



You are... a Youth Offending Team or Service

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 **Youth Offending Teams & Services**, 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 an open, **flexible framework** that is **adaptable** to specialist and alternative settings enabling them to champion arts, culture and creativity, and Youth Offending settings are no exception.

Artsmark can help you to develop arts-based offers that are engaging and productive for the young people you work with, in particular:

- as part of crime prevention programmes
- supporting supervision of young people serving a community sentence

Artsmark can support you in your provision of high-quality opportunities that enable the young people you work with to find creative outlets for **personal expression** and take a lead on their own development within your programmes. Artsmark is particularly effective in Youth Offending settings in supporting and respecting **youth voice** and offering creative approaches to represent and articulate young people's own issues and challenges.



Your Youth Offending 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

We understand that with the absence of a formal curriculum, the ways in which you embed arts and creativity will differ from mainstream settings. We know that arts-based approaches will be led primarily by the individual needs of your young people rather than linking to an overall pedagogy.



“ We aimed to develop and deliver an arts offer that is part of the day-to-day fabric of how we approach things. Using the Artsmark journey as a mechanism to achieve this provided a benchmark of standards and ideas, that align with our aspirations for young people. ”

Sandwell Youth Offending Team

We support the adaption of this criterion to incorporate creative approaches and the provision of arts opportunities as part of preventative interventions, reflective opportunities and outlets for personal growth.

Our assessment will take into consideration that strategic integration of the Arts in your setting will relate more closely to therapeutic and reflective outcomes for young people than to curriculum-based learning.

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 the diverse needs and challenges of your young people.

Your CPD offer may incorporate the development of knowledge, skills and expertise in arts and cultural education, but only where it is useful and relevant to the progression of young people in your settings.

Our assessment will take into account that use of the Arts in Youth Offending settings may not always be the key driver in CPD provision.

Partnerships

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

We appreciate that the scope to build relationships and form local partnerships with a wide range of external organisations could be more limited for your setting considering:

- the range of arts organisations with appropriate expertise and track record may be more limited, particularly in your immediate locale
- visits, workshops and other opportunities through partnerships will be offered where relevant and amenable to the cohort of young people you are working

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.



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.



“As a Youth Offending Service, we were looking for creative ways to more effectively engage young people. Our Artsmark journey has been crucial in helping shape our thinking, give us new ideas and a sense of purpose.”

Sandwell Youth Offending Team



Your next steps

Arts, culture and creativity can have a transformative effect on young people's development and expression within Youth Offending settings. 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

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 [Self-Assessment 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 always available on our [website](#).

Your Bridge organisation

Your regional Bridge organisation offers ongoing support throughout your Artsmark journey, including 1-to-1 support sessions and practical resources. Your Bridge can also help you to connect with other Artsmark settings and with your local network of leading cultural organisations, including our Artsmark Partners.

Find your local [Bridge organisation here](#).

Artsmark Partners

Artsmark Partners are our network of arts and cultural organisations that understand the Artsmark criteria and can support schools and education settings on their Artsmark journey.

Find your local [Artsmark Partners here](#).

Contact us

If you have any questions or require further information and guidance, visit our website www.artsmark.org.uk or email us: artsmark@arts council.org.uk

“Young people take pride in their involvement with Artsmark, which fits perfectly with our desistance based approach to interventions.”

Southampton Youth Offending Team