



Walk To School

A collaboration with
Wild Light Theatre and
Cleveland Road Primary School



Introduction



Wild Light
PRESENTS

WALK
TO
SCHOOL



Wild Light Theatre is a dance theatre company created by two members of staff from Cleveland Road Primary School, Emma Bellerby and Katie Alexander. Using their background of professional theatre and primary education, *Wild Light* is committed to making imaginative and intelligent work that propels children into the world of theatre, storytelling, puppetry and circus.

As part of a project funded by Arts Council England, and supported by Redbridge Drama Centre, *Wild Light* worked with children from Cleveland Road Primary School to develop an interactive dance-theatre performance, that would later be performed by the company throughout Redbridge.

ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



AN
P
FU
ST
P
SUITA

The children's participation was an integral part of the research and development of the performance. Through a series of after-school clubs, *Wild Light Theatre* collaborated with 30 children from Year 2 and Year 5 to create interactive scenes for a performance entitled *Walk to School*. The children were able to see how a performance is shaped over time, through experimental exercises, workshops, feedback sessions and rehearsals.

The children who participated in the project got to see their hard work come to life through watching the premiere of *Walk To School*, performed at Redbridge Drama Centre. The performance was also presented in-house for all Year 3 students.



“

Working with the teachers, in their company, was so much fun! We played circus games, learnt about puppetry and helped to make the show more exciting. It was great to see how our ideas became part of the show. It was like being a real director!

”

Extending to other schools

Cleveland Road Primary School is currently working towards Artsmark, the creative quality standard for schools, which is accredited by Arts Council England.

As part of our commitment to the arts at Cleveland, we aspire to share our strengths with other schools and support the case for the arts in education, across the borough. Our two, in-house dance instructors working together as *Wild Light* brought their performance of *Walk To School* to four other primary schools in Redbridge to extend their reach beyond Cleveland. They also taught workshops in acro-balance, creative movement and



choreography, as well as dance workshops targeting boys and EAL students. In addition, Wild Light also provided CPD for teaching staff aimed at increasing confidence and skills for teaching cross-curricular dance lessons.

IMPACT

1. Pupils experienced high quality performing arts activities. This includes 30 children in after-school clubs, 30 children watching the performance at Redbridge Drama Centre and 120 children watching performances at Cleveland Road. Outside of Cleveland, the project reached an additional 960 children from other primary schools through performances and workshops.
2. Pupils at Cleveland Road taking part in the after-school club obtained real ownership over the project as they watched their ideas become implemented in a professional production. This also promoted the performing arts as a genuine career option for students, able to see their own teachers working professionally in the business, as well as how a performance comes together.
3. Dance workshops for boys and EAL pupils in participant schools resulted in high levels of engagement and promoted an inclusive attitude towards dance lessons for both staff and students.
4. This project introduced participant schools to the wealth of dance provision available at Cleveland Road Primary and we hope to continue sharing our good practice with schools in the borough.

To see the promotional video for the final performance, please follow this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHUY7uSgIME>

Visit www.wildlighttheatre.co.uk to find out more about the company.

