



SUMMARY GUIDE TREOIR ACHOMHAIR

## **Points of Alignment** **Pointí Ailíniúcháin**

*The Report of the Special Committee  
on the Arts and Education*

*Tuarascáil an Choiste Speisialta um na  
hEalaíona agus an Oideachas*

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**Points of Alignment,  
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Is féidir **Pointí Ailíniúcháin, Tuarascáil an Choiste  
Speisialta um na hEalaíona agus an Oideachas**  
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Arts provision for children and young people both in and out of school is arguably the single greatest fault line in our cultural provision. This is recognised by practitioners and public alike, the latter clearly giving it the highest priority in the 2006 study of public attitudes and behaviour *The Public and the Arts*.

The establishment in 2006 of the Special Committee on the Arts and Education confirmed an alignment between politicians, practitioners and public around the need to address this issue. The Report of the Committee in 2007 was adopted unanimously and enthusiastically by the Arts Council and submitted to the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism and to the Department of Education and Science. The report has been the subject of detailed discussions between both Departments and the Arts Council and the Council now publishes it with the fervent hope that its recommendations are addressed to the lasting benefit of Irish society.

*from Preface to the Report by the Chair of the Arts Council*

D'fhéadfá argóint láidir a dhéanamh gurb é an soláthar ealaíne do pháistí agus do dhaoine óga ar scoil agus lasmuigh di an laige is mó atá ar ár soláthar cultúrtha. Aithníonn cleachtóirí agus an pobal araon é sin, agus thug an pobal an tosaíocht ab airde dó sa staidéar a rinneadh in 2006 ar thuairimí agus iompar an phobail 'An Pobal agus na hEalaíona'.

Bunaíodh an Coiste Speisialta um na hEalaíona agus an Oideachas in 2006, rud a dhearbhaigh go bhfuil polaiteoirí, cleachtóirí agus an pobal ar aon intinn gur gá aghaidh a thabhairt ar an dúshlán seo. Ghlac an Chomhairle Ealaíon d'aon ghuth agus go fonnmhar le Tuarascáil an Choiste in 2007 agus chuir faoi bhráid an dá roinn chuí í - an Roinn Ealaíon, Spóirt agus Turasóireachta agus an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta. Rinne an dá Roinn agus an Chomhairle Ealaíon plé mionsonraithe ar an tuarascáil agus anois tá sí á foilsiú ag an gComhairle agus muid ag súil ó chroí go dtabharfar aird ar na moltaí chun bhuanleas shochaí na hÉireann.

*ón Réamhrá don Tuarascáil ó Chathaoirleach na Comhairle Ealaíon*

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## Background

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The Special Committee on the Arts and Education was established in 2006 by the Minister for the Arts, Sport and Tourism, in conjunction with the Minister for Education and Science. The committee was established in accordance with Section 21 of the Arts Act (2003) to advise on how best to align Arts Council strategies for the promotion and encouragement of the arts with the priorities of the formal education system. The committee met formally on twelve occasions. Its report is informed by nearly one hundred public submissions, desk research, numerous focus group meetings, the advice of key informants from Ireland and abroad, and a range of other research processes.

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## Committee Members

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**Mary Nunan** (Chair),  
Member, the Arts Council; Course Director,  
MA in Contemporary Dance Performance,  
Irish World Academy, University of Limerick.

**Pat Mac Sitric**, Assistant Chief Inspector,  
Department of Education and Science.

**Orlaith McBride**, Member, the Arts Council;  
Director, National Association for Youth Drama.

**Jerome Morrissey**, Director,  
National Centre for Technology in Education.

**Derek West**, Chair,  
National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals'  
Arts and Culture Committee.

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## Cúlra

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Bhunaigh an tAire Ealaíon, Spóirt agus Turasóireachta, i gcomhar leis an Aire Oideachais agus Eolaíochta, an Coiste Speisialta um na hEalaíona agus an Oideachas sa bhliain 2006. Bunaíodh an coiste faoi réir Alt 21 den Acht Ealaíon (2003) chun comhairle a chur ar fáil faoi conas is fearr straitéisí na Comhairle maidir le spreagadh agus cothú na n-ealaíon a chur in oiriúint do thosaíochtaí an chórais oideachais fhoirmiúil. Tháinig an coiste le chéile go foirmiúil ar dhá ócáid déag. Tá beagnach céad aighneacht poiblí, taighde deasca, líon mhór cruinnithe grúpaí fócais, comhairle ó phríomh-fháisnéiseoir ó Éirinn agus thar lear, agus réimse eile próisis taighde tógtha san áireamh i dtuarascáil an choiste.

