

# Artsmark Development Training - preparation toolkit

Exercises to prepare you  
for starting your Artsmark  
journey



# Context

Your first step after registering for Artsmark is to attend an Artsmark Development Training. However, as we are currently unable to deliver Development Days during the Covid-19 outbreak, we have created this toolkit as a starting point for those schools keen to start their journey.

This toolkit will support you to:

- » Clarify your motivation for becoming an Artsmark school
- » Map your current arts and cultural provision
- » Identify key priorities in your school improvement plan which Artsmark could support
- » Using the self assessment framework, identify your current strengths and areas for development

There are five main activities with a further three supplementary activities. We suggest that you work through this toolkit with other members of school staff where possible.

# Activity 1

## Why are we doing Artsmark?

Take time to reflect for a couple of minutes on this question, and, in no more than 20 words, complete the following...

We are doing Artsmark because....

If you are working in a pair or a group, do this independently first and then compare notes.

# Activity 2

What types of activity do our pupils do at the moment?

Look at the words listed. How, when and where can a young person in your school take part in each of these activities?

Map your current arts provision using these prompts. Once mapped, complete the template provided on the next page.

Include activity in and out of school hours.

**Create**

**Compose**

**Perform**

**Visit**

**Experience**

**Participate**

**Know**

**Understand**

**Evaluate**

**Reflect**

Consider what is included in your current arts and culture provision. There are the 'traditional' art forms such as drama, art and design, music and dance; you may also offer creative writing, photography, film, animation, DT, coding, architecture, engineering and other activities that come under this creative umbrella.

What do you notice? Where are the strengths and where would you like to do more? Highlight those areas. Look at what you wrote in Activity 1. Are there any connections?

How and when do young people at your school have the opportunity to:

	<b>In school hours</b>	<b>Out of school hours</b>
Create		
Compose		
Perform		
Visit		
Experience		
Participate		
Know		
Understand		
Reflect		
Evaluate		

# Activity 3

## School Improvement Priorities

Look at your school improvement plan and the Artsmark Self Assessment Framework.

Identify 2-3 key priorities that the Artsmark award could support. How and why?

You might find it useful to complete this template for each priority.

School Improvement Plan priority identified:	
Timescale:	
What will the success criteria be?	
What will the impact be?	
How/why will Artsmark support this?	

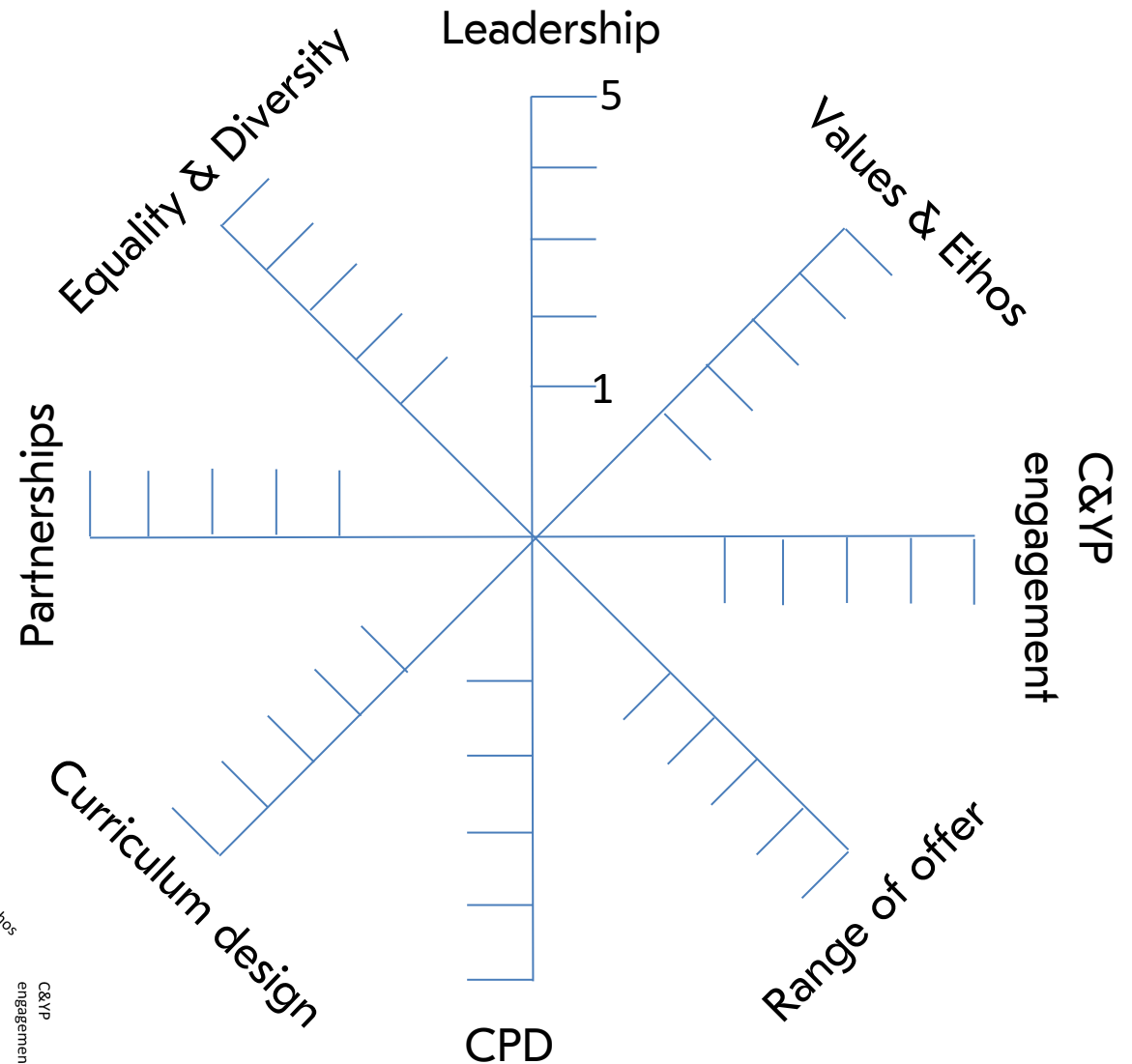
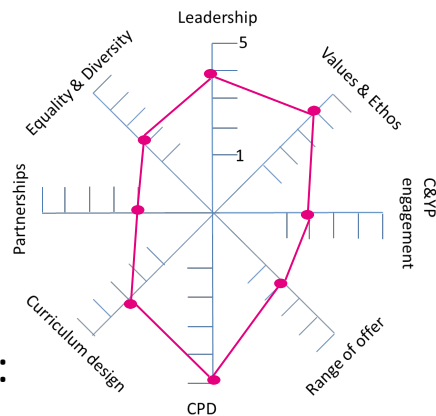
# Activity 4

