

Bella



Bella is a program of art-making workshops and exhibition tours for children and young people with specific needs. The program is designed for groups aged between 15-18 years old with disabilities or who are disadvantaged due to financial, social and geographic factors. Through *Bella*, students are afforded access to contemporary art and visual culture, and are given the opportunity to spend time with artists and art educators.

The Bella program involving *Learning for Life* students consists of a four day art camp held at the Museum of Contemporary Art. The students work on their art works, guided and educated by an artist and two trained art educators. By the conclusion of the workshop each student will have focused on cultivating their work and developed an art portfolio. Students are taught new art techniques and are offered assistance in choosing a particular art style for their Major Art Work submission for the Higher School Certificate. There is also a strong social aspect to the art program. As most of the students do not know each other before attending Bella, the program includes activities designed to build social relations between students, and with staff.

Aims and Objectives

Bella aims to give students the skills and confidence to:

- Explore and develop their own creativity and potential
- Express their individuality and make a statement through the creation of an artwork
- Work co-operatively with others
- Express their opinions and offer constructive criticism, including self-criticism

Participation in arts programs can have a positive impact on a student's engagement with learning. Bella provides plenty of opportunities to provide positive reinforcement to students in an environment where students feel comfortable enough to explore and take risks. As reflected in the quotes below, feedback from the students has been overwhelmingly positive:

“The program helped to put us into the artist's shoes”

“Workshops are great. Amazing experience in the city – meeting new people and making new friends”

Key contacts

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