

Artsmark and Craft

A practical guide to developing your craft provision as part of your Artsmark journey.



Introduction

This guide forms part of a suite of resources created to support Artsmark schools and settings to plan and deliver specific art forms. It provides practical examples, aligned to the eight Artsmark criteria, to help you use craft to deliver against the priorities for your Artsmark journey. It will:

- Provide a framework for auditing your craft provision
- Assist you to identify areas of development
- Help you to improve the quality of your craft provision
- Support you to embed craft across the curriculum

How to use this guide

- This guide should be used with reference to the Artsmark Framework
- The Arts Council's Quality Principles should be considered in the design and evaluation of any activities
- Discuss this guide with Artsmark Partners who are supporting you with your craft provision
- Examples are provided of what good practice might look like, but these are only suggestions. This is not an exhaustive list and Artsmark settings do not need to have all these suggestions in place to achieve their award

This guide will not be used to assess your Artsmark Award.

Artsmark Criteria	What could good craft provision look like against the Artsmark criteria?
1 Values and Ethos	<p>The setting uses and celebrates craft practices in the delivery of Art and Design and Design and Technology curriculums. Craft learning is also utilised as a cross-curricular skill to support cognitive development, dexterous practice and enhance the learning experience, as well as improving pupils' wellbeing, mental health and communication. The setting enables all pupils to have the chance to discover a passion for making, develop their skills and understanding of craft, and celebrate their achievements.</p> <p>Pupils are offered insights into the broad range of career paths in craft and the creative industries and are supported to pursue interests in creative careers.</p>
2 Leadership	<p>Governors and senior leadership understand the value of craft as a tool for cross-curricular learning and the importance of all children and young people having access to a range of high-quality craft and making experiences.</p> <p>Craft and making are linked to key objectives and targets in school improvement plans. Secondary schools might build craft into the work they do to support pupils during the transition phase. Senior leaders support other schools to develop their craft offer.</p>
3 Children and Young People Engagement	<p>The setting ensures all children and young people experience the diversity of craft disciplines through a range of opportunities that reflect their varied interests, from fine art to engineering.</p> <p>All pupils feel included and are supported to be actively involved in their own craft learning and progression. Pupils are ambassadors for craft both within and beyond the setting. They take ownership by sharing what they've made with others, curating exhibitions or selling their work through fairs.</p>

4	Curriculum Design	<p>Craft extends the scope of Art & Design and Design Technology subjects and contributes to a broad and rich curriculum, offering practical opportunities to explore materials and craft practice and make learning connections across subjects such as science, maths and history. Getting hands-on with ceramics or textiles gives students real-life experience of STEM careers and knowledge of processes used in industry.</p> <p>A broad range of craft opportunities enables children and young people to have greater input into their creative learning experience, developing creative practice and multiple non-verbal learning strategies in addition to exploration of haptic skills and understanding of materials.</p>
5	Range of Offer	<p>The setting offers all pupils a range of opportunities to engage with diverse specialists, for example, makers delivering workshops and sharing information about careers in craft and pupils visiting craft exhibitions, makerspaces, or artist studios. All pupils can extend and develop their skills through extra-curricular activity.</p>
6	CPD (Continued Professional Development)	<p>Teachers are supported to undertake CPD with craft specialists and are actively engaged with developing their creative practice as craft educators. The setting has links with specialist organisations, such as Further and Higher Education Institutions, museums, galleries and artist studios, which can provide insight into contemporary craft practice. Specialist teachers are supported to pass on relevant skills to the rest of the staff team, helping them to understand the application of craft to their subjects and measure the impact on the quality of their teaching.</p>
7	Partnerships	<p>The setting works with their Bridge organisation and Artsmark Partners to identify and develop partnerships with local craft organisations, from individual makers to universities, galleries, theatre props departments or local industry. Partnerships are long-term and mutually beneficial, with demonstrable positive impact on outcomes for pupils and staff.</p>
8	Equality and Diversity	<p>The setting ensures equitable and inclusive access to craft opportunities that reflect the diversity of the setting and society as a whole. The setting uses craft as a tool to support health and wellbeing, and to meet the wide range of learning needs of its pupils. Craft is used to encourage pupils to respect, celebrate and share their own cultural background and connect to that of others, both within the setting and the wider community.</p>





Further reading

Crafts Council website: www.craftscouncil.org.uk

The Crafts Council are Artsmark Partners and offer a wide range of learning resources for free on their website – including craft careers guidance, lesson plans, activity tutorials, Arts Award resources and an Artsmark framework. Email participation@craftscouncil.org.uk to find out more.

Crafts Council's Craft Educators Facebook group is a growing community of craft education practitioners. Join the conversation [here](#)

NSEAD: <https://www.nsead.org/>

The National Society for Education in Art and Design is the leading voice in art, craft and design education across all sectors and phases of education. They provide an extensive range of resources for art and design teachers, and regularly publish research reports, papers and presentations about the latest developments in art and design education.

OAK National Academy resources

for Primary Art, Craft and Design:

[Key Stage 1](#) | [Key Stage 2](#)

**The Artsmark
team is here to help**

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