



Room 13 Hareclive

Hartcliffe, Bristol, England, the World

What is Room 13?

Room 13 is an independent artists' studio, based within the grounds of Hareclive primary School. The studio employs a professional artist-in-residence who helps facilitate the work of younger artists, providing an exchange of skills and experience across the ages. Children can go to the studio to draw, paint, collage, sculpt, take photographs, make films, research, read and work on the computer. In Room 13 they are free to follow their own ideas and work on creative projects.

Room 13 Artists have taken part in a variety of activities including exhibitions, commissions, residencies, conference presentations and television programmes.

"When you step into the room you feel a boost of energy and a whole new world opens up full of art." Zoe, 11



Management Team meeting

Students can come to the studio during lunch and break times and can also use the studio in class times. The only criteria are that children must want to come, must negotiate any time off with their teacher and must ensure that all class work is up to date. Children are given space to be creative, the incentive to be responsible and work hard and the opportunity to learn about running a project.



Worlds' first purpose built Room 13 studio and winner of a RIBA award

How is Room 13 different?

The studio is democratically run by the young people that use it. Every year a team of students aged 9—11 is elected onto a management committee. Working as equal team members alongside adults, they make decisions about the studio, run a shop, raise funds for materials, deal with banking and financial management and develop Room 13 and its work outside the school. Senior Room 13ers now at secondary school, also come back to use the studio. Room 13 has an open door policy to all children regardless of age or ability.

"The first time I went to Room 13, I really didn't know what to expect. In Room 13 I started meeting more friends. I loved it there so much I started going a lot more. It is a room for kids, run by kids. We have freedom in the room and we can choose what to do and when to do it." Amy, 11

A different way of learning

Room 13 is a truly innovative project that offers a different way of learning. It starts with the interests of the children, gives them space and responsibility, and engages them in real life experiences. Through working on their art, discussing ideas, answering emails, using the computer and running the shop, children naturally develop their numeracy and literacy skills, become confident in their own ideas and feel able to ask questions.

Room 13 was highly praised in a recent independent report commissioned by NESTA and Sir Nicholas Serota, Director of Tate Galleries has called it “the most important model for artistic teaching in school we have in the UK.”



Room 13ers meeting Gordon

“Room 13 means everything to me. I feel excited by thinking what I am going to do next.” Chantelle, 10



Room 13er painting

“In Room 13 Creative sparks fly as artists of all ages meet, talk, think and makes decisions individually and collectively.” Paul Bradley, Room 13 Artist – in-Residence

Room 13 Hareclive—flagship project for England

The original Room 13 idea started in Caol Primary School in Fort William, Scotland, over 10 years ago. The idea spread and there are now Room 13's in South Africa, India and several other countries. All Room 13 studios keep in touch and share ideas through the Room 13 Studio network, which is run from Scotland. Find out more at www.room13scotland.com.

Room 13 Hareclive was set up in 2003. As England's longest running Room 13, the studio attracts visitors and interest from all over the country. In 2007 we moved into our RIBA award-winning studio that the young people helped to design and fund and we drew up our business plan for the next few years. We have now won the support of the Arts Council and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and will be open 4 days a week until July 2010 – but we are already looking at how our studio can be sustainable beyond that time. We welcome ideas and suggestions.

“I can think of many children whose lives have been changed by Room 13. Literally the rest of their lives are going to be completely different because of it.” Tim Sully, founder

For more information about Room 13 Hareclive, or if you can help us, please contact us at Room 13 Hareclive, Hareclive Primary School, Moxham Drive, Hartcliffe, Bristol, BS13 0HP or email room13hareclive@yahoo.co.uk

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