

Youth Consultation





Reflection – think about how you felt

**A time a decision
was made about
you and you
weren't consulted**

**A time you felt
heard**

National Framework

The participation of children and young people in decision-making involves taking children and young people seriously and where possible responding to their suggestions, ideas and views in an appropriate and timely manner.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Participation Framework

National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making





Emerging Evaluation:

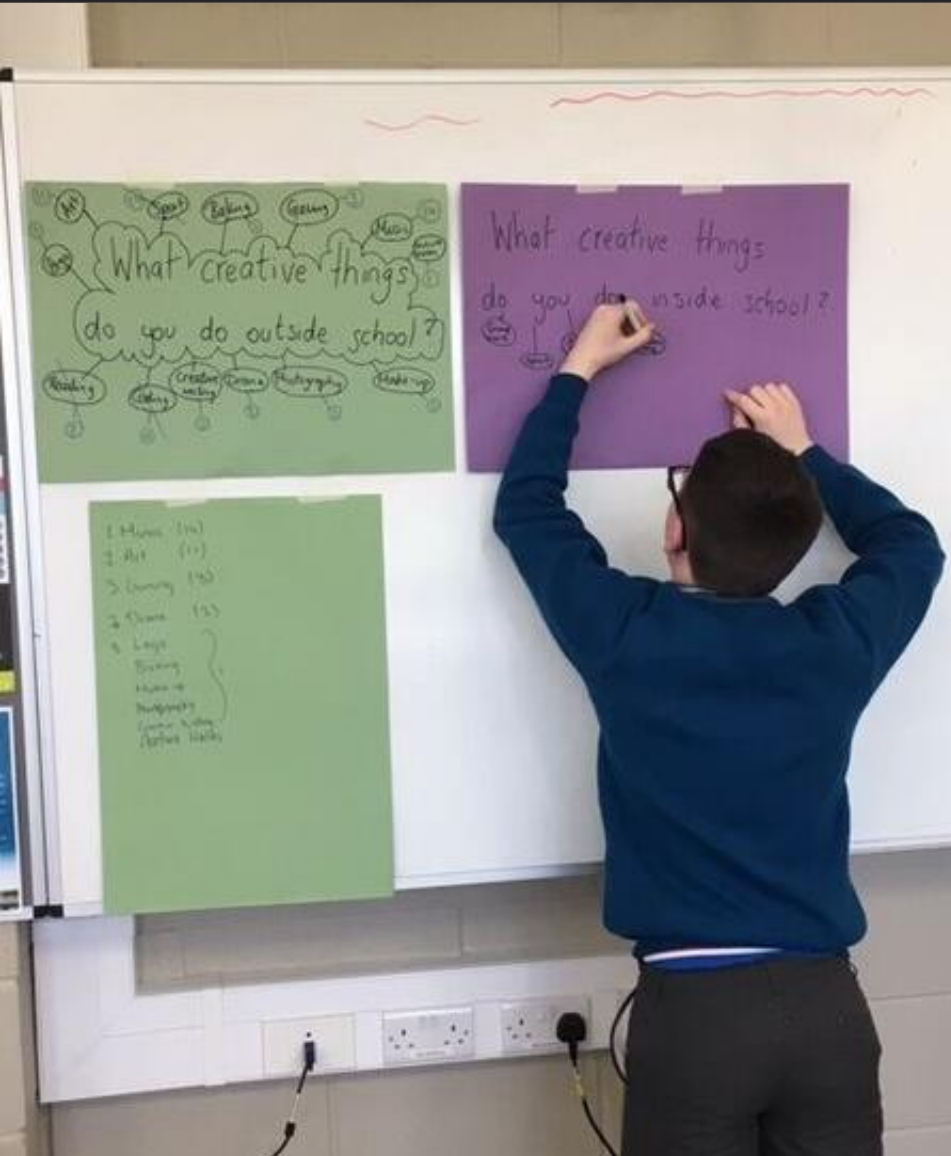
*“The Creative Schools initiative has transformed a very broad range of Irish schools, more than any other initiative heretofore by **placing learners in every county at the heart of the process, valuing and validating their perspectives and experiences.** Creative Schools has been **collaborating meaningfully with learners and educators to shift the focus of arts education from child-centred to child-led creative participatory practice**”.*



Article 12 UNCRC (The Participation Article)

“State Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child”.

