

Artsmark COVID-19 FAQs

Last updated: 25 August 2020

We understand that COVID-19 and subsequent school closures may have had a significant impact on your Artsmark journey, and we made several changes at the start of lockdown to support you as you continue to work towards your Artsmark award. We made decisions that took into consideration the period during which schools were closed to the majority of pupils and the time needed to settle back in at the start of the new academic year.

As settings look to welcome more pupils back, we'd like to reiterate our support. We know this will be another challenge, and we will do all we can to make sure Artsmark supports you in this journey and helps you to keep pupils' wellbeing and creativity at the heart of your curriculum.

Please read our FAQs below which outline the key changes we have made 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! We temporarily closed registrations for a period due to school closures. We've seen how you've used arts and creativity to support your pupils' wellbeing during the coronavirus pandemic, which is why, as you have begun to navigate returning to school, we've re-opened registrations. We hope that all settings can use Artsmark's flexible framework to embed arts and creativity across the curriculum, allowing you to continue to put children and young people's wellbeing at the heart of your school. Find out more about Artsmark and [register today](#).

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

Yes! Our registrations are open again, so you can re-commit to the Artsmark programme and continue your setting's creative journey by [re-registering today](#). If you have questions about how re-registration affects your award status, please go to the 'Awarded Settings' section.

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 join 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 Development Days that you could join.

Can I attend a Development Day online?

Yes - 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 and guidance on writing your Statement of Commitment during this time.

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.

My Statement of Commitment is ready to submit, but due to COVID-19 I don't feel able to start implementing changes in my setting until the end of the Autumn term or early 2021. Can I have a longer journey or start my journey then?

If you do not feel your journey can formally begin until further into the Autumn term or beyond, please wait and submit your Statement of Commitment to us at a later date, when you feel ready to commence your journey. 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.

Statement of Impact

We granted a 9-month extension on Statement of Impact deadlines for settings currently in the middle of their Artsmark journey who had submitted their Statement of Commitment before schools closed. This extension was offered to acknowledge the disruption and impact of school closure on your plans, and to allow some time for your school to recover once fully returned. We contacted all settings who were eligible for this extension on **13 May 2020** 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.

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

On **13 May 2020** we granted an award extension to 1 January 2021 for awarded settings whose existing Artsmark award was due to expire **before December 2020**. This was to acknowledge that while our registrations were closed for a short period, some awarded settings were not able to re-register and maintain engagement with Artsmark during this period. The extension allows time for those settings with upcoming expiry dates to re-register while managing the return of their school during the Autumn term, before their award expires.

Please note that if you were granted an extension to your Artsmark award, re-opening of registrations will not impact your award extension. Your current award will remain valid until 1 January 2021 but you can re-register at any time. Settings with an existing award expiry date of 2021 and beyond remain unaffected by registration closures and can re-register when ready. We encourage all settings to re-register for Artsmark before their award expires if they can. Registrations are now open! [Re-register for Artsmark here.](#)

Our award expires before December 2020 but we re-registered for Artsmark before registrations closed. Why hasn't our current award been extended?

Our award extension applied to settings whose award expired before December 2020 and who had not yet managed to re-register for Artsmark before we closed registrations on 29 March 2020. This was to support settings who have not been able to re-register for Artsmark while our registrations have been closed.

If you had already re-registered for Artsmark, congratulations! You can begin to embark on your new Artsmark journey. When you submit your Statement of Commitment to us for your new journey, you will receive your 'Working Towards Artsmark' logo which will replace your Artsmark Award logo once it expires.

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

Our offices are currently closed so unfortunately, we are not able to send out certificates or plaques at this time. We will deal with any outstanding certificates or plaques orders as soon as our offices re-open. For details on when this will be, please stay up to date by visiting our Coronavirus Update website page. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused by the delay and will endeavour to get your certificate to you as soon as we are able.

Help and Support

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

If you have questions regarding extensions or registrations, 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 Facebook so be sure to follow us on social media for the latest updates.