

Creativity and Innovation: Curriculum and Pedagogy in England

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Current Policy

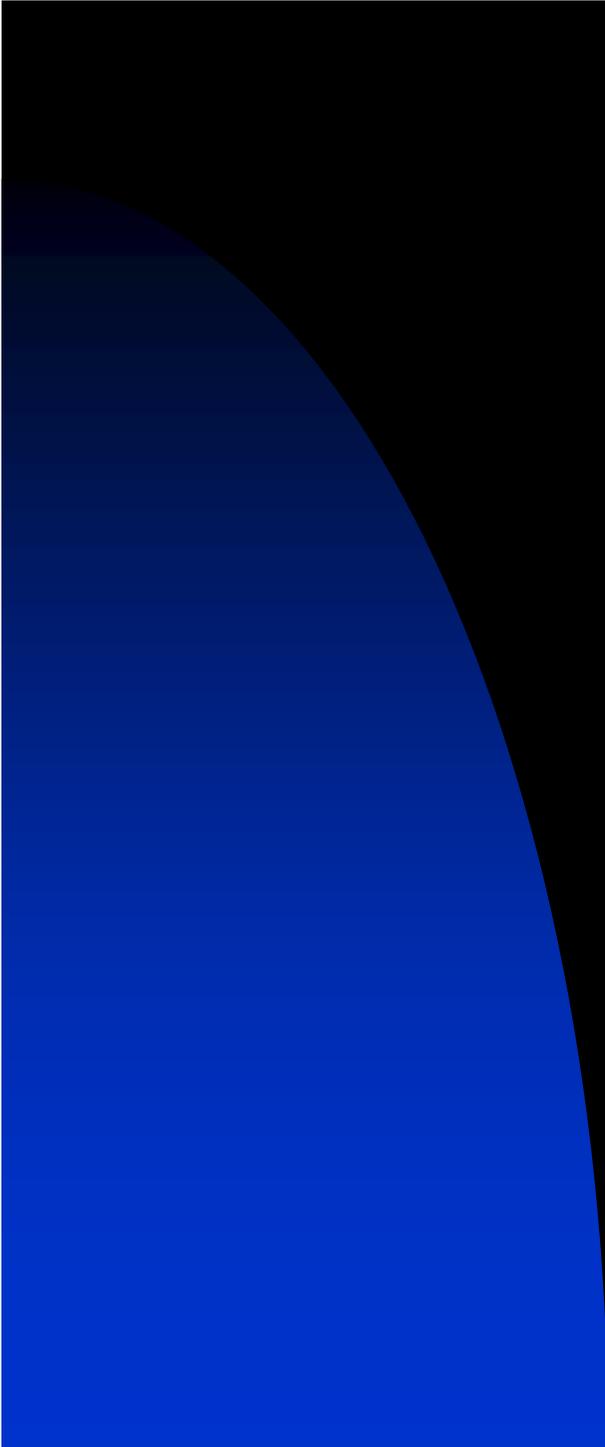
- Creativity is not a *fundamental* part of the statutory National Curriculum (see Wyse and Dowson, 2008, ch. 8)
- Early Years Foundation Stage (birth to age 5)
- Primary curriculum (age 6 to 11) - creativity included as one part of “Learning Across the Curriculum”
- Secondary curriculum (age 12 to 16)- “Cross-curriculum [sic] dimensions” includes “Creativity and critical thinking”. Also - “*Creative thinking skills*: These enable pupils to generate and extend ideas, to suggest hypotheses, to apply imagination, and to look for alternative innovative outcomes.”

Effectiveness of Policy

- Many years of neglect of creativity due to New Labour education project
- The curriculum narrowed by the testing and target-setting system (Wyse, Torrance and McCreery, 2008; Wyse and Torrance, in-press)
- Review of primary education 2008 - 2009; a key point historically
- Tension between government emphasis on basic skills and growing (but reluctant?) realisation that creativity is important to society

Conditions for Creativity in Teaching and Learning

- Teachers need to be sufficiently empowered to enable learners to be creative
- The balance between ensuring that basic skills are learned and encouraging creativity is a delicate one. An over-emphasis on skills (e.g. through assessment and target-setting) can too easily lead to a restricted curriculum, and one that is less likely to foster creativity.
- Creativity should be a fundamental part of curriculum policy hence should be reflected in the aims for the statutory curriculum

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- Wyse, D., & Dowson, P. (2008). *The really useful creativity book*. London: Routledge.
 - Wyse, D., McCreery, E., & Torrance, H. (2008). *The trajectory and impact of national reform: Curriculum and assessment in English primary schools (primary review research survey 3/2)*. Cambridge: University of Cambridge Faculty of Education.
 - Wyse, D., & Torrance, H. (in press). The development and consequences of national curriculum assessment for primary education in England. *Educational Research*.