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Title: Educating for Humanity through the Arts: The Role of Musical and Interdisciplinary Creativity in Shaping a Humane School Culture

Abstract

In a time of increasingly rapid change, when educational priorities are shaped ever more by demands for measurability and predictability, it is necessary to reconsider the role of the arts in creating a more humane school environment. This presentation addresses the question of how music and other art forms can contribute to shaping an educational approach in which creativity, relationships and interdisciplinary connections are central components of pedagogical practice.

It is grounded in the understanding that artistic activities in schools should not be viewed merely as tools for developing skills or aesthetic awareness, but as vital spaces that support children's emotional, social, and ethical growth. Particular emphasis is placed on musical experiences such as improvisation, composition, listening and collaborative performance as opportunities to nurture emotional expression, empathy, self-confidence and a sense of belonging.

The second part of the presentation explores how interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches – linking music with literature, visual art, drama, movement and broader social or environmental themes – can open up embodied and imaginative ways for students to engage with complex ideas about identity, difference and care.

Examples from classroom practice and teacher education illustrate how learning environments can be designed so that children do not only learn about the arts, but also through and with the arts, finding personal and meaningful ways of being in the world. The presentation concludes by proposing foundational principles for humanising education through the arts: empowering students' creative agency, fostering collaboration and community, and resisting narrowly instrumental perspectives in favour of deeper human and societal purposes.

Keywords: music education; arts education; children's creativity; interdisciplinary connections; humanisation of education