

Introduction

Skimstone Arts is a not for profit organisation of skilled arts leaders and practitioners producing high quality and challenging work engaging and involving young people. The aims of our organisation is to support young people who have a passion for and commitment to developing their own vocational arts practice and those who would benefit from transferable skills that can lead to other areas of work.

We are committed to providing an extensive programme to develop opportunities for disadvantaged, vulnerable groups of young people with mental health issues. The aims of our programmes are to support this target group to develop their own artistic abilities which will then influence self esteem and confidence, vocational skills that can lead to other areas of work/ employability, and be recognised as having a strong voice and value in their communities.

We produce collaborative work within a supportive studio and/or sites of specific interest using theatre making, creative writing, photography, music, sound and film making within a reflective, collaborative process. The studio based practice involves the young people as potential artists thus valuing their contributions to Skimstone Arts and creating an arts based community of ownership, involvement and high levels of engagement. We also offer pastoral care if required. We pioneer the Bronze, Silver and Gold Arts Awards, a national qualification accredited by the Foundation for Learning. The Gold Award carries UCAS points.

Principles of Practice

The young people are engaged as participating artists at Skimstone Arts where we promote inclusion, collaboration, ownership and respect.

Skimstone Arts is a working environment involving high expectations and aspirations of all it's workforce including collaborators such as young artists.

The young people adopt a professional attitude which includes acceptance and involvement bshown towards new members of the group or staff; To develop acceptance and acknowledgement of diversity across socio-economic backgrounds;

We develop and reflect upon a collaborative practice e.g. exchange of ideas and expertise, skills and training within a challenging arts based thinking and making.

We encourage flexibility of thinking and working creatively balanced with plan and structure;

We share and/or give total ownership of the creative process to young people.

We valuing every individual's input and support through a daily ritual of reflection after every session.

We draw upon and support young people's aspirations beyond the Skimstone Arts studiom and the impact it may have on their lives (recovery, resilience, sociability, vocational/work opportunities)

Where relevant we respect the process through which the condition related to mental health works around their abilities required for creating work/ performing a task, and the way the condition tends to be defied by the young people in the creative process.

We encourage the exposure of the young people to various roles and tasks usually performed in the operational part of the company from business development to marketing events and involvement in assisting with procedures like business meetings and funding applications etc