

#Inspired By

Iva Plhakova, Sonya Pawaroo

Atkinson Road Primary Academy

#Inspired By

ENGAGE

ENRICH

EMPOWER

Iva Plhakova, Sonya Pawaroo

"Children need to go to the theatre as much as they need to run about in the fresh air. They need to hear real music played by real musicians on real instruments as much as they need food and drink. They need to read and listen to proper stories as much as they need to be loved and cared for. The difficulty with persuading grown-up people about this is that if you deprive children of shelter and kindness and food and drink and exercise, they die visibly; whereas if you deprive them of art and music and story and theatre, they perish on the inside, and it doesn't show." Philip Pullman, writer.




OUR CONTEXT

*Our school is situated
in Benwell, Newcastle
and caters for children
from 2-11 years old.*

*We are
a multi faith/cultural school
with a diverse range of
nationalities.
(over 60% EAL, 57% DA)*

*Many of our children and families
find it difficult to
access formal learning
and have little experience
of the arts.*

*We wanted to engage
our children and families
with an inspiring art project
and hopefully develop
an enthusiasm for the arts.*



ART IS YOUR RIGHT



INVEST IN CULTURAL CAPITAL



ART IS FOR EVERYBODY





#INSPIRED BY...

ACHIEVE POTENTIAL

This unique partnership programme helps to connect schools in disadvantaged areas with cultural organisations and aims to build sustainable relationships.

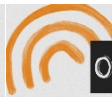
CO-CREATE

The programme is sponsored by Culture Bridge North East.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We teamed up with Seven Stories because we wanted to co-create an exciting reading space for children.

CHALLENGE
We wanted our children and their parents to fall in love with books and to uncover a passion for reading.



OUR HOPES AND AIMS



- #Provide a once in a life time experience.**
- #Give children ownership over their environment.**
- #Empower children (child-led project).**
- #Co-create an exciting reading space with a local artist and author.**
- #Raise aspirations.**

- #Give the children and families a right to access art.**
- #Improve the subject knowledge and develop skills.**



JANUARY TO MARCH 2020

Our project started with a planning meeting in January 2020. We were both really excited as it was our first big art project with an external cultural organisation. At same time, this was a learning curve for us as we both were newly appointed as art leaders.

Our partners were really enthusiastic and supportive but we had to ensure that both staff and parents were engaged and understood the value of this programme.

EQUITABLE BENEFITS

Seven Stories started working on their new exhibition based on the work of Cressida Cowell.

Our pupils were tasked to co-produce elements of this exhibition.

LONG LASTING PARTNERSHIP

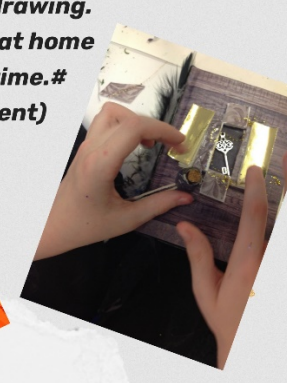


WE THOUGHT

#I believe this a wonderful opportunity for our children to explore art and to give families confidence to visit many local cultural organisations. # (#Member of SLT)

#I hope the children will be inspired to perceive a career in arts. # (#Class teacher)

#I am so happy my son will work with an artist. He loves drawing. He draws at home all the time. # (#Parent)





CRESSIDA COWELL



**"This was the best day of my life!
My favourite book is 'How to Train the Dragons.'"
Joe, pupil**

**Cressida asked children
to help her with the exhibition
for Seven Stories. Every child
was asked to design their
dream reading corner
and the children who were selected
then had a chance
to work with an artist, Alison Ashton,
and co-create the pieces for the exhibition.**



THE SUCCESS



*This is a magical book with a
poison that will do anything
you want to do so ask if
your dream will come true. Be
tell it something BAD and it
back fire on you!
Beware, it can be unstoppable.*

WHERE THE MAGIC HAPPENS



IMAGINE



THE CHALLENGES

In some cases, it was difficult to enthuse parents and to gain consent for their children to participate on the project therefore we decided to integrate the creative sessions into our school day. My colleague and I agreed that we would have loved to be equipped with the skills and knowledge we gained in this leadership course at the start of this project.

MARCH 2020

Despite the brilliant start, we were unable to finish the project and achieve our aims due to coronavirus. We also planned to enable our families to visit Seven Stories, which we still hope will happen.



THE FUTURE

Covid has proved the greatest challenge as many of the children involved in the project have left the school and too much time has passed. We hope to re-launch the project and to enthuse the children, families and staff again.

It will be challenging to relaunch the project in UKS2 with the government focus on a catch up curriculum.

