



Policy Document

Charity Results Assessment

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Our Mission Statement

We will enable our young people to become professional, well-trained and fully-rounded artists, with a knowledge of all aspects of their industry. Our goal is to enable each student to reach their full potential in their chosen career in the performing arts.

We will give our young people the best possible start to their career by giving them access to the highest levels of training and individual support and providing them with the tools to manage themselves both professionally and personally.

As an organisation, we will strive to foster diversity and equality by giving opportunities to all, and especially to those from under-represented groups within the Performing Arts. We will constantly develop and innovate in all areas of our work, seeking to improve access to training every year.

READ College – an executive summary

Founded in 2008 by Helen and Jamie Read, READ College exists to provide training and support to those who would otherwise not be able to access training for a career in acting and/or musical theatre.

Over the last 10 years, the college has:

- Cultivated an exceptional success rate, with 95.5% of all of our young people gaining places at top flight vocational colleges for their further training
- Trained over 220 young people on full-time courses, and over 350 more through outreach schemes
- Provided financial support to students totalling over £270,000 enabling access to training to those from under-represented backgrounds
- Developed a national and international reputation for excellence of training, being nominated for both School of the Year and Charity of the Year in the Pride of Reading Awards

READ College is proud to have a leading specialist team managing and delivering its training and student support. The Board of Trustees includes expert practitioners in Performing Arts, Education, Charity Management, Arts Administration and Business, and the Executive Management of the college is led by former West End and international artists, who are highly specialised in their field and widely respected pedagogues.

The charity places great value on physical and emotional wellbeing of the young people with whom it works, and alongside the teaching faculty the college is pleased to have a specialist performing arts osteopath, both vocal and sports massage therapists, a college counsellor and a volunteer chaplain.

Providing this level of support to our young people is imperative for their future career and personal development, but also highly expensive to operate. It is for this reason that the college is constantly raising funds to assist with core costs; student bursaries; equipment; and, facilities.

The Results of the Charity

“READ College provides the highest standard of full-time education in the arts, and also through the Student Hardship Fund it provides tens of thousands of pounds of bursary funding every year to disadvantaged young people who have the talent to go on to successful careers in the industry but lack the financial support to achieve their potential. Please, support them in their bid to secure the college’s work into the future.”

Dame Judi Dench – Patron

“My Mum is a single parent, and I have a younger brother who has Autism. Mum works part-time as she needs to be at home to care for my brother. Life at home can be hard sometimes and finances are really tight. I have always wanted to train and work in Musical Theatre but I knew there was no way we could ever afford the tuition fees. Then I heard about Read College, I auditioned and was offered a bursary place to start this September. I have been here for 3 weeks now and I am having the time of my life!”

Graduate Student who went on to become Head Girl at her 3 Year Vocational Degree in Musical Theatre before pursuing a successful performing career

“I had nearly given up on any chance of succeeding... READ gave me the confidence to believe I could make it.”

Graduate Student now working successfully in the theatre industry

These testimonials put into words the experiences for industry professionals and young people alike when they encounter our work, and whilst our full-time courses provide the bulk of our contact hours with our young people we run an ever-increasing and widening outreach programme. Through our outreach we are able to reach hundreds more young people from under-represented backgrounds every year, whether that be through practical workshop experiences or focussed careers advice from industry professionals.

Through our full-time and outreach courses, we are able to make a practical difference to the lives of young people and show them that, regardless of their background, they are able to succeed in gaining a foothold in the creative industries.

The proliferation of white, middle class young people being able to aspire towards – and afford – a career in the Performing Arts, where others cannot, has been widely reported in the press. It is our mission to make sure that training is accessible to everyone, regardless of their background.

2017/18 – Statistics and Figures

Charitable Income – £233,000

Spending on Charitable Activities - £231,000

Number of beneficiaries

Full time – 38

Outreach – 200

Bursary supported – 39.47%

Bursary amount -£47,705