

Cultural Learning

Natasha Innocent from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council takes us through the Find Your Talent programme that is engaging children in cultural experiences. Find Your Talent, the Government programme to pilot approaches to a universal cultural offer providing five hours of quality arts and culture a week, was launched on 13 February 2008. The aim of the offer is to ensure that 'all children and young people have the opportunity to engage with cultural experiences no matter where they live or what their background is'.

What should the offer involve?

Learning in and about culture – helping young people develop as informed and reflective spectators, participants and creators in the cultural world around them.

Learning through culture – using engagement with culture to boost creativity, attainment and personal development.

Local communities, schools, colleges and young people should be involved in designing any offer, but as a minimum it is expected to include some of the following activities:

- attending top quality theatre, orchestral and dance performances
- visiting and engaging with national and local exhibitions, galleries and museums
- visiting heritage sites, significant contemporary buildings and public spaces
- opportunities to engage creatively with library and archive services
- taking part in theatre and dance performances
- listening to authors talk about their work
- learning about and making films, digital or new media art.

A total of £25 million has been allocated for the Find Your Talent programme in 2008-11 from Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the DCSF to pilot the offer in ten locations. The pilots will trial different ways of offering young people this range of cultural experiences both within schools and cultural settings. Different approaches will be used, based on partnerships between schools, local authorities and cultural organisations, so that creative practitioners will spend time in schools, as well as children getting the chance to gain experience outside the classroom.

The cultural offer pilots will be delivered in partnership with a range of cultural organisations. The partnerships must include the local authority, local music service, appropriate cultural institutions and specialist schools, and cultural programmes such as Arts Award and where these are in operation, Renaissance in the Regions, Cultural Hubs and Creative Partnerships.

You will find further information [here](#).