

Evidence of Impact
Case Studies

Creative Schools Enables Integration of Learning

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FORM's Creative Schools experiences provide rich opportunities for cross-curricular learning, breaking down the traditional barriers between academic subjects and fostering a more holistic approach to education. When students engage in creative projects, they often encounter multifaceted challenges that require knowledge and skills from various disciplines. Projects that involve real-world problem-solving, artistic expression, or hands-on activities often incorporate elements from different subjects, providing a seamless platform for cross-curricular learning. This integration of subjects mirrors the interconnected nature of real-world challenges and encourages students to draw upon a diverse set of skills to find creative solutions. Teachers report how they were often surprised to notice, upon reflection, how many curriculum objectives are addressed in the Creative Schools sessions.

Cross-curricular creative projects can enhance the depth of understanding as students apply their knowledge in a context that extends beyond the confines of a single subject. This approach not only reinforces academic concepts but also encourages critical thinking, creativity, and a more profound appreciation for the interconnected nature of knowledge. The quotes below indicate the awareness amongst teachers and students of the benefits of such integrated learning facilitated through Creative Schools activities. This is followed by a vignette of how one school expanded this approach to introduce a whole-school integrated learning curriculum, with significantly positive impact on students and teachers.

**“It feels like art and maths and
STEM and STEAM all together.”**

Year 4 Student, Willetton Primary School

"I believe every single creative learning activity brings in every learning area. I feed in and integrate as much as I can."

Claire Baxter, Year 3/4 Teacher, Belmont Primary School

"I am managing to link it to so many curriculum areas and utilise it in so many other lessons. For example, we are using the pond for our maths data collection. Creative Schools is overflowing into other curriculum areas. We will be writing a persuasive letter to Bunnings to donate plants, and we managed to get family involvement. We are trying to teach embedded cross-curricular priorities which can be difficult to teach. It has really helped me to see the possibilities and to see the connectedness between the areas of the curriculum."

Jessica Moreschini, Year 4 teacher, Willetton Primary School

"It is so nice to see the curriculum can be done in different ways. I just love the open-endedness and flexibility of Creative Schools ... as long as it meets the needs of the curriculum and the students. I have become a lot more student-centred, using more inquiry approaches, being more flexible in my teaching, not so stuck in the same way of doing things."

Ashleigh Madeley, Teacher, Manjimup Primary School

"It is amazing how much of the curriculum we have actually covered. It is not until you actually reflect on it that you realise it."

Tristan Jones, Year 4 teacher, East Victoria Primary School

"Creative Schools reshaped the way I run lessons, like in phonics we normally do a ten minute activity but the other day for spelling we used craft and the kids were so engaged for over an hour. Creative Schools has reminded me that the children are still little and they need these kinds of experiences. The curriculum is so heavy and full I didn't think we had time for creativity but now I've seen how I can integrate it into lessons and the kids love it."

Brooke Purdy, teacher, Camboon Primary School



Taking a whole school leap of faith

Janice Cuculuska, Principal at **Camboon Primary School** described how they took a whole school leap of faith to introduce an integrated creative curriculum right across the school. The impact on both student learning and teacher wellbeing has been profound.

"Some of our staff were frustrated with the way teaching had become and the lack of engagement we were seeing in the kids. Creative Schools has given us an impetus to do things differently. Since joining Creative Schools we have taken a leap of faith on introducing integrated creative learning across the school – using student voice. We introduced it two years ago with help from Creative Schools. I openly gave staff permission to experiment, giving staff permission to give it a go and let go of being perfect all the time. Our kids needed something different. It has been a huge shift for my staff. We still do Explicit Instruction but we combine it with integrated creative learning.

The kids love it; they say they love school and learning is fun. I've noticed teachers are now asking to change programs that they had planned ages ago because they want to follow the children's interests instead. It's great. Having kids excited to come to school and explain what they are learning using some really good language, has been a highlight.

Seeing how teachers are sharing their excitement and learning seeping into the school is just as exciting. Some of our staff were ready to quit before we made this change. It has been life changing and exciting to be part of it. Now it is embedded in our school.

It has now seeped through the whole school, doing creative integrated planning, using Student Voice. For a lot of our children the joy has been in leaving the classroom for learning, finding different places to learn, different ways to learn, realising learning can happen anywhere. It can be a challenge for us as teachers to let go of control, but it is worth giving the students more of a voice. It has changed the way our kids respect learning; they see it as more valuable now because they have more of a say in it."





THE IMPACT OF CREATIVE SCHOOLS

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