

Drama for Learning and Creativity Project (D4LC)

Dear Headteacher,

For children of all ages, learning in school through role-play and drama is a vivid and enjoyable method of learning, which links to the way children naturally learn, whilst acknowledging and supporting children's imaginations and creativity. When used well in schools, it is congruent with the principles of good learning contained within "Excellence and Enjoyment" and enables children to develop and communicate their creativity.

Your school is invited to apply to be one of 20 pilot schools taking part in an innovative four term "D4LC" project. This is being organised by Norfolk Children's Services in partnership with National Drama (the leading UK subject association for drama educators).

The project aims to:

- Improve teachers' understanding, confidence and competence in the use of role play and other drama strategies to actively develop children's thinking and learning;
- Support and enable the planning of drama for learning opportunities across the creative curriculum;
- Support and enable schools to promote and develop children's creativity within the context of the national curriculum and national strategies.

Up to two teachers from each participating school will have the opportunity to:

- Attend a twilight project launch session that will outline the project in more detail (**28th June 2005, 5 – 6.30pm, Norwich PDC**);
- Attend a one day National Drama conference in Norfolk, with a keynote speech and workshops by leading national practitioners (**21st October 2005**);
- Observe and/or work alongside a specialist drama adviser, consultant or advanced skills teacher working within your own school and receive supportive feedback on your own drama lessons. Each participating teacher will have 2 lesson visits (one in the Autumn Term and one in the Spring Term);
- Attend termly twilight "next step" lesson planning meetings, with other D4LC project teachers, facilitated by a specialist drama adviser (**24th November 2005, 9th February 2006, 5th June 2006**).
- Contribute to a national publication on drama for learning and creativity, that will be published jointly by National Drama and Norfolk Children's Services (deadline April 2006 for publication and national launch in October 2006). One free copy to Project schools.
- Take advantage of a 25% discount on the longer "Drama as a Creative Teaching and Learning Medium" cross phase, evening course (Spring Term 2006)

Participating schools will be expected to:

- Allocate sufficient supply funding to enable participating teachers to attend all project sessions (plus a day for writing up an example of their most successful practice for publication).
- Fill in a short baseline audit of present drama practice and provision in **July 2005** and a project audit and evaluation in **April 2006**.

- Try out some of the methodology offered during the project and evaluate and record its impact on creativity and learning;
- Communicate one example of practice for possible inclusion in the project publication;
- Complete the project.

Places on this pilot project are limited. Preference will be given to schools that:

- Have identified Drama or Creativity or Arts within their school improvement and development plans or other linked plans;
- Have learning and teaching issues identified by Ofsted or by their Review and Development Advisers that link closely to the focus of the project.

If you wish to become a “D4LC” project school then please send a paragraph or a few bullet points explaining why to Patrice Baldwin, Adviser for the Arts in Schools, (Norwich Professional Development Centre) at patrice.baldwin@norfolk.gov.uk by **June 7th 2005**. You will be informed whether or not your application has been successful by the end of May.

Yours sincerely

Fred Corbett
Assistant Director (Children’s Services)