

**ACA meeting January 11<sup>th</sup> with Anne Appelbaum and Lindsey Pugh Senior Officers Children, Young People and Learning at Arts Council England, with David Wood, Chair and Vicky Ireland Vice-Chair, as suggested by Sir Peter Bazalgette, Chair of Arts Council England.**



## **Aim of meeting**

To find out about ACE current activities and thinking  
To introduce ACA to officers  
To share concerns  
To consider solutions

## **Procedure**

ACA's aims and objectives were explained.

We mentioned our concerns especially:

- The EBacc situation and its effect on English Primary State Education, with a growing distrust of school time spent on the arts
- The decline in school visits to theatres and other arts events, and the decline in artists being invited into schools.
- The apparent lack of communication between the Department of Education and the DCMS
- The reduction of play in Early Years due to the pressure of learning targets
- The hope that evidence of schools' successful engagement with and application of the Arts Award would be given to Ofsted, in the hope that Ofsted might one day make arts provision a necessary criterion for a successfully operating school.

Anne and Lindsey talked about ACE's current policies towards children's arts.

- 'Every child and young person has the opportunity to experience the richness of the arts' is still one of the five ACE priorities.
- It is hoped that the Cultural Education Challenge to schools will put the focus back on children, and we were told that the Arts Mark has been revised to help schools plan how to better their arts offer.
- The importance of getting School Governors on board. They encouraged all of us working in the arts to become school governors and to try to influence attitudes and the allocation of school funds. They pointed out the importance of local voices.
- There will soon be a new ACE website, especially about Children and Young People which we offered to direct members to.

We thanked Anne and Lindsey for a great meeting and giving us their time and interest.  
We hope for further consultation and collaboration.