

VIEWPOINTS THEME: EDUCATION

ABOUT THE ARTWORK

Every child has the right to education. Education should be directed at developing the child's personality and talents and helping children reach their full potential; preparing the child for active life as an adult; fostering respect for basic human rights; developing respect for the child's own cultural and national values and those of others; and developing respect for the natural environment. This image shows a diverse group of children learning together and on their own, finding their own pace to study in a supportive environment.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Róisín Hahessy is an Irish illustrator who lives in the south of Brazil. She creates work for younger children (0-3yrs). Róisín was born in Clonmel, Ireland and graduated from The Irish School of Animation in Ballyfermot in Dublin. Since 2015, she is based in her sunny studio in Brazil. Her illustrations are dominated of bright colours—especially yellow. Shapes and lines are important in Róisín's work, usually in layers between back-and foreground. The characters she creates are both sweet and loving, thoughtful and adventurous. Her book *Always in My Heart* addresses emotions like love and care for each other as parent and child. The worlds in which these characters are living are charming and exciting, both to explore and to learn through looking at the picture books together. Róisín is represented by The Bright Agency in London and is a member of Illustrators Ireland. She has published books with Little Tiger Press, Igloo Books, Futa Fata and Priddy Books.

ABOUT THE RIGHT

It is the right of every child to access a certain standard and level of education that meets their needs and abilities. Article 28 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the child indicates that primary education must be made compulsory and available free to all. The convention encourages access and availability for young people to secondary and third level education. The quality of educational opportunities is paramount and in particular with a view to contributing to the elimination of ignorance and illiteracy throughout the world and facilitating access to scientific and technical knowledge and modern teaching methods. The aim of education should be to the development of children's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential. Education provided to young people should include developing their respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms; respect for their parents, their own cultural identity, language and values, for the national values of their country and for civilizations different from their own.

WORKSHEET

Exercise 1: The Right to Education (10 mins)

This discussion exercise invites students to explore Roisin Hahessy's artwork and to understand the many ways people learn.

Guiding questions –

Look at Roisin Hahessy's artwork, what stands out to you?

How are the children in this classroom learning?

What activities can you see them undertaking?

Do we all learn in the same way and at the same speed?

What ways can we learn?

What are the most important things we learn at school?

Exercise 2: How has school changed? (Overnight or weekend)

Students should research how school has changed through the years. What was school like for your older siblings or cousins or friends? What was school like for your parents, aunts or uncles? What was school like for your grand parents or older neighbours? Take notes of what everyone says, then write up a short paragraph that describes all the changes that have occurred. Share your findings with the class.

Exercise 3: My perfect classroom (45 mins)

Taking Roisin Hahessy's artwork as the inspiration, students should illustrate a supportive classroom environment where students are learning in fun and innovative ways. Is your classroom indoors or outdoors? What ways are students learning? Are their chairs and desks? Is their physical activities as well? Use an A4 sheet of paper and pencils and colouring pencils to create the artwork.

You will need A4 sheet of paper, colouring pencils and pencil.

CREATIVE PROJECT

How does education shape our personality and talents? And what would our lives be like without the support of school and other learning opportunities? These are the questions we will look to explore in this creative project. Students will work independently and collaboratively to better understand their relationship to school and learning before presenting their creative work to their peers.

Three Stages

You will need –

Roll of paper

Ruler

Pencils

Colouring pencils

Markers

Crayons

A4 paper

Stapler

A3 paper

Stage 1.

The Key to Life

Discussion (10mins)

This discussion looks to encourage students to reflect on the importance of school and how it provides a strong basis for their future. Students should be supported to think about all aspects of school life and the different ways they might learn in this environment.

Why is education so important?

What would life be like if we didn't have school? What would we miss out on?

Do you know of young people around the world who don't have access to education?

What would their lives be like?

How would it impact their future?

Research (overnight or weekend)

Students should look at situations where young people don't have access to education. What is the situation that prevents them from going to school and learning? Is it a cultural difference? Maybe it is due to governance? Is it a war torn country? Research the situation and present your findings back to the class.

Creative Activity (1 hour)

Collaborative artwork that highlights all the wonderful things about our school

Take a roll of paper and cut out and stick together large sections. Map out areas on your blank sheet that replicate the seating arrangement in your classroom. Each of these sections can be worked on by different groups. Consider how lucky you are to have your wonderful school with friends, teachers and a wide variety of subjects and activities. Each group should illustrate one aspect of their school that they are proud of. Use colouring pencils, crayons or markers to add lots of colour. Once finished give your artwork pride of place in your classroom..

Stage 2.

Always learning

Discussion (20 mins)

In Roisin Haheesy's artwork we can see young people learning in many different ways. This discussion invites students to consider the places and things that they learn on a daily basis.

Where do we learn?

Think about the different places – in school, in books, in playground, at home, on tv etc.

From whom might you learn?

Can you learn from yourself? From friends? What might this be?

Research (one week)

Take time every evening for one week to note (write down) the things you have learned that day. Use examples from school but also consider what you have learnt from family or friends? Did you learn something from one of your hobbies or pastimes? Did you read something or see something on the tv? Students should try to capture the variety of places that they have been learning.

Creative Activity (1 hour)

Students will illustrate their learnings in a small journal. Use an existing journal or create your own by folding A4 paper and stapling together. The Journal of Learning should include the information that was learned, where it was learned (from whom) and illustrations of the activity i.e. in school, in playground, reading a book, drawing etc. Students can continue to add to their journal by leaving additional blank pages.

Stage 3.

Lifelong learning

Discussion (20 mins)

This discussion looks to further students understanding of the importance of education to their development academically but also for their personality, confidence, and mental and physical wellbeing. And to the idea that learning happens all the time and throughout their life.

Research (overnight or weekend)

Students should research the different stages of growth and development. What are the key stages of life? What are important learning moments at each stage? How does our learning alter the way we live? Do we stop learning when we finish school?

Creative Activity (1 hour)

Students should design a poster that celebrates learning and that tracks their development over a long period of time. From a baby through to now and then into the future (eg. Infant, young child, child, teenager, young adult, adult, old age). Students identify the 7 different stages of development and highlight the significant things they learn at different stages of their life. Use your imagination for the later stages. You can try predict your future interests, skills and career! Take a blank sheet of A3 paper and divide into 7 sections. Students can draw or collage the 5 different versions of themselves. In each section, write or draw the important things that have been learnt along the way. Use colouring pencils or markers to add colour to your poster. Share your poster with the group, do they predict the same future for you?

DISCOVER MORE

You can further the discussion on Education by visiting some of the following resources -

https://www.childrensrights.ie/sites/default/files/submissions_reports/files/KYRRightToEducation2015.pdf

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>

<https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/convention-text-childrens-version>

<https://www.rosha.ie/>