PRESS RELEASE

Minister Simon Harris launches “Heads Up” publication, a research study by ReCreate & Trinity College Dublin, exploring the educational benefits of reuse materials in inclusive settings

Experts in the field of education present findings as part of the launch in Trinity Long Room Hub, Wednesday December 14th 6:30-8pm

***Researchers, participants in the study, artists, teachers, and ReCreate Executive Director available for interview***

**Wednesday, December 14th, 2016** – Minister for Health, Simon Harris TD, today launched ReCreate’s first publication ‘Heads Up’ a research study into the educational potential of reuse materials in inclusive settings, which has been funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. [December 14th, 6:30-8pm].

Adopting an ‘artist in residence’ model within educational and community based groups where children, young people and adults with diverse learning needs, ‘Heads Up’ examined whether reuse materials encouraged greater flexibility and creativity in classrooms. Throughout this project, ReCreate teamed up with Trinity College Dublin to document the findings and research of this study, which were presented at today’s launch.

This presentation, delivered by Professor Carmel O’ Sullivan who is Head of the school of Education and Director of the Arts Education Research Group (AERG) in Trinity College, reported on the major findings from this partnership pilot study which examined the role of visual arts integration in an inclusive society, and the creative connections between visual arts, ecology and environmentalism.

Professor O’Sullivan revealed that participation in the ‘Heads Up’ study proved highly effective in promoting social inclusion, collaboration and well-being of all who took part while also raising the awareness of reuse materials and their role in schools and educational settings.

“It is significant that in all settings and across all categories explored, the reuse materials were rated as being better or equivalent to standard art materials (non-reuse?)”

“There is conclusive evidence from the teachers’ data that ‘Heads Up’ successfully engaged their participants through diverse, creative, accessible and liberating arts practices.”
Inspiring curiosity, creativity and care for the environment, ReCreate is an award winning social enterprise that was established 3 years ago to champion awareness around reuse and diverting materials from landfill. The concept, Creative Reuse, encourages the whole community to reuse everyday materials that are normally being thrown away, in all kinds of inventive ways. Schools and community groups save substantially on their annual budgets and children and adults alike get access to materials not previously accessible. See [www.recreate.ie](http://www.recreate.ie)

Following the success of the findings throughout the Heads Up study, ReCreate, Trinity College and the EPA will now scale up the project in 2017 to produce the first fully documented, third party, confirmed research paper with the aim to influence national policy, recognising the multiple benefits of creative reuse in the areas of education, active community and mental health.

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