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Review of Cultural Education

Please allow me to thank you again for the excellent review of music education that you produced. I am delighted that you have agreed to work again with both the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Education to undertake a further review, this time looking at cultural education (ages 5 – 19).

As we stated in the Schools White Paper, the coalition government believes that every child should experience a wide variety of high quality cultural experiences and we would like to ask you to consider how we can ensure that this ambition is realised, ensuring both quality and best use of public investment.

We would also ask you to consider the following as part of this review:

- What cultural experiences should be included?
- How can cultural organisations create an offer which fulfils the needs of schools in providing a broad and truly rounded education for their students?
- How can we ensure that all opportunities are as good as the very best?

The review of music education really reflected the breadth of opinion that you canvassed in its production and, whilst this will be more of a challenge across the whole of cultural education, I would urge you to be as open as you can and work with and through our sponsored bodies to ensure that individual sectoral viewpoints are captured too, along with those of schools and parents.

I thought it would be useful to articulate a new set of assumptions that should underpin this review:

- Government recognises the important contribution that our great cultural institutions make to the education and intends to support access to and appreciation of the arts and culture
- Public funding should be used primarily to meet the government

priorities of every child having a solid cultural education

- Although music was reviewed separately, it forms an integral part of cultural education and so this review should consider how cultural education could be delivered, taking into account that which we have adopted or will adopt in response to your first review of music.
- The focus should be on delivery models which meet the needs of the child or young person as defined by parents and schools rather than being supplier led.
- You should consider how initial teacher training and continuing professional development could better foster links with cultural organisations and artists and what might be required within the cultural sector to improve the quality of the offer.
- There should be clearly defined progression routes and consideration should be given to giving children and young people opportunities to showcase their achievements through performance or exhibition
- The review should take account of experiences for children and young people both in and out of school.
- In commissioning this review, as was the case with music, no assumptions should be made regarding the position of related subjects within the review of the National Curriculum

Both Departments will again provide you with the support you require to conduct this review. I would welcome a final report by the end of the year and it would be incredibly helpful we might have early thoughts from you by the summer recess.

Ed Vaizey

Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Communications