

Newpark Comprehensive School

Arts

Policy

(Adopted June 2012)



Arts Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The arts are central to the life of Newpark. This policy aims to acknowledge that and set out a framework for the continued development of the arts in the school.
- 1.2 This document arose from a series of meetings of a group made up of teachers, parents, past pupils and friends of the school held in 2011. The intention of this group was to formulate an arts policy for the school that would encourage the sustainable development of the arts both inside and outside the school timetable.

2. Links to Mission Statement/Statement of Aims

- 2.1 "Newpark aims to develop the academic, intellectual, practical, manual and sporting abilities and skills of its students. It encourages its students to develop their capacity to deal with analytical and logical processes while fostering a delight in artistic and spiritual activities."

3. Links to Ethos

- 3.1 "Newpark aspires to value equally all the children in its care. High among the values it seeks to promote are:
 - respect and tolerance
 - an appreciation of diversity
 - a sense of justice
 - social responsibility
 - an awareness of wider communitiesNewpark aims to foster in all members of the school community –
 - a friendly and co-operative atmosphere
 - confidence and self esteem
 - an appreciation of excellence."

4. Objectives

- 4.1 We aspire to fulfil this commitment specifically through the arts.
- 4.2 To encourage creative and artistic development of students
- 4.3 To promote the value of curricular arts subjects
- 4.4 To foster a delight in artistic activities
- 4.5 To celebrate, promote and value the creative ability of students
- 4.6 To support the creation of time, space and opportunities for individual and collaborative arts ventures
- 4.7 To seek out and be open to new and innovative arts projects and opportunities
- 4.8 To use the arts to enhance and vary learning experience across subject disciplines
- 4.9 To encourage inclusion in the arts and opportunities for all students to engage to the best of their ability
- 4.10 To provide opportunities for individual talent to develop and flourish
- 4.11 To challenge students to engage in arts and participate at the highest possible level
- 4.12 To strive for excellence
- 4.13 To create a school community which celebrates and values individual and collaborative participation in arts
- 4.14 To welcome the wider Newpark community (parents, past students, teachers) to share and contribute to the cultural and artistic life of the school

4.15 To raise student and teacher awareness of the arts within and outside the school

5. Definition of the arts

5.1 The arts in Newpark include, but are not limited to, creative activity in the fields of **Creative Writing, Dance, Drama, Music** and **Visual Arts**.

5.2 This policy applies to supporting these activities in Newpark in the following areas:

- As part of the National Curriculum
- Through the provision of **Arts for All** in timetabled First Year and Transition Year classes.
- As part of the extra-curricular life of the school.

6. Statement on the arts

The school will work, as far as it can, to:

6.1 Maximise opportunities for students to study arts within the national curriculum

6.2 Safeguard Newpark's commitment to **Arts for All** through Transition Year and First Year programmes and seek ways to expand such provision to other year groups

6.3 Facilitate continuing professional development of staff

6.4 Encourage staff and students to share experience and expertise to develop best practices in Newpark arts

6.5 Support ECA arts projects, events, trips and workshops wherever possible

6.6 Support continuity of ECA arts provision from year to year

6.7 Invite arts input from the wider school community

6.8 Invite visiting artists and professionals to share expertise and work with students and staff, where appropriate

6.9 Maintain and encourage links with Newpark Music School arts professionals through the *Schlinks* programme

6.10 Foster dynamic links with the arts support network in the wider community

6.11 Raise awareness and access to arts events and agencies through school website, TY lectures & school communications

6.12 Encourage arts project proposals from students and the wider school community

6.13 Provide venues and support for student arts culture where possible

6.14 Maintain, facilitate and develop provision for drama and dance within the timetable

7. Newpark Arts Committee

7.1 The Newpark Arts Committee is a voluntary group charged with overseeing the practical implementation of this policy

7.2 It is to be made up (as much as possible) of representatives of:

- Students
- Parents
- Teachers
- Past pupils
- Arts professionals

7.3 Participation in the Newpark Arts Committee will be open to all members of the school community.

7.4 The Newpark Arts Committee will have an elected Chair, Secretary and Treasurer

- 7.5 Representatives of the Arts Committee will meet with school management for a planning meeting and a review meeting on an annual basis.
- 7.6 The Committee will be reconstituted on an annual basis.

This policy has been ratified by the Board of Management at its meeting of 13th June 2012.

Date of next review: January 2014

Signed:

Micheal Johnston
Chairperson Board of Management

Derek Lowry
Secretary, Board of Management