

Knowledge: a dirty word in arts education?

Source: Mark Londesborough

<https://www.thersa.org/discover/publications-and-articles/rsa-blogs/2018/07/dirty-words-in-arts-education>

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Summary:

Cultural capital is, in fact, knowledge

- If it is desirable that all children, regardless of their social class, have good reserves of cultural capital, knowledge is *exactly* what you want to focus on
- Many assume that a 'knowledge based' curriculum in the arts necessarily means prioritising book-learning and the history or theory of an art form (propositional knowledge) over technical or craft (procedural) knowledge, practical activity or professional cultural experiences - this is not necessarily the case
- Arts subjects are knowledge based and skill in the arts derives from deep and well-rehearsed knowledge of form, materials, technique, context etc
- A knowledge-based art classroom with increased emphasis on technical discipline requires schools to be less immediately demonstrative of the value of free expression, but, ultimately provides learners with greater ability to be in command of their desire to express themselves