

## Preparing for Drama at Key Stage 3

Drama contributes to the learning process in a unique way. Its uniqueness lies in its immediacy. Drama happens in the here and now. It allows pupils a high degree of self-management over their own learning where they make decisions, solve problems, or choose not to resolve situations. It allows pupils to manage their own knowledge and experience of the world and then extend it creatively and imaginatively. It engages feelings and encourages empathy with other characters whose lives pupils are examining within the Drama process.

Before starting a Drama lesson, you need to prepare the classroom by creating an appropriate space for the activities. You should also prepare the pupils for active learning by using some warm-up activities.

[Warm-Up Exercises pdf](#)

## Learning Intentions

At Key Stage 3, young people should have opportunities to use dramatic skills appropriate to audience, context, purpose and task. They should have opportunities to:

- engage with a range of stimuli to develop critical and creative thinking;
- adopt a role;
- take part in improvisation;
- devise scripts and use Drama forms and strategies effectively to explore and present ideas;
- employ sign, symbol, metaphor and image;
- engage in movement and/or dance;
- experience live and recorded Drama and respond to a variety of texts;
- begin to develop an appreciation of theatre, styles, genres and vocabulary;
- explore characterisation through use of masks, costume, props, puppets and electronic media; and
- evaluate their own and others' work.

[Indicators for the Learning Intentions at Key Stage 3 pdf](#)

## Learning Outcomes

The Learning Outcomes at Key Stage 3 require pupils to demonstrate their skills and application of knowledge and understanding of Drama. Young people should be able to:

- research and manage information effectively to investigate issues (*using Maths and ICT where appropriate*);
- show deeper understanding by thinking critically and flexibly, solving problems and making informed decisions (*using Maths and ICT where appropriate*);
- demonstrate creativity and initiative when developing ideas and following them through;
- work effectively with others;
- demonstrate self-management by working systematically, persisting with tasks, evaluating and improving their own performance; and
- communicate effectively in oral, visual, written and ICT formats, showing clear awareness of audience and purpose.

[Indicators for Learning Outcomes at Key Stage 3](#)

[Drama Strategies – Key Stage 3](#)

## Developing Drama Activities

Drama activities provide a rich opportunity to develop Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. These skills need to be explicitly developed alongside knowledge and understanding using an infused approach.

We have developed three sample lessons to highlight how a skill or capability occurs naturally during a lesson. The lesson structure ensures that both teacher and pupils can recognise the thinking skill or personal capability that pupils are developing. This is a key factor in their effective development.

[Lesson One: Developing improvisation and debate using tableau](#)

[Lesson Two: Introducing script writing and writing in role using freeze frame](#)

[Lesson Three: Using Forum Theatre, freeze frame, decision making and working together](#)

[Additional ideas for Drama activities \(pdf\)](#)

## Useful Links

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland	<a href="http://www.artscouncil-ni.org">www.artscouncil-ni.org</a>
The Arts N.I. Curriculum/Drama	<a href="https://ccea.org.uk/foundation-stage/curriculum/arts">https://ccea.org.uk/foundation-stage/curriculum/arts</a>
Key Stage 3 Drama Resource	<a href="http://dramaresource.com">dramaresource.com</a>
KS3 Drama Resources	<a href="http://www.teachitenglish.co.uk">www.teachitenglish.co.uk</a>
Secondary Drama – Oxford University Press	<a href="http://global.oup.com">global.oup.com</a>
Drama Lesson Plans at Key Stage 3	<a href="http://www.tes.com">www.tes.com</a>
Key Stage 3 free Worksheets	<a href="http://edplace.com">edplace.com</a>
Drama scripts for KS3	<a href="http://zigzageducation.co.uk">zigzageducation.co.uk</a>
Youth Plays and Musicals	<a href="http://www.youthplays.com">www.youthplays.com</a>
Improvisation in Drama	<a href="http://www.learnimprov.com">www.learnimprov.com</a>
Curricular Resources in Drama	<a href="http://dramaresources.across.the.curriculum">drama resources across the curriculum</a>
Scripts for Schools – Readers Theatre	<a href="http://www.scriptsforschools.com">http://www.scriptsforschools.com</a>
Web English/Drama Resources	<a href="http://www.webenglishteacher.com/drama">www.webenglishteacher.com/drama</a>
Improvisation in Drama	<a href="https://www.learnimprov.com/">https://www.learnimprov.com/</a>
Thoughtco.com Plays and Drama	<a href="https://www.thoughtco.com/plays-and-drama-4133239">https://www.thoughtco.com/plays-and-drama-4133239</a>
Creative Drama/Theatre Education	<a href="http://www.creativedrama.com">www.creativedrama.com</a>
Find a Play	<a href="http://www.playscripts.com/find-a-play">www.playscripts.com/find-a-play</a>