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## Comhaltaí den Choiste

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**Mary Nunan** (Cathaoirleach),  
Comhalta, An Chomhairle Ealaíon; Stiúrthóir Cúrsa,  
Céim Mháistreacht sa Rince Comhaimseartha i nDámh  
Chruinne Éireann in Ollscoil Luimnigh.

**Pat Mac Sitric**, Príomhchigire Cúnta,  
An Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta.

**Orlaith McBride**, Comhalta, An Chomhairle Ealaíon;  
Stiúrthóir, Cumann Náisiúnta Drámaíochta na hÓige.

**Jerome Morrissey**, Stiúrthóir,  
An tIonad Náisiúnta um Theicneolaíocht san Oideachas

**Derek West**, Cathaoirleach,  
Coiste Ealaíon agus Cultúir Chumann  
Náisiúnta Phríomhoidí agus Leas-Phríomhoidí.

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## Contents of the Report

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### Chapter One **Arts-in-Education: Scope of the Report**

This chapter establishes arts-in-education as the focus of the report. It defines arts-in-education and how it fits within the remits of both relevant government departments and of the Arts Council.

### Chapter Two **Arts-in-Education: Then and Now**

This chapter summarises briefly the history of arts-in-education provision in Ireland and underlines the need to move from piecemeal provision to a system of arts-in-education that takes account of contemporary notions of educational equality and cultural entitlement.

### Chapter Three **Arts-in-Education: Value and Importance**

This chapter defines the value and clarifies the importance of arts-in-education and locates both within a set of public policy goals that are cultural, educational and more widely social.

### Chapter Four **Arts-in-Education: Issues and Needs**

This chapter, based on the extensive research and consultation process that informed the committee's own thinking, sets out the key issues and identifies the key needs that require to be addressed if existing arts-in-education provision is to be developed.

### Chapter Five **Arts-in-Education: Recommendations and Actions**

The recommendations of the Special Committee address many of the needs identified in the research and consultation process (see Chapter Four).

For the Arts Council, developing the arts and supporting artists and arts organisations are critical imperatives. For the Department of Education and Science, enriching the curriculum and supporting teachers are key goals. Overarching and underpinning both commitments is the responsibility to develop the intelligence and the creativity of nearly one million citizens in the significant and distinctive ways afforded by the arts. That goal, with its intrinsic value and its importance for economic prosperity and social good, is the common cause where the Arts Council, the Department of Education and Science and the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism can unite.

The recommendations are few, detailed, and inter-dependent. They presuppose a continuation of the spirit of partnership that led to the establishment of the Committee, while being respectful of the particular responsibilities of individual departments and agencies.

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## Ábhar na Tuarascála

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### Caibidil a hAon **Na hEalaíona san Oideachas: Scóip na Tuarascála**

Bunaíonn an chaibidil seo na healaíona san oideachas mar fhócas na tuarascála. Tugann sí sainmhíniú ar 'ealaíona san oideachas' agus ar an seasamh atá aige taobh istigh de théarmaí tagartha na ranna rialtais cúí agus na Comhairle Ealaíon.

### Caibidil a Dó **Na hEalaíona san Oideachas: Ansin agus Anois**

Tugann an chaibidil seo achoimre ghairid ar stair sholáthar ealaíona san oideachas in Éirinn agus cuireann sí béim ar an ngá atá le bogadh ar aghaidh ó sholáthar de réir a chéile go córas maidir leis na healaíona san oideachas a thógann coincheapa comhaimseartha ar chomhionannas oideachasúil agus ar theidliocht chultúrtha san áireamh.

### Caibidil a Trí **Na hEalaíona san Oideachas: Luach agus Tábhacht**

Déanann an chaibidil seo sainmhíniú ar an luach agus soiléiriú ar an tábhacht a bhaineann le healaíona san oideachas agus lonnaíonn sí iad taobh istigh de shraith spriocanna beartais poiblí cultúrtha, oideachasúil agus sóisialta níos leithne.

### Caibidil a Ceathair **Na hEalaíona san Oideachas: Saincheisteanna agus Riachtanais**

Tá an chaibidil seo bunaithe ar an bpróiseas fairsing taighde agus comhairliúcháin a chuaigh i bhfeidhm ar smaointeoireacht an choiste féin. Leagann sí amach na príomh-shaincheisteanna agus aithníonn sí na riachtanais lárnacha nach mór tabhairt fúthu má táthar chun forbairt a dhéanamh ar an soláthar ealaíon san oideachas atá ann faoi láthair.

