

Completing your Statement of Commitment

We've updated this document to support settings to plan their Artsmark journey in light of the impact Covid-19 may have on your activities and delivery.

What you need

Statement of Commitment template [Click to download](#)

Self-Assessment framework [Click to download](#)

Your setting's strategic improvement/development plan

Any notes and resources from your Development Day training

Time to reflect on your Artsmark journey

Plan your answers

Read through all questions before you start writing. Decide what to cover in each question, to avoid repetition in your answers and ensure you have space to tell us about all your plans.

Reference the Artsmark criteria

The Artsmark criteria are set out in the Self-Assessment framework. These are the areas that we will use to assess your application. You should use these to reference how your arts and cultural provision will develop throughout your Artsmark journey.

Reference the Quality Principles

This set of principles outlines ways of working that should be embedded in your planning, delivery and evaluation. You should use them to raise the standard of work being delivered by, with and for your children and young people.

Think ahead to evidencing impact

You will need to provide evidence in your Statement of Impact, your second submission to Artsmark, to support statements you make about the impact of your journey. Start thinking about how you will do that now.

Structure

Try to write in full sentences, like a narrative, rather than overusing bullet points. Tell us your rationale, describe your goal or ambition and the impact you hope to see across your setting. Stick to the word limits, focus on quality statements that you can reflect upon later.

Support

Speak to your [Bridge organisation](#) for support with writing your Statement of Commitment. They can help you to plan your answers with reference to your whole journey. Get as many staff and senior leaders working together to achieve your aims, whole setting commitment to Artsmark is key to its success. Make sure the Headteacher and Chair of Governors read and approve your Statement of Commitment before you submit.

Assessment

This Statement of Commitment and your Statement of Impact will be considered when assessing your award. In order to ensure that we are consistent and fair in how we assess, we cannot accept any additional evidence such as photos, appendices and web links, or take previous Artsmark journeys into account. Make sure you include all the information you want us to consider in your answers, without going over the word limits.

Statement of Commitment – prompts for planning your answers

Context – up to 150 words

Provide an overview of your setting, for example if you are part of a Federation or Multi Academy Trust. You may wish to mention statistics around Pupil Premium, English as a Second Language and Free School Meals.

We know that the context of all schools has been shaped considerably by the Covid-19 crisis. You do not need to refer to the impact of coronavirus on your school in this section unless you feel there are unique changes to the context of your setting resulting from the pandemic.

Question 1 – up to 500 words

Talk about how your setting currently values arts and culture and the way this fits into your ethos. Reference any strategies you have in place that promote arts and culture. You may find it useful to describe these in reference to your arts curriculum provision and cross-curricular use of the arts.

We understand that the way your setting values and promotes arts and culture may have altered due to the impact of Covid-19. If so, tell us how and why your approach has changed. What are you doing now to ensure arts, culture and creativity are prioritised in your curriculum and the ethos of your school as you move forward?

Question 2 – up to 500 words

Align your goals and ambitions for Artsmark to your strategic improvement/development plan. Discuss how and why Artsmark will contribute to the priorities in your plan.

Consider how you could use Artsmark's flexible framework to support school improvement, including any recovery plans you may have for learning and to support pupil wellbeing.

Question 3 – up to 500 words

Audit your current arts and cultural provision against the Artsmark criteria. Explain what you see as your strengths and where your whole setting could develop.

We recognise that you may be auditing your current provision in the context of the ongoing crisis. As a result, your areas for development may also address issues relating to the impact of Covid-19, and we understand that the scope of your plans may continue to fluctuate.

Question 4 – up to 500 words

Outline your ambitions and plans to address your areas of development. Set realistic goals that your whole setting can achieve in up to two years. Think about how you will monitor progress and evidence and evaluate impact later in your journey.

We know that this remains a period of uncertainty for schools, and planning to meet future goals is challenging.

However, setting clear intentions now for what you want to achieve on your journey will help you maintain momentum as you develop your arts provision, even if your plans have to adapt and change along the way.

Question 5 – up to 500 words

Describe what you will require to implement your plans and achieve your goals and ambitions. Among the things you might wish to consider are: staff CPD; partnerships with other settings; partnerships with Artsmark Partners, your local Music Education Hub or other cultural organisations; budget; time and community and parental support.

We know that you may meet some obstacles while planning under Covid-19 restrictions. You might consider phasing developments, starting with those less affected by current restrictions such as developing CPD internally or drawing on established partnerships. What innovative methods could you use, particularly in the short-term, to build new partnerships and networks?

Question 6 – up to 500 words

Discuss where you want to be at the end of your journey and the different evaluation tools you could use to evidence the impact. In some instances, quantitative evidence might be most appropriate, for example attainment data, while in others qualitative evidence such as feedback from children and young people might be more relevant.

It's important to consider how you will measure the impact of your developments and activities. You may have to adapt your methods if your plans change, but you'll have the opportunity to tell us about that in your Statement of Impact at the end of your two-year delivery period.

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**The Artsmark
team is here to help**

Email
artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk

 [@ArtsmarkAward](https://twitter.com/ArtsmarkAward)

 [/Artsmark1](https://www.facebook.com/Artsmark1)

 [/company/Artsmark](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Artsmark)
artsmark.org.uk

Further Support

As always your [Bridge Organisation](#) is your first point of contact and they will be able to support you to write your Statement of Commitment.