

Cutting music from the school day is ‘short-sighted and inappropriate’

Vocabulary

DfE Ofqual Ofsted to undermine a hierarchy a statutory duty

Article

The DfE case study written by the Ofqual Chair, Ian Bauckham, suggesting that with potential staff shortages due to the new Omicron variant some subjects could be suspended, is short-sighted and inappropriate. The good-natured intention to support schools is undermined by a recommendation that music, and other subjects, should be removed from the curriculum at a time when pupils both need and want this to continue.

Rather than reinforcing a perceived hierarchy of subjects, state schools have a statutory duty to deliver a full curriculum, including music, up to the end of Key Stage 3. The Department for Education’s Model Music Curriculum, published in March 2021, states that ‘The sheer joy of music making can feed the soul of a school community, enriching each student while strengthening the shared bonds of support and trust which make a great school’.

Ofsted have made their expectation clear that schools must provide a broad and balanced curriculum and many industries have identified the creative subjects as important for the ongoing skills market needed in this country. UK Music have made numerous statements over the past few years on the value of the Music Industry to ‘UK Plc’ -its Music By Numbers report in 2020 stated that there are nearly two million jobs in the industry and an annual contribution to the UK economy (pre Covid) of c. £5.8bn.

Quiz

1. What is Ian Bauckham’s “good-natured intention to support schools”?
2. What do state schools have a statutory duty to deliver?
3. What does Ofsted expect from schools despite Ofqual’s suggestion to cut music?

Discussion

1. Do you side with Ofqual or Ofsted? How could this dilemma be solved?
2. Key Stage 3 is for children aged 11-14. What subjects would you add or cut?
3. How has the coronavirus pandemic affected the teaching of music in your country?
4. What kind of job prospects are there for students of music in your country?

Full article at:

<https://www.musicmark.org.uk/news/cutting-music-from-the-school-day-is-short-sighted-and-inappropriate/>