Macro and Micro

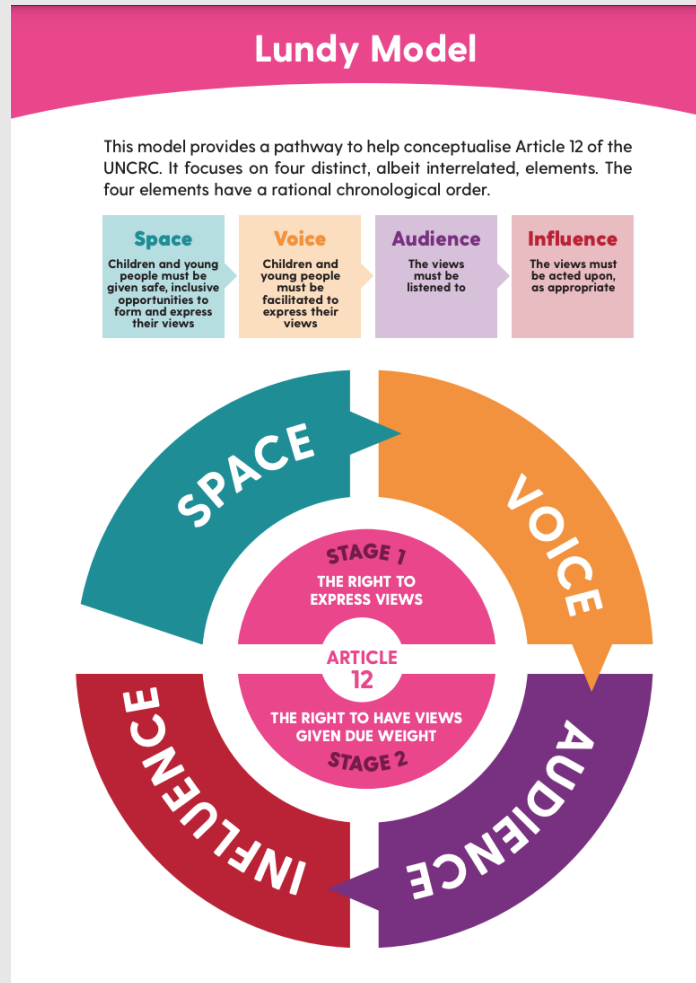


Macro level: children's views should be taken into account in the development of national policies and in the design of services.

