



Extend: Creative Leadership Programme

Funded opportunity to join the Creative Leadership Programme, a partnership between the Arts Council of Wales and Welsh Government

Closing date: 12pm, 31st October 2025

Are you a school leader who is keen to be supported in experimenting with innovative, creative ways to bring the new curriculum to life in authentic, engaging ways for your learners? Are you ready to take your leadership skills to the next level within your school? Do you wish you had the time to try different ways of teaching and learning in your setting to assess what engages your learners? Are you overwhelmed by the amount of change in the education system in Wales at the moment? Could you do with a critical friend to help you make sense of it all?

The Arts Council of Wales in partnership with Welsh Government are delighted to be able to relaunch an exciting opportunity created for middle/senior school leaders, to support school leaders to develop creative leadership within their own school settings.

The aim of the programme is to encourage confidence in new ways of working, innovation, reflection, and resilience whilst also developing the understanding of the role of creativity in the context of the Curriculum for Wales, the four purposes and the professional standards for teaching and leadership. Within the programme, participants are encouraged to reflect honestly about their professional practice and contexts and identify the barriers that may impede their capacity to become creative leaders.

The programme is tailored to each participant's current stage of progression within their professional leadership career. You can make it work for you, so it doesn't feel like something extra to have to do in your busy day to day school life. Nothing to lose but lots to gain! Our model is based on evidence around effective professional learning and current guidance by Welsh Government. Our provision subscribes to the four-element design model of collaboration, reflective practice, use of data and research evidence and coaching.

The key themes of experiential learning, enrichment and creative skills development are also central to our work, which is increasingly being recognised as a key factor in helping to ensure successful implementation of the Curriculum for Wales.

The process will begin with an in-person two-day training event facilitated by the Arts Council of Wales. This will be an experiential and intensive learning opportunity with an emphasis on reflective practice.

Following the two-day course, each leader will embark on an 23-26 week development programme and will be matched with a Creative Agent who will act as a creative leadership coach or critical friend. The programme will use an enquiry-based approach to develop participants creativity, help them to initiate change within their setting as well as the following:

- Introduce participants to creative learning pedagogies and help them to build the confidence to disseminate the key principles to their staff.
- Develop an understanding of the central role of collaboration and co-construction in creative learning approaches.
- Promote an understanding of learning climates which encourage creativity, critical thinking and problem solving.
- Share examples of creative learning projects from the Creative Learning through the Arts programme and their impacts on teachers and pupils, as well as whole-school change.
- Encourage professional learning and school leader agency through experiential approaches, dialogue and reflective practice.
- Raise awareness of democratic spaces where all voices are considered important.
- Demonstrate how creative learning is an integral part of Curriculum for Wales, the national approach to professional learning and schools as learning organisations model.

It is important to stress that this provision will be a bespoke offer, led by your own identification of an enquiry question around creative leadership, although a toolbox of ideas and approaches will be given. As the process develops, it will up to the participant to explore and trial new ways of working.

At the end of the process, middle/senior leaders will be required to complete an evaluation which demonstrates the impact of the enquiry on your professional learning and leadership and plan your next steps.

We would particularly welcome expressions of interest from applicants from culturally and ethnically diverse backgrounds.

How to apply

An application form can be found here:

https://artswales.formstack.com/forms/clp_2025_2026

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For more information, please join one of these Zoom briefings below –

Monday 6th October 3.30-4.15pm

<https://artswales.zoom.us/j/87971122514?pwd=x7Jl0s9BWhVAurUl9ae60JALQI8VLG.1>

Meeting ID: 879 7112 2514 Passcode: 530276

Monday 13th October 3.30-4.15pm

<https://artswales.zoom.us/j/84578720589?pwd=Xwm22iAEkCPIV5THOnacUJkGtdM38W.1>

Meeting ID: 845 7872 0589 Passcode: 001650

Wednesday 15th October 3.30-4.15pm

<https://artswales.zoom.us/j/81116152179?pwd=sg1as21NtHHUy8rL4ZbOauG4Y2Zt0N.1M>

Meeting ID: 811 1615 2179 Passcode: 578328

Should your application be successful you will also be required to attend:

Training for middle/senior leaders:	25 th & 26 th November 2025
Networking events (online):	11 th February & 29 th April 2026
Sharing event:	10 th June 2026

All supply cover costs will be provided for these dates.

Please note that attendance on all these key dates is mandatory and a condition of participation. It is also vital that you are available to meet with your Creative Agent for 4 days' worth of time during the enquiry.

Creative Learning Cymru – Inspiring creativity, transforming education.

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