

4. Music Performance Opportunities

- Christmas Concerts: 2 events, 500 participants, 1,800 audience members
- Spring Concerts: 2 events, 500 participants, 1,800 audience members
- Chamber Concerts: 2 events, 150 participants, 360 audience members
- Big Band & Guests Concert: 1 event, 119 participants, 390 audience members
- Glasgow Schools Symphony Orchestra (GSSO) Summer Concert: 85 participants
- String Ensemble Tour to Barga, Italy Scottish Festival & Side by Side with RSNO and Randall Goosby, String Sinfonia - Side by Side SCO.
- City Events Participation: Lord Provost Concert, Young People's Conference, Inclusion Conference, Holocaust Memorial Day
- CREATE Schools Festival 2025: 12 schools, 200+ young people
- Young Musician Competition 2025: 28 secondary and 27 primary schools

5. Play Day Statistics

- 26 Instrumental and Vocal Play Days and Masterclasses took place in City Halls.
- 1026 YP attended string and guitar days
- 225 YP attended Woodwind days
- 86 YP attended percussion days
- 220 YP attended Brass days
- 76 YP attended Vocal days
- 49 YP attended Piano days
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6. Beyond The Music Offer

- 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
- Identified subject leads for each Expressive Art who work collaboratively to plan and deliver curricular meetings and CLPL – 7 meetings with over 100 teachers in attendance.
- SQA support: identified examiners across the city, use this to offer CLPL and provide suggestions for curriculum design and attainment approaches.
- Attainment analysis at city level - Secondary spread – 100% secondaries have Art & Design and Music. 28/30 have Drama and 14/30 have Dance.
- Glasgow Schools' Youth Theatre, September to February. Open to all secondary pupils in the city. Performed "Matilda" for three nights at Lourdes Secondary. Cast of 60 young people from 20 schools.

- Glasgow Schools' Art Exhibition, Gallery of Modern Art – 13 schools involved, Glasgow 850 theme as part of city celebrations.
- BGE Dance Day, May, University of Glasgow – one day for 40 BGE pupils and two visiting choreographers.
- BGE Come Act, June, City Halls – two days of acting workshops for 80 S1/2 pupils.
- Identified CREATE Leads, who lead for each Expressive Art and work collaboratively to plan CLPL and develop the CREATE Framework.
- One identified CREATE Champion in every primary school, who leads and shares EXA opportunities.
- Annual Champions Conference, attended by 45 teachers in 24/25, to develop and upskill Expressive Arts knowledge and confidence.
- CREATE Framework is available to every primary teacher via the website and Glow tile, fully resourced with videos, lesson plans and glossaries.
- CREATE delivered 57 CLPL sessions to support expressive arts and creativity, which were attended by a total of 500 secondary and primary teachers and early years practitioners
- The CREATE Distinguished Schools Award was developed to formally recognise and celebrate excellence in the Expressive Arts across Glasgow's primary schools. Its rationale is rooted in supporting schools to strengthen their provision in creativity, participation, and pupil voice, while aligning directly with Glasgow's Five Grand Challenges:
- Art as Nurture: developed in conjunction with Impact Arts. CLPL for teachers running nurture groups on using art as an intervention to support wellbeing. 50 teachers trained to date.

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

- Education Scotland Associate for Expressive Arts, fully involved with Education Scotland Curriculum Improvement Cycle for Expressive Arts and Creativity
- HITS - Vice Chair, MEPG Board, RSNO Education Board, NCLN, WSSO Board,
- At least 18 staff across the city are also involved with CIC for Expressive Arts.
- Regular meetings with Education Scotland Expressive Arts Senior Officer
- 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

10. CREATE Baby Strings Report

The 23 -24 Baby can be accessing 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>

It is also attached as Appendix 3. There are currently 13 Baby Strings schools with 1953 children participating.

11. Next Steps

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

12 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 2025-29? Please specify.

Yes

What are the potential equality

Positive in relation to attainment, achievement and access e.g. outcomes 12, 13, 14

impacts as a result of this report?

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.

Specific areas such as e.g. Baby Strings are targeted to areas of social economic disadvantage as decided by school leaders.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:

NA

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?

NA

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?

NA

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

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



13 Recommendations

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