How can we reduce loneliness and isolation in schools?

Imagine an idea, develop it with a designer and work with a filmmaker to share it!

We’re excited to introduce V&A Dundee’s Schools Design Challenge to S1 and S2 pupils in the Dundee, Angus, Perth & Kinross and Highland regions. Design isn’t just about making things; it’s also about making and sharing new ideas. It can even be used to change the places we live, learn and play in.

What matters to you is important to us, and we know with this design challenge you’ll come up with some fantastic, interesting, creative and fun ideas that relate to your everyday experiences at school. This is a real opportunity for you to make change happen!

We’ll then choose some ideas to take forward to the Design Jam

Explore
Think about the following and start chatting:

WHAT IF...
- You could re-imagine places and spaces to help reduce loneliness and isolation for young people?
- You considered how social media plays a part in this – does it help or hinder it?
- Your communities played a role in helping to tackle loneliness, what would that look like?
- You could make everyone in your school feel included and valued?

Speak to other pupils in your group; ask them if they’ve ever felt lonely or isolated at school.
- What could you do to improve things in your own school?
- What would they like to see happen to tackle loneliness and isolation?

How people feel about things and use things is an important part of the design process and will help you move onto the next stage.

We’ll then choose some ideas to take forward to the Design Jam

The Design Jam is where the chosen teams will work together to develop their idea. The Design Jam will be where you can explore your ideas further with a designer and play around with materials.

Work with a designer
The Design Jam will be a fantastic opportunity for your team to work with designers and pick their brains. You can use their skills to help tweak your ideas, visualise them, and make them look great!

Work with a filmmaker
Following the Design Jam, your teams will then work with a filmmaker in your school to make individual films about your design idea.

Exhibition
May 2020 – V&A Dundee

This is how to get started
We want you to start by having a discussion. Create a mind map of your ideas and use the Design Process to write a summary of your idea. Share all your ideas – don’t be afraid to think big!

The Design Process is when we explore an idea then imagine and develop it into a solution.

Imagine
Your imagination has run wild and you’ve got a lot of great ideas. Use the mind map to capture them all – don’t rule anything out!

What different ideas for change have you come up with?

Develop
Listen to all the options and take them on board. This is the best way to test and develop a final idea. As a group, discuss what works and what doesn’t and agree on your final idea

Solve
What is your design idea?
Now it’s time to make a decision. Fill in the summary sheet and hand it in to your teacher.