Dear [[MPfirstnamelastname]]

Art, Craft and Design education in the UK is at a crisis point.

A report published on the 27th of June 2023, by the APPG for Art, Craft and Design in Education, has highlighted the crisis faced by art, craft, and design educators as a period of existential threat.

I am concerned that unless the Government changes course and guarantees to fund and support art and design education and educators properly, many pupils will miss out on a crucial element of their education that our report found to help raise self-esteem, bring cultural and personal enrichment, improve mental health outcomes, and provide opportunities for vocational training.

I am worried that without proper funding and support for practitioners, students will suffer damaging impacts to the quality of education and services they have the right to receive.

The report, authorised by the APPG for Art, Craft, and Design in Education, **identifies several recommendations that will help to save art and design education:**

**1) Address the deficit in art and design primary Initial Teacher Education**

Prospective primary school teachers undertaking PGCEs only receive 12 hours of creative arts education (music, art & design, dance and drama) and 3-12 hours of art and design training over four-year courses.

**2) Invest in subject-specific continued professional development for art and design teachers**

Art and design teachers are getting insufficient training to develop their skills. 21% of secondary art and design teachers are not getting regular access to necessary in-post teacher training. Primary art leads report having to attend subject-specific teacher training in their personal time and paying for part or all of the training themselves.

**3) Address art and design teacher wellbeing and workload**

86.4% of art and design teachers have found that their workload increased in the last five years, with 67% considering leaving teaching, compared to 44% of all teachers ([2022 NEU survey](https://news.sky.com/story/nearly-half-of-teachers-plan-to-quit-by-2027-due-to-workload-survey-finds-12587989)).

4/5 of art and design teachers reported that wellbeing and workload were the two biggest disincentives to stay in teaching, and that these aspects were worse during and after the pandemic.

**4)** **Address teacher retention, recruitment and representation in art and design**

Recruitment and retention numbers are too low, and they are forecast to get worse. There is also a need to increase the ethnic diversity amongst art and design educators to develop a more inclusive and accurate cultural representation in art and design education across the UK.

**5) Investigate the impact of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis on teaching and lost learning in art and design**

Budget constraints have forced schools to cut the number of teaching assistants and school trips - art and design is often the first department to experience budget cuts. An investigation into lost learning in art and design is urgently needed to identify which pupils and schools have been most affected by the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis, so that targeted subject-specific funding can be allocated to address and mitigate these impacts.

I am writing to urge you to work together with educators and policy makers to defend art, craft, and design education by implementing these recommendations.

I’d be grateful if you could write to the Secretary of State for Education, Gillian Keegan and the Minister of State for Schools, Nick Gibb to raise my concerns and urge them to work with the APPG for Art, Craft, and Design in Education.

I would also appreciate if you could attend the upcoming Art, Craft and Design in Education APPG meeting, which is being held online on **Tuesday the 21st of November between 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM.** If you would like to attend, please contact the APPG’s secretary Susan Coles on susanmcoles@gmail.com for the meeting link.

You can also show your support for the report and its findings on social media by using #artnow!

I look forward to hearing from you.

Click here to read the Art Now! Report: [13a555d0c7a3c66da64bfb8049a4dae1.pdf (nsead.org)](https://www.nsead.org/files/13a555d0c7a3c66da64bfb8049a4dae1.pdf)

Click here to sign the petition to implement the recommendations of the report: <https://chng.it/CGkKT4VQ>

Yours sincerely,

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