

**Memorandum of Understanding  
Between  
Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht  
And  
Department of Education and Skills**

**Background:**

The Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht became co-signatories of the “Arts in Education Charter” which was launched in January 2013. The Charter plays a pivotal role in promoting both Arts Education and Arts in Education among children and young people through the alignment of a joined up, integrated and collaborative approach across Government Departments, education agencies and arts organisations. There are two strands to arts in-education practice: one involving interventions by the arts world into the domain of formal education, and the other involving students engaging with the arts in the public domain, usually in publicly-funded arts venues, whether local or national.

The Charter articulates and promotes the essential role of the arts in education, enabling students to be successful in school life and work. Implementation of the objectives of the Charter requires the partnership and collaboration of arts, education, business, philanthropy and government that have a national scope and impact, as well as state and local partnerships that promote educational policies supportive of arts in education. Arts in Education practice enriches the lives of all involved, particularly in nurturing the developing of the minds and imaginations of the pupils.

**Purpose and Scope:** The Arts in Education Charter Implementation Group has been working in consultation and partnership with many organisations towards the coordination of the implementation of the objectives of the Charter. It is considered appropriate and has been recommended by the Implementation Group that a formal Memorandum of Agreement should now be established between the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Department of Education and Skills to embed the objectives of the Charter as part of the Departmental Policy of both Departments to ensure the long-term implementation and support of the initiatives outlined.

We, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and Minister for Education and Skills became co-signatories to the Arts in Education Charter in January 2013. We now have come together to make an agreement for Memorandum of Understanding between our respective Departments and on signing this agreement have agreed to the following joint goals and objectives.

**Goals and Objectives:**

- That the Arts in Education Charter objectives become embedded as part of the policy strategy formulation and implementation of Department of Education and Skills and Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht across all areas of activity and delivery
- That both Departments will collaborate to support and ensure full implementation of the objectives of the Arts in Education Charter

- That the Arts in Education Charter Implementation Group receive appropriate resources to ensure full implementation of the Charter objectives

**Partners to the Memorandum of Understanding:**

- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
- Department of Education and Skills

**Commencement and Operations:**

Commencement will begin on the date of signing of this Agreement.

**Governance Structure and Reporting:**

In January 2013 both Ministers established and appointed the Arts in Education Charter Implementation Group to oversee the implementation of the Charter objectives. The Terms of Reference for this Group are:

- Oversee the work, from a leadership perspective, on the implementation of the Arts in Education Charter
- Act as a liaison between key partners being cognisant of the objectives of the Arts in Education Charter.
- Provide advice to the Minister for Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Minister for Education and Skills on matters relating to Arts in Education
- Provide reports to both Ministers and Departments on progress

The Group will meet as necessary and its members shall act on a fully informed basis and in the best interests of the Arts in Education Charter

Authorisation:

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Minister for Education and Skills

Jimmy Deenihan  
Date: 8<sup>th</sup> July 2014

Ronan Ó Riain  
Date: 8<sup>th</sup> July 2014