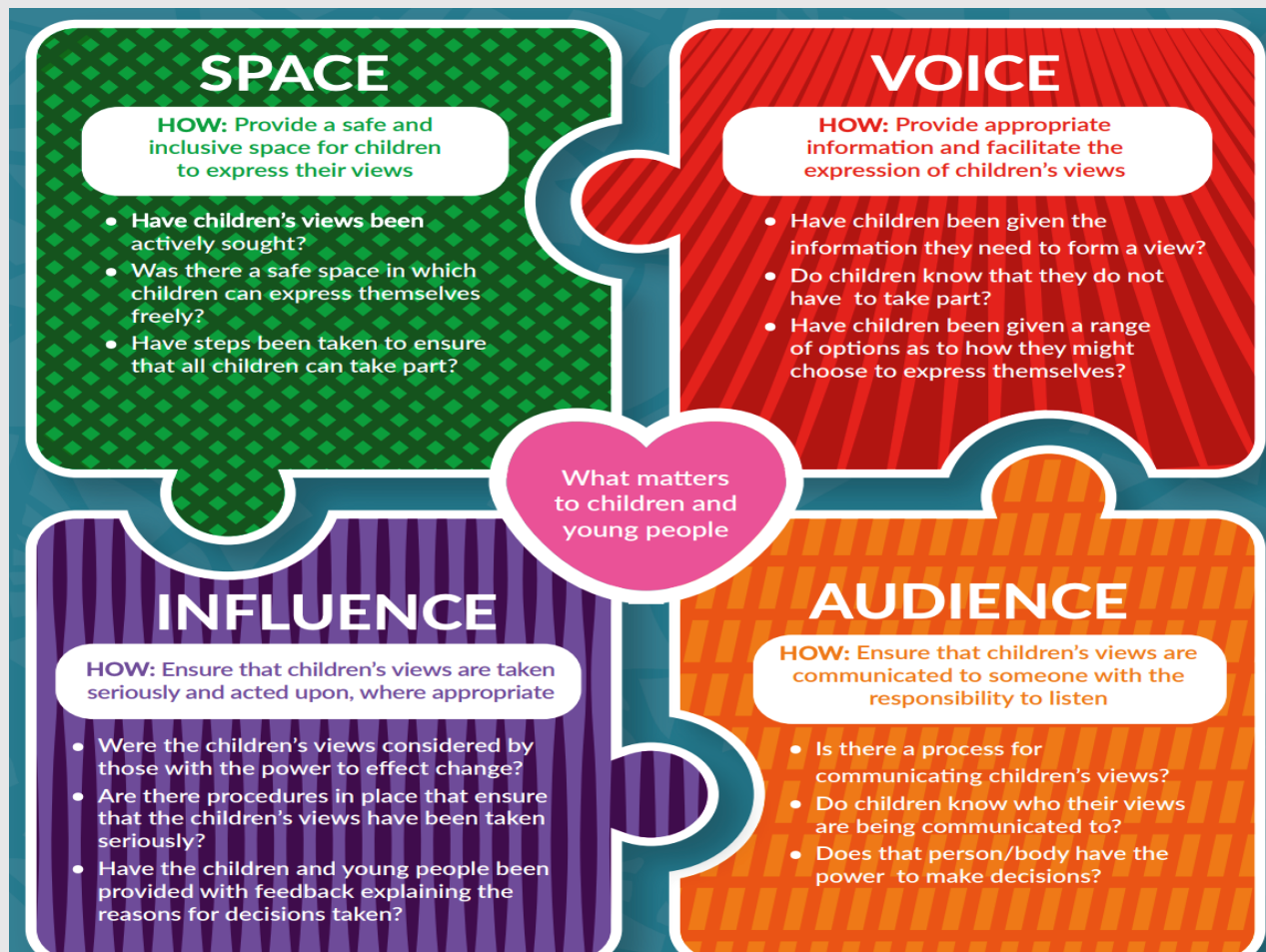


Micro level: children's views should be taken into account in the individual decision-making that affects their daily lives. The UN Committee has highlighted the relevance of children's involvement in decision-making in schools and local communities, ***given that these are the spaces where many important decisions are taken that directly affect their lives.***

Framework for Participation: Lundy Model



Checklist for the Lundy Model of Participation





Seldom-heard

Is a term used to describe children and young people who have fewer opportunities to participate and/or who encounter more obstacles when attempting to participate, including but not limited to seldom heard children and young people who are:

(Seldom Heard Toolkit)



- Being bullied
- In care
- Experiencing domestic violence
- From a minority ethnic background
- Homeless or at risk of losing their home / living in temporary / unsuitable accommodation
- In hospital (including those with mental health issues)
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT)
- Living in poverty
- Living in rural isolation
- Living with mental health issues
- Living with parental addiction
- Living with strained family relationships
- Not in school
- Persons with physical and intellectual disabilities
- Refugees and asylum-seekers
- Travellers
- Unemployed.



What it is

- There is a growing body of evidence on the benefits of participation by children and young people in decision-making across a range of measures, including improved services, policies, research, active citizenship and, most importantly, improvements for children themselves and for society generally (Kilkelly et al, 2014).
- Inclusion of children and young people in decision-making can promote children's protection, and improve their confidence, communication skills and ability to negotiate, network, and make judgements (Franklin and Sinclair, 2000).
- (From Seldom Heard Toolkit)



Lessons from Current Practice

- There's no one 'right way' and there's no one 'right answer'
- Your best ideas will be creative problem solving (like the rest of your work)
- Consultation and Participation aren't separate from the work...it is the work
- The best programmes are supported by a good working partnership
- between the school and Creative Associate that leverages everyone's skills
- There will be challenges – it doesn't mean something is going wrong
- Facilitating self expression and facilitating decision making are not the same thing.

Rule of thumb:

“Nothing about us,
without us”



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Resources

Lundy model, framework, checklist and other tools:

<https://hubnanog.ie/participation-framework/>

Seldom heard toolkit: A Practical Guide to Including Seldom
Heard Children and Young People in Decision Making

<https://www.comhairlenanog.ie/wpcontent/uploads/2014/10/Seldom-Heard-toolkit.pdf>

National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in
Decision Making:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/9128db-national-strategy-on-children-and-young-peoples-participation-in-dec/>

Our Voices, Our Schools:

<https://www.ourvoicesourschools.ie/>



***‘Although where you are going is in front of you, there is
no such thing as straight ahead’***

Jeannette Winterson, The Passion



Things to think about in the coming weeks

- Think about the four dimensions of the Lundy Framework and how to start with **making space**
- Start with what you're already good at and you're already doing
- How will you involve seldom heard young people?
- You're already on your journey ...and you're going to be brilliant 😊