

**Brannoxtown CNS**

**20 Pupil School in Rural Kildare**



# UNDERSTAND - THE PROCESS

With this school, pupil consultation has been a major part of the process ALL the way through. From shaping our vision and aims to final assessment of year one.

I started the process by meeting and chatting with the co-ordinator, the second teacher in the school and the principal.

Brannoxtown was a school that had just re-opened after being closed for a re-build, the co-ordinator was new to the school and most of the pupils were new.

The school had some ideas for areas they'd like to focus on, but really they were coming to the process with a totally open mind!





# GETTING TO KNOW EVERYONE BETTER



I did an **initial consultation day** with the pupils in the school to investigate what they thought about creativity, and to find out what kinds of activities they wanted to do.

Some of what we did worked, and some didn't. So, we decided to do a **second consultation workshop** - one that was more playful and fun!

Based on what we learned we highlighted **four key areas of development** to focus on.



# **THE PLAN - OUR VISION & AIMS**

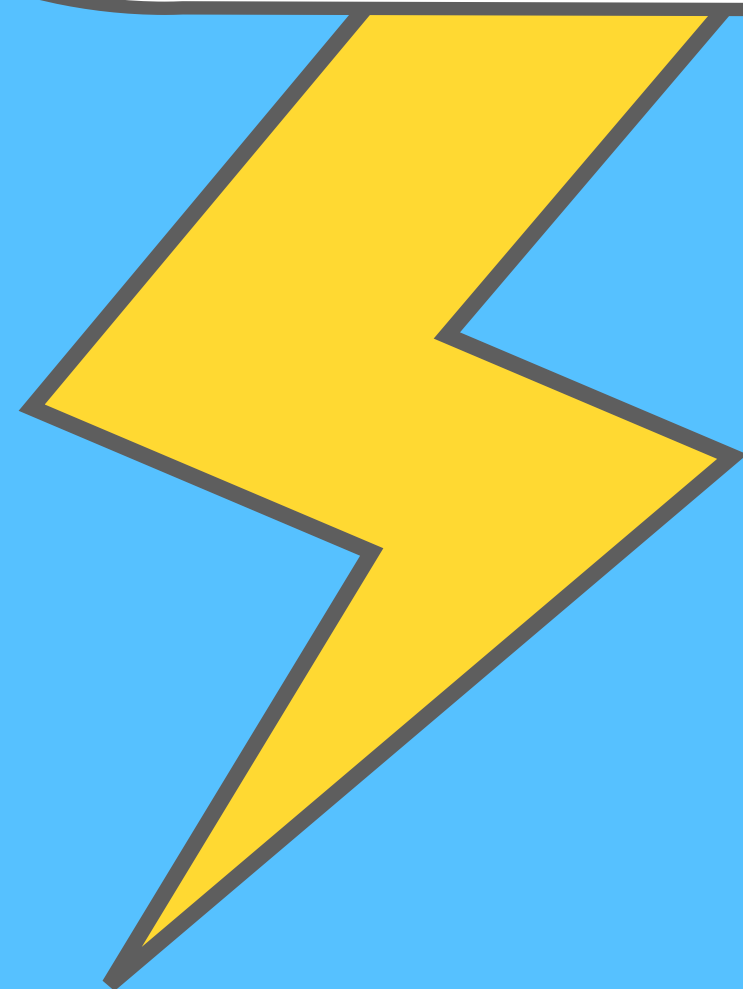
**To create an environment in which children feel confident to express themselves in a creative way in their school work and play. To encourage children to learn from their mistakes and experiment with trial and error. To foster an environment where children can work collaboratively with others while sharing responsibilities and roles.**

**To encourage the pupils to have fun in being creative.**

**To remove the emphasis on “innovation” in creativity.**

**Increase confidence in being creative through trial and error.**

**To encourage open mindedness and collaboration.**





# SUMMARY

At this point we still didn't know what our project would be.

**But** the pupils had highlighted some themes they wanted to explore (fantasy, imagination, nature).

**And** the school were making plans for their outside space, which was a blank canvas.

It made sense that the project would focus on the outdoor space.

So we designed an outdoor exploration workshop that addressed our aims (working collaboratively, fun, playful, trial and error) to the pupils a framework to work within, and to figure out what the project could be.





# ACTIVITY PLAN

The Pupils decided to build a willow den that would function as a chill out area and creative zone to inspire them to be creative in the future.

We brought in willow artist **Beth Murphy** to work with the pupils. She worked with them to create a willow den, and also to create willow lanterns.

Based on the pupil feedback we also planned some additional supplementary workshops to address the vision and aims (Creative Writing, Shadow Puppetry, Mask Making, Drama, Making Fairy Doors and Games Planning).

When we had completed all our activities we did a final consultation workshop to assess how successful (or not) we had been.

