



Tuesday 3 January 2012

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

Dear Secretary of State,

The National Society for Education in Art and Design is the subject association and lead professional body for teachers of art, craft and design across all phases throughout the UK.

We have received, and welcomed the recommendations for the National Curriculum in England published by the Expert Panel for the National Curriculum in December 2011.

We wish to add our support to the specific recommendations that ***art and design is retained in the KS1-3 curriculum as a Foundation Subject, and that the arts are compulsory at KS4.***

Art, craft and design makes a unique and essential contribution to the curriculum by supporting the cultural, social, and creative development of children and young people, especially language development in young children. It also provides an introduction to careers in the Creative Industries who contribute substantially to the national economy; builds the confident audiences and critical consumers of ethical and sustainable products, systems and processes of the future, and provides children and young people with transferable skills, an awareness that problems can have more than one solution and the ability to think creatively.

The Society welcomes the extension of the consultation process and the recommendations of the Expert Panel and highly commends them to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Lesley Butterworth'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lesley Butterworth
General Secretary
NSEAD