

Completing your Statement of Commitment

What you will need

1. Statement of Commitment template [Click to download](#)
2. Artsmark Framework [Click to download](#)
3. Your setting's strategic improvement/development plan
4. Any notes and resources from your Artsmark Development Training

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 and Quality Principles

The Artsmark criteria are set out in the Artsmark 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. The Quality Principles outline 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.

Top tips

- We strongly recommend you use as much of the available word counts as possible when drafting your responses, to give us as much information as you can about the plans for your Artsmark journey.
- Try not to repeat examples throughout your Statement of Commitment. It is better to decide which of the questions a specific example fits best with and use it just the once.
- Our national delivery partner, Goldsmiths, University of London, is on hand to support you on your Artsmark journey. Visit our [Support and Resources](#) web pages to find out more.

Structure

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

Goldsmiths is on hand to support you on your Artsmark journey. Visit our [Support and Resources](#) web pages to find out more. 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, but not limited to, images, multi-media, hyperlinks or 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.

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.

Statement of Commitment – prompts for planning your answers

Context – up to 150 words

Describe the context of your school or education setting (for example, your phase of education, establishment type, location, number on roll and so on).

The description 'sets the scene' for the Artsmark Assessors, providing an overview of your setting. The information that you provide here might include your location, the number of students you have, key members of staff or staffing levels, including support staff such as TA's and PALs. Pupil characteristics such as pupil premium, FSM, EAL or SEN, and any artforms that you currently offer.

Question 1 – up to 500 words

How do arts and culture play a role within your setting's strategic values?

Provide an overview of where you are now. 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. Be as honest and accurate as you can be, as it will help you to demonstrate progress in due course.

Question 2 – up to 500 words

How and why will your Artsmark journey contribute to the priorities in your school improvement plans?

This question relates to how Artsmark will help to deliver the priorities in your setting's school improvement plan (SIP). It is essential to make reference to specific areas of your SIP. This is not limited to creative areas, and may relate to non-arts areas: e.g. pupil/staff wellbeing, development of middle managers, SMSC, PHSE and British values.

Question 3 – up to 500 words

Looking at the Artsmark award criteria, where does your setting currently have strengths and where would you like to develop?

Using the level descriptors for each of the eight criteria in the Artsmark Framework as a guide, give a realistic appraisal of your setting's strengths and areas of development for each criterion. Make sure you consider all three levels, Silver, Gold and Platinum, as you may have areas of strength or development across all three.

Question 4 – up to 500 words

What are the goals and ambitions for your Artsmark journey and what steps will you take to achieve these?

This question gives you the opportunity to set out a plan to implement during your Artsmark journey. Be factual and specific and consider each of the steps that will be needed to ensure you meet your goals. How will each step be achieved? You will need to refer back to each of these points when writing your Statement of Impact at the end of your journey and explain the outcomes and impacts of each action.

Question 5 – up to 500 words

What support will you need and what resources will you commit to achieve your goals and ambitions?

Reflect on your answer to Question 4 and think about what is needed to implement the plans that you have outlined. This could include, but is not limited to, resources needed, any financial or budgetary considerations, and any specific involvement from staff, pupils, governors, the wider community or any specialist expertise.

Question 6 – up to 500 words

How will you know you have achieved your goals and ambitions? What will success look like and how will you evidence it in your Statement of Impact?

When completing your Statement of Impact at the end of your Artsmark journey, the focus will be on evidencing the outcomes and impact of the actions detailed above. Therefore, it is important to think now about how you will evaluate your actions to evidence impact. What will success look like? What do you want to change for the better? Adding clear statements now will make it easier to prepare your Statement of Impact in due course.

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Further support

Our national delivery partner, Goldsmiths, University of London, is on hand to support you on your Artsmark journey. Visit our [Support and Resources](#) web pages to find out more.

The Artsmark team is here to help

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artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk

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