

St Giles' School, Derby Artsmark Case study

St Giles' is the only Primary Special School in Derby City, and the first school in the East Midlands to achieve the new Artsmark award twice. Their motto 'Inspire and Achieve through Creativity' permeates the whole school ethos and underpins their long terms aims for ALL their children.

St Giles' has 12 classes of children with Moderate Learning Disabilities (MLD), Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) and some specialist Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) classes. The school is the first school in the East Midlands to achieve the new Artsmark Award twice, progressing from a Silver to a Gold Award – showing great commitment to developing the quality and number of creative opportunities their children, families and staff are able to access through. They successfully achieved their Gold Artsmark Award in November 2019.

During their Artsmark programme St Giles' has built strong partnerships, including the Derby Cultural Education Partnership 'This is Derby'. The partnerships have allowed pupils lots of opportunities to engage in a variety of inspiring and exciting creative projects, working alongside arts professionals, such as drama specialists from 'Hubbub Theatre' and musicians from the 'Sinfonia Viva' orchestra. These organisations have taken root in school and delivered many sessions, which have had a huge impact on progress and engagement levels in Music, Drama and Dance as well as showcasing best practice for staff to learn from.

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Pupils have also had regular opportunities to showcase their work and talents in multi-sensory 'Time to Shine' assemblies, school productions and out in the community. For example, they were the only special needs choir taking part in the Derby Christmas choir performance at a local shopping centre, and used Makaton signing so that all pupils (including non-verbal children) could participate if they wanted to.

Through their Artsmark programme the school has developed a committed and enthusiastic arts curriculum team who have worked together to audit provision, develop action plans, and evaluate their success. As a result, a broad and balanced arts curriculum is now in place and the school has seen measurable effects on their pupils' achievement in the Arts, as well as on their self-confidence and self-esteem – including seeing a positive impact and improvement for 95.5 % of pupils self-esteem over the last year.

In schools, in communities and in workplaces across the East Midlands, **The Mighty Creatives** create and support inspiring and vital opportunities for children and young people to be creative.

