



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

CULTURAL EDUCATION STRATEGY

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

JULY 2008

Comments from interested parties are invited to be sent to
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before 29th September 2008

Cultural Education Strategy

FOREWORD

The Education Department of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is committed to providing a first class education service, an inclusive quality culture and access and opportunity for all learners. It also aims to promote appreciation of the value and uniqueness of the physical and cultural environment of the Western Isles and has as its vision, 'Ag Amas air Adhartas' 'Aiming for Advancement'. (Standards and Quality Report 2006-2007)

This Cultural Education Strategy has been created by the Cultural Co-ordinator service. We are committed to integrating the arts and culture into education for all, as powerful tools for building the educational experience. For the purposes of this strategy the arts are defined as; dance, drama, literature, media, music and the visual arts. We will focus on culture through the arts.

The Curriculum for Excellence puts the experiences, understanding and development of children and young people at the centre of the education process and gives direction to this strategy. The Curriculum for Excellence provides an opportunity for arts, culture and education to work together for the benefit of all children and young people, so that they may become confident individuals, successful learners, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

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VISION STATEMENT

'Children and young people in the Outer Hebrides will realise their creative potential through a range of quality experiences'.

WHAT IS CULTURE

Young people in the Western Isles were asked to define what they thought of as culture. They gave the following answers, (the first being by far the most frequently mentioned): Gaelic Language and Arts, Crofting Life, History/Heritage, Community Connectedness, Landscape/Natural Heritage, Religion, Fishing, Leisure, Arts.

(Cultural Pathfinder consultation workshops for children and young people Nov/Dec 2007)

WHO IS THIS STRATEGY FOR?

Everyone using the arts and cultural activities whilst working with children and young people, particularly within school communities.

PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

The purpose of this strategy is to provide a strategic framework for the development of arts and cultural activities in educational settings..

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND CONSULTATION

Monitoring, evaluation and consultation will be inherent to all activities undertaken as part of this strategy.

The following key guiding principles will be adhered to in all activity:

- Sustainability -** Planning and organising of activities will always seek to provide sustainable added value to educational outcomes. Financial planning will aim for best value for money in all activities.
- Inclusion and Access -** All children shall be equally valued and opportunities will be available across the islands.
- Collaboration -** The strategy will enhance and develop partnerships in the delivery of creative arts activities.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The associated action plan for this strategy will integrate with the Department of Education Business Plan 2008-2011 and thus work towards Scottish Government's National Outcomes and Strategic Objectives. It also connects with the second theme, 'Community Development and Life-long Learning' of the CnES Cultural Strategy.

OBJECTIVES

1	Gaelic Arts and Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• deliver an inspiring and co-ordinated programme
2	Culture and the Global Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• enrich education by bringing in arts experiences from other cultures• enrich education by bringing in workshops from Scotland's leading arts companies• raise awareness of the cultural importance, within Europe, of living in the Outer Hebrides

3 Health and Wellbeing

- promote healthy lifestyle choices and activities