

PRESS RELEASE
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**FEDERATION WELCOMES MUSIC INVESTMENT BUT DEMANDS ACTION
ON WIDER CREATIVE EDUCATION**

Schools Minister Nick Gibb has today announced £300m in support for music education hubs across the country in an attempt help children from all backgrounds engage with music and the arts. This will provide four years of funding for 121 hubs, which help five- to 18-year olds take part in activities such as playing an instrument, singing in a choir or joining a band.

An extra £29m in funding has also been awarded to the music and dance scheme, which makes grants to talented students who could not otherwise afford to attend world-class institutions such as the Royal Ballet School and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Harriet Finney, the Federation's deputy chief executive and policy director, said: "We absolutely welcome the investment in music education announced by the Government today. This endorsement of the value of music to a rounded education is very welcome.

"We now look forward to working with the Government on recognising and investing in the full range of creative subjects, including art and design, design and technology and drama. The creative economy is growing faster than the rest of the UK economy but skills gaps in the sector are growing. We need young people with a wide range of creative skills to help drive future growth."

The creative and cultural industries are growing at three times the rate of the wider economy, with a value of £87.4bn. One in 11 UK jobs are in the creative economy and demand for workers is growing faster than they can be supplied.

But there has been a consistent decline in the overall number of students being entered to study creative subjects such as music, art and design and design and technology. The Government's headline assessment measure for schools, the EBacc, exacerbates this problem by excluding creative subjects.

Free schools and academies do not have to follow the curriculum and arts are not part of the Ofsted rating systems, so it is possible for a school to be ranked 'outstanding' without offering any arts subjects.

In its paper '[Social Mobility and the Skill Gap](#)', the Federation argues that improving the provision of creative and technical subjects in schools will give students the skills needed to succeed in a wider range of careers, and help provide the workforce required to maintain the creative industries as the fastest growing sector of the UK economy.

Notes to editors:

Speaking at Conservative party conference on Wednesday October 5, 2016, Prime Minister Theresa May said: "[Education Secretary] Justine Greening and I have set out a new package of reforms, building on Michael Gove's success, to increase the number of good school places across the country... so there's not just a school place for every child, but a good school place for every child. A school place that suits the skills, interests and abilities of every single pupil."

The Federation is the UK-wide membership body for all the arts, creative industries and cultural education which launched in January 2015.

Its first policy document was Creative Education Agenda which in May 2015 explained why the Government should support creative learning. This argument was developed in October 2016's 'Social Mobility and the Skills Gap', which demonstrated how improving creative education would help address UK skills gaps while also helping the Prime Minister deliver her agenda on social justice.

The creative industries are worth £87.4bn GVA to Britain with the creative economy accounting for one in 11 jobs. It has been the fastest growing sector of the UK economy since the 2008 crash.

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