

Notre Dame Catholic College

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Arts Policy

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Opening Hearts, Minds and Doors

Arts Policy

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Why do we have this Policy?

Notre Dame Catholic College is dedicated to promoting excellence and participation in the subjects of Music, Dance, and Drama.

In the spirit of our motto, ARTS FOR ALL, we strive to ensure that a wide range of Art forms is accessible to all of our learners, both within the prescribed disciplines of music, dance and drama, and as part of the school's creative approach to Learning and Teaching. We strive to offer the very best in arts provision and enrichment for all our students and the wider Notre Dame community. In July 2019 we were recognised by Arts council England as an ARTSMARK GOLD school in recognition of our inclusive programme of arts provision.

We work to promote the arts, not only for the benefit of our own learners, but also to aid learning and teaching, through the arts, with our local and wider community. Through our work we aim to inspire and instil understanding, appreciation and a love of the arts that we hope will lead to life-long learning for all our students. We believe in the unique and inclusive power of the arts to build confidence, open doors and to create unity within diversity. Our mission is to promote the creative, spiritual, moral and health benefits of the arts as a vehicle for educating the whole person.

Broad Outlines

Creative Curriculum – The Art of making a Difference

All subject teachers are encouraged to use music, dance, drama and the visual arts as teaching tools in lessons to develop creative learners. Members of the Performing Arts Department have worked with other departments within the school to present cross-curricular programmes of study in which dance, music, and drama skills are used to promote imaginative thinking and depth to learning. The Performing Arts Department's programmes of study are designed to create a wealth of opportunities for cross-arts projects offering students the opportunity to showcase their work in collaborative arts performances.

Quality Performances

Through our extra-curricular arts programme and productions, we seek to give opportunities to all students to participate in high-quality performances that open up possibilities for work-related learning and inclusion. Within this brief, we seek to include those students who would normally lack motivation and be deemed as disaffected. We strongly believe that the involvement, self-discipline and reliability required of students working within Performing Arts, can help to develop a good work-ethic and create better citizens.

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Widening the Appreciation of the Arts

Many of our students would not have the opportunity to visit a theatre or concert hall outside the school curriculum. We see it as our duty to open doors to what could otherwise be closed to many of our students and to promote a lifelong exploration of the arts. All students are encouraged to attend theatre and concert performances as part of their school experience and we offer a range of internal productions from professional practitioners as well from our own students. We seek to live out our motto: **ARTS FOR ALL!**

Arts for All! – Enrichment Opportunities

All students are invited to take part in a wide range of enrichment activities as part of our extra-curricular arts provision. Performance opportunities abound within the school and at public events. Our School Chamber Choir, Orchestra, School Band, dance and drama group performances include local, national and international venues. The college has a reputation throughout the city for its high standards of performance and, as such, provides entertainment for a wide range of prestigious events in the city including a performance for HRH the Prince of Wales on his visit to Liverpool. After hosting the first ever Catholic Schools Choir Competition in 2016, the event has become an annual competition and a standard bearer for choral singing in the city. Other recent performance events led by Notre Dame include the Hidden Voice dementia awareness performance at the Everyman Liverpool featuring 5 schools secondary schools from Liverpool and the 50th Year celebration of the canonisation of St Julie at Liverpool’s Metropolitan Cathedral with 9 Notre Dame Schools from different parts of the country.

We offer a wide range of performance opportunities inside the college with showcases in music, dance and drama, specialist services such as ‘Carols by Candlelight’, large scale winter and summer productions plus a large number of lunchtime performances.

Opportunities within the Performing Arts Industry

Students have the opportunity to take part in work-related learning experiences as part of their Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 courses. In addition, our regular performances, Arts Cafés, showcases and large scale productions, provide a wealth of opportunities for our learners to gain insight into the work of the performing arts industry. The regular performances also provide a vehicle for students to gain valuable life-skills while working with like-minded students across a wide range of year groups, abilities, ethnicity and art skills. These performance opportunities not only benefit our students but also provide us with points of contact with parents who are keen to support their sons and daughters. The Performing Arts department regularly invites professional artists into the college with recent workshops including practitioners from Merseyside

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Dance Initiative, As Creatives, the Now Festival and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra delivering workshops and support and guidance. The college has a professional standard recording studio and media suite that provides students with the opportunities to develop filming, recording and engineering skills. Students have the opportunity to record and produce their own albums as well as gain experience in TV presenting, filming and editing.

Performance Venues

We are fortunate to have two unique performance venues and the facilities have given us the potential to engage the whole school in large scale performances and celebrations. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic's 'In Harmony' project took up residence at Notre Dame in September 2016 and will use the performance facilities for twice weekly rehearsals and public concerts. Our auditoria, with tiered seating, and recording facilities allow the local community to access the public performances as well as using the facilities for their own projects. The West Everton Community centre have recently used the recording studio to record extracts for their 'Lost Tribes of Everton' project.

Arts in the Community

In addition to the extensive work in the school, Performing Arts' activities are provided as part of our Community Outreach Programme. The 'LET'S PLAY' scheme, set up in partnership with Resonate Music Hub' invites primary and secondary school children from the city to take part in the 'Let's Play Orchestra' which encourages children of all abilities, from the beginner to the more advanced, to take part in collective music making. The *LET'S PLAY* sessions also provide an avenue for our own students to work with the younger children as Young Leaders, thus promoting good citizenship and work-related learning experiences and many of our students have used this opportunity to gain their National Arts Award certification. The success of 'Let's Play' has led to a second offer being set up in Bellrive School as part of the South Liverpool Resonate Music Studios.

Notre Dame Catholic College has managed Liverpool's Music Support Service, now 'Resonate Music Education Hub' since January 2009 and continues to collaborate on new and exciting initiatives. We also work in partnership with a number of organisations in the city including The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Hope University, Liverpool John Moores University, The Shakespeare Schools Festival and the National Youth Orchestra who were in residency at the college for 9 days in February and will be returning in 2020. Notre Dame is a leading member of Liverpool Creative Educational Partnerships and seeks to promote collaboration and innovation throughout the city.

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The Performing Arts team are currently working under Covid 19 restrictions to offer activities that comply with the government guidelines. The 2020 Carols By Candlelight service will be delivered as a virtual performance to be accessed safely and remotely during the festive period.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Members of the Performing Arts Department meet to work, discuss, create and evaluate projects and performances. Pupil progress is monitored closely with an emphasis on the personal touch to aid motivation and confidence. Our aim is to promote participation and excellence in the Performing Arts and we strive to find new and exciting ways to engage young people in the arts.

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