



# CRAFT

# ED

Learning  
skills  
for life





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MING

**Today the experience of making is more important than ever as we continue to move in a fast-paced society, one largely dominated by digital and technological interface experiences. Making takes time, while learning skills and applying skills to tasks involves a dedication and devotion to materials and processes. The opportunity to discover the power of making by hand in a school environment is vital to enable young children flourish in their creativity.**

Through exploring craft materials such as felt, clay, willow, wood and new mixed media, these hands-on making experiences can open up a world of possibility for children. These creative interactions can enable young children to gain confidence in their own ability to make and shape their environment.

The CRAFTed: Learning Skills for Life primary schools programme has been developed by the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland (DCCoI), in partnership with the Association of Teacher Education Centres Ireland (ATECI). CRAFTed facilitates teachers and children in exploring their creativity, introducing the dynamic world of craft, design and making techniques into the classroom.

Each participating class works together as a team on a creative project that links in with specific education curriculum strands. Importantly, CRAFTed allows for the learning of important skills such as collaboration, problem solving and thinking through creativity. The programme encourages children to fulfill their own potential as young individuals through the creative, imaginative world of making.

**Muireann Charleton**  
Education & Innovation Manager  
Design & Crafts Council of Ireland



# AIMS + OBJECTIVES

**CRAFTed is a nationwide primary level initiative in support of the national curriculum that involves positive, collaborative engagement between teachers, craftspeople and young students. Its aims and objectives are to:**

- Raise awareness of craft, design process and creative enterprise amongst primary children, teachers, parents and the wider schools community
- Provide positive, creative, hands-on making experience for primary school children
- Support the delivery of the Visual Arts Curriculum at primary level in Ireland
- Offer practical skills and lesson plan ideas to teachers and makers
- Facilitate opportunities for teacher-maker collaboration and 'paired teaching'
- Promote integrated learning of multiple subject areas with a specific emphasis on numeracy and literacy skills
- Use creative, child centred, process led methodologies
- Provide set hours in the classroom with a professional craftspeople

A group of students in a classroom are gathered around a table, working together on a project. The image is overlaid with a blue tint. The text "LEARNING = OUTCOMES" is written in a stylized, outlined font across the bottom. The word "LEARNING" is on the left, "OUTCOMES" is on the right, and "=" is in the middle. The letters are blue with a green-to-blue gradient fill. The background shows students in a classroom setting, some wearing aprons, suggesting a hands-on learning activity.

LEARNING = OUTCOMES





**CRAFTed was fun and very interesting...  
it was brilliant presenting our project and  
the puppets we made to an audience**

STUDENT, BOFIELD NATIONAL SCHOOL, CO. MAYO

**CHILDREN  
=**



## **CRAFTed increases participation and meaningful engagement in craft and design activity among young children by:**

- Enabling the child to develop natural abilities, to acquire craft techniques and to practice the skills necessary for creative expression and for joyful participation in different art and craft forms
- Enabling the child to acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes to develop an informed and critical understanding of social, environmental and scientific issues
- Developing the child's awareness of, sensitivity to and enjoyment of visual, aural, tactile and spatial qualities in the environment





**'CRAFTed provided me with an artistic and creative opportunity that opened the door to true cross-curricular integration. Working with a skilled craftsperson unleashed the combined creativity of all participants in a productive, enjoyable process, of which we are still reaping the benefits.'**

KAREN BROGAN, TEACHER

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**CRAFTed fosters an innovative learning space within classrooms that contributes to enriching the curriculum and the wider school community enabling teachers to:**

- Develop an appreciation of the skills involved in craft based disciplines and an awareness of the potential of the craft creative process as a learning tool
- Gain an awareness and understanding of the role of craftspeople and the importance of craft to Irish culture, heritage and society
- Develop an understanding of the potential for integrated learning using process based creative teaching methodologies through the Visual Arts, (VA) and Social, Environmental and Scientific Education (SESE) curricula, while supporting and underpinning numeracy and literacy skills





**'The energy and eagerness of the boys to embrace working with textiles was amazing and rewarding, the hunger they had to learn the skills was boundless.'**

ANNE MARIE GRIFFIN, CRAFTSPERSON


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## **CRAFTed nurtures continuing professional development in creative practice within educational contexts enabling participating makers to:**

- Develop project and classroom management skills to enable makers to direct and deliver future crafts based programmes
- Develop a working knowledge of the Visual Arts and SESE curriculum at primary level and facilitate the development of the creative process that will assist in the delivery of the curriculum
- Develop an understanding of the potential for integrated learning using process based creative teaching methodologies through the Visual Arts, (VA) and Social, Environmental and Scientific Education (SESE) curricula







**'The students benefit enormously from the craft skills that the craftsperson brings, the teacher also benefits by learning a new craft skill that they may not have had the confidence to use in the classroom on their own, for the very first time. CRAFTed brings an energy and a craft focus that has such a positive impact on the learning in the whole school.'**

PAUL FIELDS ATECI, KILKENNY EDUCATION CENTRE DIRECTOR

### **GET THE FULL STORY**

[www.learncraftdesign.com/learn/crafted](http://www.learncraftdesign.com/learn/crafted)

### **EXPERIENCE THE STORY**

Teachers contact your local Education Centre to register your interest and apply [www.ateci.ie/education-centres](http://www.ateci.ie/education-centres)

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**

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### **CRAFTED**

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### **CRAFTED STEERING GROUP**

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