

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

A large-scale, in-school sculpture that aims to provoke conversation about things that are really obvious, yet we find difficult to talk about.

The Elephant

Standing more than 3.5metres high, this bespoke **sculpture** (designed & created by Ger Clancy with Paul Curley) resides in a school hall for **1 week**, allowing the whole school community to interact and engage with it, inspiring conversation & igniting critical thinking.



The exact position and orientation of the Elephant will depend on the capacity of the school, ideally in a **hall** or large atrium. The Elephant is 3.5 m high, 4m long, 3m wide (including rope barriers).

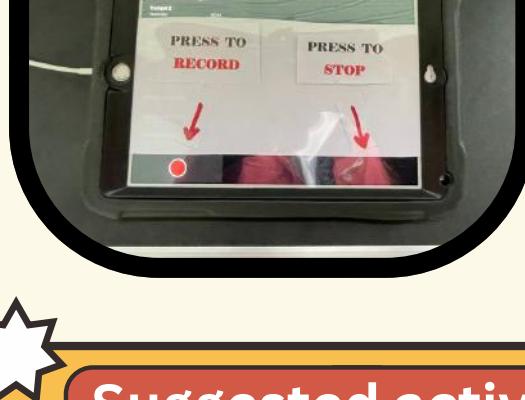
Construction and installation of the Elephant will happen during non-school hours, giving the impression the Elephant has appeared from nowhere when children arrive in school. It will leave in the same way.

What happens?

On the first morning, a **tannoy announcement** is made in the school to declare the Elephant's arrival. The **invitation** for classes to visit the Elephant is wide open. We have not structured a specific timetable for classes to come to spend time with it. This may be something teachers can negotiate between themselves or discuss as to who visits when, depending on the number of classes in the school. Likewise with how children may wish to respond to the Elephant.



Ambient **music** plays in the space to set the tone of the Elephant. Children visiting the Elephant are invited to record their thoughts and ideas in a **voice note** (on an iPad). Voice notes are played back over the ambient music the following day.



Suggested activity

In thinking about the meaning of the phrase 'The Elephant in the Room', one **activity** we invite children to participate in is to write or draw what they might find **difficult to talk about** on a little post-it note (provided). They are invited to stick the note on the Elephant on the final day. This level of engagement is more suited to the **older classes**, perhaps 4th & 5th Class.



Practical details

- Build time takes a minimum of **3 hours**.
- Building & installation typically takes place on a **Monday** afternoon (after school), the sculpture is dismantled and removed the following **Thursday** afternoon.
- An **invigilator** and a **technician** will be in attendance at all times during the week.
- Where possible, we will arrange a **site visit** to view the hall/space ahead of installation date.

