

the artsmark award

recognition for schools making
an outstanding commitment to the arts

A close-up photograph of a hand rolling a piece of dark, moist clay on a yellow surface. The surface is covered with various hand-drawn black ink patterns, including circles, squares, and abstract shapes. The hand is positioned in the upper right quadrant, with fingers gently guiding the clay. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the yellow patterned surface.

ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Arts Council England's Artsmark is a national award that recognises and rewards schools who show a commitment to the full range of the arts – art and design, music, dance and drama.

Artsmark aims to raise the profile of arts education. It encourages schools to increase the range and variety of arts provision available to pupils.

The award recognises, promotes and spreads good practice on how to provide the arts in education; gives young people more opportunities to access the arts; and encourages schools, arts organisations and artists to work together.

Why apply?

The Artsmark award brings many benefits to the school, to teachers and to pupils. The scheme is endorsed by national bodies and celebrates schools that have made a strong commitment to the arts and have developed a nationally recognised range of arts provision.

The award is designed to encourage progression and to support schools in improving their arts provision. Applying for this award can bring together and reveal new and useful information for schools about their arts provision.

Artsmark schools have demonstrated that they value the arts. As a result, they have felt a sense of pride in and appreciation of teachers' achievements, which has been celebrated both within the schools and in the local community.

Benefits for schools and pupils

Being awarded an Artsmark at any level is an achievement to be celebrated. It offers tangible recognition of the school's commitment to the arts and demonstrates that the school is concerned not only with academic success but also with the wider development of young people. It can raise the profile of the school within the local community and help the school in approaching potential arts partners or sponsors.

Benefits for teachers

Applying for and achieving an Artsmark increases the status of the work of teachers within school and publicly recognises the contribution of their arts provision to the school. Through the guidance materials, it provides access to examples of good practice. Artsmark also raises awareness of continuing professional development opportunities in the arts for all teachers.

About the scheme

Artsmark is available on a voluntary basis to all schools in England – primary, middle and secondary, special, pupil referral units, maintained and independent. The award is current for three years, although schools can apply to upgrade at any application date. There are three levels of Artsmark available: Artsmark, Artsmark Silver and Artsmark Gold.

The scheme was developed with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in partnership with Arts Council England, the Department for Education and Skills, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, OfSTED and Sport England.

Applying for Artsmark

There are three separate application forms for primary (with middle schools), secondary, and special schools and pupil referral units. Separate guidance documents accompany each application form, which includes examples of good practice from current Artsmark schools. We recommend that you read this guidance in conjunction with the application form.

The criteria will be broadly the same for each phase, with some minor adaptations to give special schools and pupil referral units more flexibility. The application process takes the form of a structured and detailed arts audit. Schools are required to describe timetabled provision for the arts, out-of-hours opportunities offered to pupils, continuing professional development offered to teachers, partnerships with artists and arts organisations, and the management of the arts in school including their overarching arts policy.

Key dates

1 September 2003: Round 4 application packs and helpline available

5 December 2003: Deadline for completed applications

May 2004: Awards announced

How to find out more

If you have any queries or would like to discuss your application, don't hesitate to call the **Artsmark freephone helpline on 0800 0560 196**.

For information, application forms and guidance documents, visit www.artsmark.org.uk

If you do not have easy access to the web or have difficulty downloading the forms, ring the helpline.

To contact us:

artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk or

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