

# You are... a Hospital School

**Artsmark** works with an ever-growing network of schools and alternative education settings to develop and celebrate their commitment to arts, culture and creativity.

Your  
Artsmark  
journey  
starts here

We support a wide range of education settings, including **hospital schools**, to achieve an Artsmark award.

While we consider the unique context of every setting, we understand that there may be additional considerations or challenges for your setting that you feel could affect your Artsmark journey.

The guidance below is designed to reassure you that:

- the Artsmark framework is **relevant** and **adaptable** to your setting
- we have an **awareness** and **understanding** of the key issues you may face on your Artsmark journey
- our assessment will be **sensitive** and **sympathetic** to the broader context of your setting
- we have a range of **support options available**, including resources, partnerships and networking opportunities, to support you through your Artsmark journey

For more information on how to embark on an Artsmark journey and what it involves, go to **Your Next Steps**

## Will Artsmark work for us?

Yes! Artsmark provides a **flexible framework** to help educational settings champion arts, culture and creativity in their learning and teaching environments, and hospital schools are no exception.

Arts engagement is an effective way for your setting to broaden and enrich its learning provision. Offering arts and cultural activities and opportunities can also be of therapeutic value.

Hospital schools on their Artsmark journey have found that enhancing their arts and cultural provision is particularly effective in:

- **re-engaging** children and young people to take an **interest** in learning
- enabling pupils to have a **voice** and an **input** in their education
- providing an outlet for pupils to **express themselves** creatively, explore and discover **interests** and **passions**
- improve the **wellbeing** and **mental health** of pupils



## Your setting and the Artsmark criteria

We understand that some of the recommended steps outlined in our Artsmark criteria may pose some additional considerations or initial challenges for your setting, such as:

### Curriculum Design

As hospital schools generally follow the national curriculum, there is scope for them to use the arts in innovative, cross-curricular ways, connecting across subject areas and linking to the whole school's pedagogy.

We appreciate that your approach to learning is also highly personalised to respond to the varied and specific needs of the children and young people you work with. Depending on the changing needs of learners, hospital settings may sometimes embed creative approaches in a curriculum design offered to all students, or at other times apply them in targeted and highly innovative ways to small groups or individuals.

We understand that the opportunity to offer varied and alternative arts subjects may be affected by more limited access to dedicated facilities, appropriate learning spaces and specialist equipment than that of mainstream settings.

Hospital settings have rich scope to work innovatively and demonstrate a vibrant curriculum offer in other ways, such as through their application of the arts as a form of therapy, and as a route to re-engagement with learning more generally.



**Our assessment will take into consideration that strategic, innovative integration of the arts in your setting may be related more closely to the diverse needs, learning development and therapeutic outcomes of your learners**

“ Parents were enthralled to see the achievements of their children at our exhibitions and the resilience they had acquired by engaging with the arts. ”

**Royal Free Hospital School, London**

### Partnerships

We encourage settings to connect with external partners such as arts and cultural organisations in your area, as well as other local schools, to help strengthen your delivery of quality arts and cultural education.

We appreciate that building long-lasting partnerships with a wide range of external organisations could be more challenging considering:

- the needs of some learners in a hospital setting may require highly specialised and expert input from trusted external providers which could limit the range of arts organisations and creative practitioners you can work with
- some external venues may be unable to meet access requirements and additional support needs of learners
- additional resources or staff support might be needed in order to make necessary adjustments to ensure pupils feel safe and can benefit fully from the experience

**When deciding your award level, we will take into consideration that opportunities to work with a wider range of external partners may be more limited than in mainstream settings.**

## Continued Professional Development

We ask settings to demonstrate a clear commitment to arts and culture CPD for all members of staff, and to allocate the appropriate resources to do so.

We understand that the priority for CPD provision for your staff will always be primarily centred on managing learner needs in the context of healthcare and wellbeing.

We recognise that the arts may not always be the main driver of CPD in responding to the needs of the children and young people you work with, but it can make an important contribution.

Your CPD offer may incorporate the development of knowledge, skills and expertise in arts and cultural education, but will do so specifically where it is useful and relevant to the wellbeing and learning development of the young people in your care.

**Our assessment will take into account that use of the Arts in hospital schools may not always be the key driver in CPD provision.**



**“ Not only has Artsmark allowed us to create greater awareness of career pathways linked to the arts, we have had a significantly greater number of pupils choosing to continue with their arts studies in post-16 education. ”**

**Hospital and Outreach Education,  
Northampton**

## Awarding a level

Our assessment process reflects our commitment to support all educational settings to engage in arts and cultural learning:

- We give every submission an assessment that is equitable across all setting types.
- We ensure that the Artsmark award criteria are applied with a sensitive understanding and awareness of the broader context of your setting.



## Your next steps

Hospital schools are often sources for some of the most innovative practice in arts and creative education. We hope that this guidance reassures you that Artsmark offers a flexible framework that is right for your setting, and we look forward to following and supporting you on your unique Artsmark journey.

Find out more about Artsmark and the support on offer below, or to start your journey, [register for Artsmark](#) today.

## How we will support you

### Goldsmiths' training programme

Our national delivery partner, Goldsmiths, University of London, will support you through your Artsmark journey. Goldsmiths is renowned for its research and teaching, celebrated world-wide as a vibrant hub for creativity, arts, and culture. Their Artsmark training programme offers a mixture of online and in-person sessions, networking and peer mentoring opportunities, as well as the Artsmark Development Training.

Find out more about Goldsmiths' training and support [here](#).

### Artsmark cultural map

Creative partnerships have an incredible impact on pupils' creativity, development and wellbeing. Connect with organisations delivering brilliant creative activities for pupils through the [Artsmark cultural map](#) for schools.

### Resources and Guidance

We have a wide range of [resources and guidance](#) to help get you started and to support you throughout your Artsmark journey.

- [Download our Artsmark booklet](#)
- Use our [Artsmark Framework](#) to consider your current arts and cultural provision and reflect on the areas you may wish to develop
- Read our [Artsmark application guidance booklet](#) to understand the process

Our full range of resources and application templates are available on our [website](#).

### Contact us

If you have any questions or require further information and guidance, visit our [website](#) or email us: [artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk).

“ Artsmark has been an invaluable journey for our school. We believe it is the beginning of more to come. ”

**Royal Free Hospital School, London**