

## A NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO ART AND CULTURE IN SCHOOLS

The Swedish government has decided to invest SEK 150 million a year in stimulating work on art and culture for and involving students in Years 1–9 of compulsory school. The grant will be administered by the Swedish Arts Council.

School is an environment in which all children, irrespective of geographical obstacles or parental resources, can encounter art and culture in its many forms.

The Creative Schools grant will link up professional cultural practitioners and instructors with teachers to provide students with opportunities for personal development and to create new forms of learning in schools.

The right of children and young people both to understand and express themselves in many different ways is a cornerstone of any work associated with the grant.

## PROFESSIONAL CULTURE, STUDENT CREATIVITY AND COLLABORATION

Creative Schools provides grants for three kinds of cultural initiative: a professional cultural event, students' own creativity and collaboration between the cultural world and schools. Grants can be sought for one or more of the initiatives.

A professional cultural event may be a visit to a cultural institution or a school visit by an artist, an author or a theatre group.

Grants for student creativity relate to a cultural instructor or other professional practitioner being brought in to introduce, oversee and work with students on a particular cultural area. Teachers constitute key partners and school subjects can be combined with cultural expression.

One aim of the grant is to strengthen collaboration between schools and the professional world of culture. Money can therefore be sought to fund joint seminars, workshops or other meetings where schools and cultural practitioners share a common goal of entering into a long-term partnership.

## SCHOOLS AND CULTURE IN COLLABORATION

Creative Schools is intended to become an integral part of school activities. The purpose of the grant is to make culture part of learning at school. The cultural initiatives should have a long-term impact on the personal development of the students and on their education. The initiatives can be successful pedagogical tools for achieving increased knowledge and a good school environment.

But above all, Creative Schools is about the growth of the students. Cultural experiences can put feelings, existential questions and a complicated world into words. However, encountering culture can also bring pure joy and inspiration.

*Creative Schools is not a project with an expiry date, but a long-term government initiative.*

## THE ACTION PLAN IS A CLEAR STATEMENT OF INTENT

The grants are applied for by the principal organisers of the applicant schools, be they municipal or independent. Principal responsibility therefore does not lie with an individual school or head teacher. Applications must always be accompanied by an action plan outlining current initiatives, planned initiatives and how the work might be assessed. The commitment of the principal organiser is essential to the long-term partnership. Experience from municipalities and independent schools with sound cultural work in schools shows that solid commitment at all levels of decision-making, both within schools and the cultural world, is one of the keys to a successful outcome.

Children and young people must have influence over the Creative Schools activities. The students therefore have to be involved in drawing up the action plan. The plan should clarify just how this has been organised.

Collaboration creates an excellent platform for successful Creative Schools initiatives.

## CONTACT

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