## Artsmark Self-Assessment Framework

The self-assessment framework will be an important document throughout the Artsmark process.

Review the framework. Using the template provided, rate your provision out of 5 (1 being low, 5 being high)

Example:



# Activity 5

## Identifying our Artsmark goals

Draw together these strands:

- » Areas for development identified in Activity 2 (provision mapping)
- » School improvement priorities identified in Activity 3
- » Criteria in the self-assessment framework that you would prioritise for development (Activity 4)

Identify two or three overarching goals for your Artsmark journey.

Summarise each of your goals in no more than 12 words.

Goal 1	
Goal 2	
Goal 3	



Use this template to note which area for development, school improvement priority and self assessment framework criteria each goal addresses

	Area for development	School improvement priority	Self assessment framework criteria
Goal 1			
Goal 2			
Goal 3			

## **Extension activities**

**We have created three further activities. You may wish to explore these if you have more time to dedicate to your Artsmark journey preparation now.**

# Activity 6

## Artsmark and our school values

Look at your school values; consider your mission statement, motto, head teacher's welcome, and art policies.

What role do arts and culture play?

Now look at the map you made in Activity 2.

What value can you give to the activities and opportunities you have written down?

You could consider:

- » Skills
- » Behaviours
- » Wellbeing
- » Confidence
- » Inclusion
- » Career pathways

# Activity 7

## Arts Council's Quality Principles

Look at the [Quality Principles](#). Make notes about how you could use these principles...

- » As criteria for success
- » As part of a monitoring and evaluation framework
- » As a guide to documenting your journey and evidencing impact

- » Striving for excellence and innovation
- » Being authentic
- » Being exciting, inspiring and engaging
- » Ensuring a positive and inclusive experience
- » Actively involving children and young people
- » Enabling personal progression
- » Developing belonging and ownership

[CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR QUALITY PRINCIPLES RESOURCE](#)



# Activity 8

## Find your allies

Identify who in your school will be key to your success.

Which other schools in your borough might you be able to work with?

What organisations might be able to support your journey?

Look at the list of schools registered for Artsmark on [A New Direction's website](#).

Which of the schools listed could act as 'buddies' or critical friends for your Artsmark journey?

Use our online directory of arts and cultural organisations, [Look Up](#), to discover local organisations who could support you. Artsmark Partners are organisations who have been trained to support Artsmark schools and are indicated with this logo:



# And finally...

When we start delivering Development Days again, you will be able to share your ideas and selections with other Artsmark schools. You will also create a more detailed action plan and begin to draft your Statement of Commitment.

*If your school is not already registered for Artsmark, you will need to do this before you are able to book a Development Training. Register at [artsmark.org.uk](https://artsmark.org.uk)*



## **Support for Artsmark schools:**

- » [1:1 telephone support](#) in developing your offer, guidance on delivery and detailed feedback on paperwork
- » [Face to face support surgeries](#) held throughout the year
- » [Practical online resources](#) and supporting documents
- » Opportunities to connect with leading cultural organisations via [LookUp](#)

**A New Direction is a London-based non-profit, generating opportunities for children and young people to unlock their creativity.**

We work with schools, the cultural sector, local authorities and a range of other partners to support children and young people to be creative and experience culture, while identifying areas of inequality and campaigning for policy change.

Our core values are **equity**, **creativity**, and **trust**.

**[anewdirection.org.uk](https://anewdirection.org.uk)**

**@A\_New\_Direction**