### Caibidil a Cúig **Na hEalaíona san Oideachas: Moltaí agus Gníomhartha**

Tugann moltaí an Choiste Speisialta faoi go leor de na riachtanais a aithníodh sa phróiseas taighde agus comhairliúcháin (féach Caibidil a Ceathair).

Don Chomhairle Ealaíon, is riachtanais bunúsacha criticiúla atá ann na healaíona a fhorbairt agus tacaíocht a chur ar fáil d'ealaíontóirí agus d'eagraíochtaí ealaíne. Don Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta, spriocanna lárnacha atá ann an curaclam a shaihbhiú agus tacaíocht a thabhairt do mhúinteoirí. Ag teacht os cionn an dá thiomantas seo, agus mar bhuntaca leo, tá an fhreagracht forbairt a dhéanamh ar fhaisnéis agus ar chruthúlacht beagnach milliún saoránach sna bealaí suntasacha a chuireann na healaíona ar fáil. Tá an sprioc sin, lena luach intreach agus a tábhacht i gcomhair rath eacnamaíoch agus an leas sóisialta, mar chúis comónta a bhfuil an Chomhairle Ealaíon, an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta agus an Roinn Ealaíon, Spórt agus Turasóireachta ábalta teacht le chéile ina leith.

Níl ann ach líon beag moltaí; tá siad mionsonraithe agus ag brath ar a chéile. Glactar leis iontu go leanfar ar aghaidh leis an spiorad comhpháirtíochta a cuireadh tús leis an gCoiste i ngeall air, agus ag an am céanna tá meas á léiriú ar na freagrachtaí ar leith atá ag rannóga agus gníomhaireachtaí aonaracha.

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**Recommendation 1 National Arts-in-Education Development Unit**

*To enable partnership, mutual understanding and joint actions by the arts and education sectors; to assist coordinated policy and provision; and to support research and development in this domain, it is recommended that a National Arts-in-Education Development Unit be established.*

Details are given of the governing structure of the proposed unit. Six operational objectives are set out and five key actions are then outlined.

**Recommendation 2 Local Partnerships**

*In order to encourage local partnerships to develop and resource provision for arts-in-education and related fields, on a county or regional basis, the Committee recommends the establishment by the National Arts-in-Education Development Unit of a national programme of Local Arts Education Partnerships. These partnerships' annual programmes would be supported from local sources, with additional resources from the National Arts-in-Education Development Unit. The Local Partnerships would build on existing relationships or would derive from new relationships involving professional artists and arts organisations; teachers, schools, third-level colleges and education centres; and local authorities, VECs and other key service providers.*

Three key actions to give effect to this recommendation are described.

**Recommendation 3 The Arts Council**

*To adequately support existing professional arts-in-education practice and to address major gaps in provision and infrastructure, given the scale of need, it is recommended that the Arts Council increase significantly its level of support to artists and arts organisations working wholly, or in part, in arts-in-education, and so that it can initiate and foster new provision.*

Three key actions and two supplementary actions are described in detail and are costed for an initial three-year period.

**Recommendation 4 Department of Education and Science**

*In addition to its recommended partnership involvement in the establishment and governance of the National Arts-in-Education Development Unit (see Recommendation 1), the following actions by the Department of Education and Science are considered to be critical in complementing the recommendations to the Arts Council in order for both the Arts Council and the Department of Education and Science to fulfill their joint roles in arts-in-education comprehensively.*

Eight such actions are outlined.

**Recommendation 5 Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism**

*In order to sustain the partnership it initiated and that is represented by the Arts and Education Committee, the Committee recommends that the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism use its influence and allocate resources, as appropriate, to ensure that the report's recommendations are implemented.*

Five specific actions are suggested to give effect to this recommendation

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## The Changing Context of the Arts in Irish Education

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The report concludes with an essay by Dr. John Coolahan, Emeritus Professor of Education at NUI Maynooth in which he locates the arts within recent developments in the wider education scene in Ireland and within other relevant developments affecting provision for children and young people.

