

Artsmark and Photography

A practical guide to developing your photography 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 photography to deliver against the priorities for your Artsmark journey. It will:

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

How to use this guide

- This guide should be used with reference to the Artsmark Self-Assessment 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 photography 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.



Photo © Annis Joslin

Artsmark Criteria	What might good photography provision look like against the Artsmark criteria
1 Values and Ethos Promote arts and culture in your values and ethos	Photography is recognised as a significant art form in its own right and is valued as a dynamic tool for learning across the curriculum. It contributes to the setting's cultural capital. The setting demonstrates understanding of the role photography plays in promoting creative thinking and 21st century visual literacy and provides regular opportunities to engage with a range of photographic practice.
2 Leadership Demonstrate leadership	Senior leaders understand and value photography as a vital part of a creative curriculum. They drive high-quality photography provision across their setting, ensuring effective mechanisms for measuring progression and impact are in place. Leads for Art & Design champion photography to ensure quality and breadth of opportunity. They support colleagues to implement creative use of photography in their teaching. Good practice is shared with other settings.
3 Children and Young People Engagement Engage children and young people (CYP)	The setting uses pupils' natural interest in, and enjoyment of, photography as an accessible and familiar medium, using it to achieve a wide range of learning outcomes. Pupils can confidently use and respond to photographic images in a range of contexts. Their voices are heard through photography and their work is celebrated and shared with others through high quality exhibitions.
4 Curriculum Design Embed a diverse curriculum	Photography provision offers a breadth of experiences across different types of practice and genres and is often used to support progress in literacy. At secondary level, pupils are able to study photography at KS4 and above. At primary level, photography is embedded within schemes of work to creatively shape and inform pupils' understanding of the world and to make connections across subjects.
5 Range of Offer Establish a wide-ranging cultural offer	Photography, in all its forms, is an integral part of the setting's arts and cultural provision. Pupils have regular opportunities to enjoy and engage with photography through visits to galleries, museums and through extra-curricular activities. Professional photographers visit the setting to work with pupils, who have the opportunity to use and understand a variety of techniques and processes.
6 Continued Professional Development (CPD) Offer staff development opportunities	Senior leaders encourage photography CPD, and all teachers participate. Delivered by specialists, CPD equips staff with tools and strategies to effectively embed photography across the curriculum. It enables Art & Design teachers to stay abreast of contemporary practice, plan inclusive schemes of work, measure progress, and share their good practice in and beyond their setting.
7 Partnerships Develop valuable arts and cultural partnerships	The setting regularly works with national development organisations for photography, accessing their expertise and resources for curriculum delivery, CPD and extra-curricular work. Relationships with Artsmark Partners, and other galleries and museums enable access to photography exhibitions, collections and practitioners, which have a positive impact on outcomes for pupils.
8 Equality and Diversity Ensure equality and diversity for all	The setting's photography offer promotes SMSC learning, utilizing photography as an accessible vehicle through which to develop pupils' awareness and understanding of their own and other cultural identities. The setting uses photography to help it meet the access and inclusion needs of all pupils, offering an alternative form of communication and expression that particularly supports pupils with language, literacy or mental health concerns.

Further reading

Photoworks

Artsmark Partner, Photoworks, is the UK's national development organisation for photography. Photoworks commission and deliver projects across contemporary photography, including teaching resources, support with Arts Award delivery and signposting to support in your area. Look out for Photoworks' new National Schools Resource in 2020. Visit photoworks.org.uk, follow [@photoworks_uk](https://www.instagram.com/photoworks_uk) on social media or email info@photoworks.org.uk for more information.

Photopedagogy

A website created by photography teachers for photography teachers that shares practice, approaches and methodology and offers a wealth of resources. Visit photopedagogy.com.

Photography Galleries

A number of galleries dedicated to photography produce exhibitions, events and programmes relevant for schools. These include:

The Photographers' Gallery, London

Impressions, Bradford

Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool

Side Gallery, Newcastle

Martin Parr Foundation, Bristol

Photography in your area

Contact your regional Bridge organisation to find photography organisations, practitioners and Artsmark Partners in your area:

artsmark.org.uk/bridge

**The Artsmark
team is here to help**

Call us on
0161 934 4317 or email
artsmark@arts council.org.uk

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This guide was developed
in partnership with Photoworks.



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