

## **Frequencies FAQ**

### **Is there any cost to the school?**

There is no cost to the school to take part. We provide all the tools and materials and a presentation for students at the beginning of the process. We ask for cooperation from the school in the installation and removal of canvases, as outlined in the agreement.

### **Does Frequencies Projects Foundation (FPF) pay schools to take part?**

There is no financial incentive to take part, we just cover our own costs for delivering the project. Frequencies Projects Foundation is non-profit - any income that is generated by the artwork resulting from the project will be redistributed in the form of grants for arts activities, which schools who have participated will be eligible to apply for. At present, FPF's activity solely takes the shape of delivering the project in schools, and no grants have been offered as yet.

### **What is the usual/minimum number of classrooms/students?**

We want to work with as many students as possible (aged 10 to 16) to get the widest representation of students. We usually work with a minimum of 4 classes in a school - the usual number is 200 desks (or spaces at shared desks), the largest we have covered to date in one school is 1600 desks!

### **Can we cover one or two desks in a class for 'time-out' space?**

No - we always cover all the desks in a classroom - it is integral to the project that the canvas becomes part of the everyday surroundings of the classroom. The canvas quickly ceases to be a novelty for students, thus they make more natural intentional and unintentional marks. Having canvas on a specific desk makes them approach it differently, and also can cause inequality, jealousy, unwarranted attention to the canvas.

### **Can the canvases be only in the art classroom?**

It is important that the canvases are in the everyday student classroom environment for non-art subjects. We find students approach art exercises in a specific way, feeling they need to fulfil certain expectations. We want them to approach this in a free and natural way. Canvases can be placed in art classrooms but only in addition to other subject rooms, not exclusively in art spaces.

### **Can canvases be placed in other spaces in the school, for example libraries, study areas?**

This can be done in addition to core classrooms, but not exclusively in these spaces.

### **Should the students be given specific time / tools / instructions to draw on the canvas?**

No - they should use their usual tools and not be given any special time or instructions - the aim is to capture the daily life of the classroom. We don't provide any art materials - even in contexts

where students have extremely basic materials, the results show their creativity with limited means.

### **Will it disrupt the classroom?**

Students quite quickly forget the canvases are there. Teachers can go about teaching as normal, and are of course welcome to ask the students to stop drawing and concentrate on teaching (as they would as normal!). There are usually a few minutes of getting settled at the beginning of lessons when students can find time to draw, this can help them settle in to focus. Some students have also chosen to stay to draw at break times.

It can also be shown that doodling can help to focus the mind by occupying the hands (much as one might doodle on paper whilst on the phone), and the therapeutic implications of being able to express feelings or focus on something outside can be a stress reliever, all of which can contribute to a positive learning environment.

### **What if students draw or write something offensive?**

We find that this happens rarely - however as we all know, in school environments provocative behaviour does occasionally occur. We prefer the teachers do not intervene as censors, and when possible ask the students to be responsible - in the case of an individual desk, talking to the student about how what they have written or drawn impacts the community of the classroom and giving them the option to cover it up - or on communal tables, giving other students the option to cover up offensive material. One of the benefits of the project is students being encouraged to consider what they are putting into their environment and how that impacts others, and how to deal with these matters collectively.

### **Is it unhygienic?**

The fabric is similar to upholstery fabric, so it is no more un-hygienic than an upholstered chair, couch etc.

### **Can the canvases be taken off early?**

It is important to keep the canvases on for a reasonable duration as the marks made by students gather and develop over time. Our usual duration is 6 months, it can be a little shorter, for example in the case that the school year ends before that time, however this should be agreed at the outset - canvases should not be removed before the agreed time.

If school is wishing to remove the canvas early, we would encourage them to get in touch with us to discuss their concerns, so we can address them before the end of the project.

### **Can the school make a selection of canvases to send back to Frequencies Projects Foundation?**

We want to receive all canvases that have participated to the project. We understand that some might go missing, but as much as possible we want them all back.

### **What if canvases break/come off during the 6 month period?**

We ask the schools to keep all canvases, even the broken ones. We are interested in seeing how students interact with the canvases, sometimes that includes removing/breaking them!

### **What about exams?**

If teachers are worried about exam conditions, covering can be placed over the canvases (ie paper or card) during examinations.

### **What happens if students rotate classrooms for different lessons?**

We are interested in the project becoming embedded in the normal rhythm of the school. We don't assign authorship to each canvas but we rather consider each canvas to be collectively created. We are happy to work with schools that rotate classrooms and as well as with schools that have a fixed desk per student!

### **Once the 6 months come to an end, what does the school need to do?**

We will leave tools to remove the staples and therefore to be able to detach the canvas from the desks. We ask schools to pack them in boxes and to provide us with box dimensions, weight (max 25 kg) and contact person. We will arrange collection.

### **Will the canvases be exhibited?**

We continue to exhibit selections of canvases worldwide, however we cannot guarantee that all canvases will be exhibited. What we do promise is that all canvases will become part of our growing archive of canvases from around the world.

### **How can the school communicate the project the world?**

We encourage the school to communicate the project to parents teachers and the educational community after the project comes to an end. If there is any media attention, we ask the school to refer the request to us directly.

### **Can the school photograph the canvases/make a display?**

Yes the school can make a display internally for the furtherance of the educational goals of the project - however as above, refer any external media requests to us.

### **What are the benefits**

Frequencies:

- Celebrates youth perspectives and opinions and encourages them to feel their free-form creativity is valued.
- Connects youth experience across many countries
- Develops and deepens young people's viewpoints with its open-

ended format

- Offers multiple curriculum connections in one project (eg. art, geography, social studies etc)
- Allows for various learning style preferences
- Provides a therapeutic outlet of self-expression, free from the pressures of grading
- Encourages the students to perceive themselves as global citizens and connect through a Facebook group set up for the project.
- Encourages collaboration and acceptance of differing viewpoints.