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**Moladh 1 An tAonad Náisiúnta Forbartha um na hEalaíona san Oideachas**

*Le comhpháirtíocht, comhthuisctint agus comhghníomhartha a chumasú in earnálacha na n-ealaíon agus an oideachais; cuidiú le beartas agus soláthar comhordaithe; agus tacú le forbairt agus taighde sa réimse seo, moltar go mbunófaí An tAonad Náisiúnta Forbartha um na hEalaíona san Oideachas.*

Tugtar sonraí maidir le struchtúr rialachais an aonaid seo. Tá sé chuspóir feidhmíochta leagtha síos agus imlíniú déanta ar chúig phríomhbheart.

**Moladh 2 Comhpháirtíochtaí Áitiúla**

*Le comhpháirtíochtaí áitiúla a spreagadh chun forbairt agus acmhainní a chur ar fáil do sholáthar na n-ealaíon san oideachas agus réimsí gaolmhara, ar bhonn contae nó réigiúnach, molann an Coiste go mbunódh an tAonad Náisiúnta Forbartha um na hEalaíona san Oideachas Comhpháirtíochtaí Áitiúla Oideachais sna hEalaíona. Ba chóir go dtacofaí le cláracha bliantúla na gcomhpháirtíochtaí ó fhoinsí áitiúla, le hacmhainní breise ón Aonad Náisiúnta Forbartha um na hEalaíona san Oideachas. Thógfadh na Comhpháirtíochtaí Áitiúla ar ghaolmhaireachtaí atá ann cheana féin nó atá ag eascairt ó ghaolmhaireachtaí nua a bhaineann le healaíontóirí gairmiúla agus eagraíochtaí ealaíon; múinteoirí, scoileanna, coláistí tríú leibhéal agus ionaid oideachais; agus údarais áitiúla, Coistí Gairmoideachais agus eochair-soláthróirí seirbhíse eile.*

Déantar cur síos ar thrí phríomhbheart chun an moladh seo a chur i bhfeidhm.

**Moladh 3 An Chomhairle Ealaíon**

*Chun tacaíocht shásúil a sholáthar do chleachtas gairmiúil na n-ealaíon san oideachas i láthair na huaire agus chun tabhairt faoi bhearnaí soláthair agus bonneagair, ag brath ar scála an riachtanais, moltar don Chomhairle Ealaíon a leibhéal tacaíochta a mhéadú go mór d'ealaíontóirí agus d'eagraíochtaí ealaíon atá ag feidhmiú go hiomlán, nó i bpáirt, i réimse na n-ealaíon san oideachas, agus ionas gur féidir soláthar nua a thionscnú agus a chothú.*

Déantar cur síos go sonrath ar thrí phríomhbheart agus dhá bheart breise agus tugtar an costas a bheadh i gceist leo ar feadh an chéad tréimhse trí bliana.

**Moladh 4 An Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta**

*Chomh maith leis an mbaint comhpháirtíochta atá molta acu i mbunú agus rialú an Aonaid Náisiúnta Forbartha um na hEalaíona san Oideachas (féach Moladh 1), measann an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta go bhfuil na bearta a leanas criticiúil chun moltaí na Comhairle Ealaíon a chomhlánú ionas gur féidir leis an gComhairle Ealaíon agus an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta a gcomhrólanna i réimse na n-ealaíon san oideachas a chomhlíonadh go cuimsitheach.*

Tá imlíniú déanta ar ocht mbeart den chineál seo.

**Moladh 5 An Roinn Ealaíon, Spóirt agus Turasóireachta**

*Chun an chomhpháirtíocht a thionscnaíodar a chothú agus atá ionadaithe ag an gCoiste Oideachais agus na hEalaíona, molann an Coiste go n-úsáidfeadh an Roinn Ealaíon, Spóirt agus Turasóireachta an tionchar atá acu agus acmhainní a dháileadh, mar atá oiriúnach, chun a cinntiú go bhforfheidhmítear moltaí na tuarascála.*

Tá cúig bheart ar leith molta chun an moladh seo a chur i bhfeidhm.

## Comhthéacs na nEalaíon ag Athrú in Oideachas na hÉireann

Críochnaíonn an tuarascáil le haiste de chuid an Dochtúra John Coolahan, Ollamh Emeritus le hOideachas in Ollscoil na hÉireann, Má Nuad, ina mbunaíonn sé na healaíona taobh istigh de fhorbairtí atá tarlaithe le déanaí sa saol oideachais níos leithne in Éirinn agus taobh istigh de fhorbairtí ábharthacha eile a bhfuil tionchar acu ar sholáthar do pháistí agus do dhaoine óga.

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**Treoir Achomhair: Pointí Ailíniúcháin**

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