

Artsmark Covid-19 FAQs

Last updated: 15 January 2021

We understand that Covid-19 and subsequent school closures may have had a significant impact on your Artsmark journey. In May 2020 we made several changes to support you as you continued to work towards your Artsmark award and have adapted these in light of recent school closures in January 2021.

Please read our FAQs below which outline how we've adapted the programme and offer guidance on your next steps, wherever you are on your Artsmark journey. If you have any further queries, please contact the Artsmark team:

artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk.

Registration

I'm new to Artsmark, can I still register?

Yes - Artsmark registrations are open! During the pandemic we've seen the positive impact arts and creativity has had on children and young people's learning and wellbeing. Artsmark settings have used the flexible framework to support short- and long-term recovery plans to keep creativity and wellbeing at the heart of the curriculum. Find out more about how Artsmark can support you and [register today](#).

I want to re-register my setting, can I re-register?

Yes! Our registrations are open so you can re-commit to the Artsmark programme and continue your setting's creative journey by [re-registering today](#).

Development Days

I registered for Artsmark before Covid-19 and due to the current situation, I haven't been able to attend a Development Day within the recommended three months. What should I do?

We recommend you attend a Development Day within three months of registering. However, this is a guideline rather than a fixed deadline, and we understand that the process may take you longer given the current circumstances. Contact your [Bridge Organisation](#) who can advise you on any upcoming virtual Development Days that you could join.

Can I attend a Development Day online?

Yes – all our Bridge organisations are offering online sessions. Once you have registered for Artsmark, your Bridge organisation will invite you to join a Development Day. Please contact your regional [Bridge Organisation](#) for further information.

Statement of Commitment

I have attended a Development Day and I am due to submit my Statement of Commitment however, due to the current situation, I do not feel ready to submit yet. Can I have an extension?

While we recommend you submit your Statement of Commitment three months after attending your Development Day, this is not a hard deadline. We understand that under current circumstances, you may need more time. Please contact your regional [Bridge Organisation](#) for further support or download our additional [resource](#) to support you in writing your Statement of Commitment.

Are you still accepting Statement of Commitment submissions?

Yes, we are still accepting Statement of Commitment submissions. Your Bridge organisation can support you in writing your Statement of Commitment and you can download our [guidance document](#) from our website. When you are ready, and the document has been approved by your headteacher and Chair of Governors, please submit it by email to: artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk.

I have already submitted my Statement of Commitment, but the plans and goals I outlined in the document have changed due to coronavirus. Can I send an updated Statement of Commitment to replace it?

We understand that coronavirus and school closures may have had an impact on the plans you outlined in your Statement of Commitment. You have the opportunity to tell us about changes and how you adapted your plans in your Statement of Impact at the end of your journey, so you don't need to submit a new Statement of Commitment.

My Statement of Commitment is ready to submit, but due to Covid-19 I don't feel able to start implementing my plans. Can I have a longer journey or start my journey later?

Once we accept your Statement of Commitment, you then have up to 2 years to develop your arts and cultural provision in line with the goals outlined in your Statement of Commitment, before completing your Statement of Impact for assessment. If you do not feel your journey can formally begin at this time, please wait and submit your Statement of Commitment to us at a later date, when you feel ready to commence your journey.

Statement of Impact

In January 2021, we granted an additional 9-month extension on Statement of Impact deadlines for all settings who have submitted their Statement of Commitment. We contacted all settings who were eligible for this extension on 15

January specifying their new extended deadline. If you think this extension is applicable to your setting but you did not receive this email, please contact artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk for clarification.

I'd like to continue working towards our original Statement of Impact deadline, do I have to use the extension period I've been granted?

You do not have to use the extension period you've been granted if you do not feel it is necessary. This is an optional extension as we understand that Covid-19 may have affected each school differently. You can submit your Statement of Impact at any time prior to your new deadline if you are ready. Your Bridge organisation can support you in writing your Statement of Impact and you can download our [guidance document](#) on our website which includes information about how to discuss the impact of Covid-19 on your Artsmark journey.

Are you still accepting Statement of Impact submissions?

Yes, we are still accepting and assessing Statement of Impact submissions at this time. Your Bridge organisation can support you in writing your Statement of Impact and you can download our [guidance document](#) on our website. When you are ready, and the document has been approved by your headteacher and Chair of Governors, please submit it by email to artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk.

I submitted my Statement of Impact and am waiting to hear the outcome of my assessment. Are you still assessing settings?

Yes. We are still working within our usual timeframe for assessment and are assessing all settings who submit their Statement of Impact to us. As per our usual timeframe, settings will be informed of the outcome no later than the end of the next academic term after submitting their Statement of Impact. We are not experiencing any delays to our processes but if you think you should have received an email about the outcome of your assessment then please email artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk

Awarded settings

I've recently been awarded, when will I receive my certificate and/or plaque?

Our offices are currently closed so it is taking us a little longer to issue award certificates, but you should receive it within 8 weeks of your award announcement. Unfortunately, we are not able to sell Artsmark plaques at this time.

Help and Support

Who do I contact if I need further support with my Artsmark journey?

If you have questions regarding extensions, we ask you to contact us at Arts Council England. The Artsmark team are working from home but we are still available to provide support to you. Please email artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk If you need support regarding Development Days or guidance completing your Statement of Commitment or Statement of Impact, please contact your local [Bridge Organisation](#).

Where can I find the latest updates about Artsmark and Covid-19?

Our [Coronavirus Update](#) page on our website outlines the latest updates regarding the Artsmark programme and should be your first port of call if you have any questions. We will also keep you informed via Twitter and LinkedIn so be sure to follow us on social media for the latest updates.