

Statement of Commitment Top Tips and Guidance

This guide has been produced to provide a few helpful prompts and suggestions to support the completion of your Statement of Commitment.

Complete the Statement of Commitment once you have attended a Development Day. There are six questions which are designed to summarise your current and future commitment to developing arts and culture within your school or setting, and a 'context' box which allows you to give some background information about your setting. This Statement of Commitment will be the foundation of your Artsmark journey and should show a direct link between your setting's arts planning and provision and long-term strategy and vision.

Make sure you consider the [Self-Assessment framework](#) before filling in your Statement of Commitment. You should submit your Statement of Commitment to Arts Council England within three months of attending the Development Day.

If you need any support, contact us via artsmark@themightycreatives.com. Check out [our website](#) for resources, case studies, tools and guidance for completing your Statement of Commitment and your Artsmark journey more generally.

Before you submit

- Arts Council England will have emailed you a unique link to upload and submit your final Statement of Commitment. If you have not yet received this, email artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk
- Complete your Statement of Commitment form on the Word template supplied (this can be found on the Arts Council website [here](#)).
- Once you are ready to submit, click the link in the email from Arts Council. You will then be able to copy your answers into their online form. **See page 6 of this document for more information about submitting your Statement of Commitment.**
- Ensure you are submitting from a final version of your Statement of Commitment – you will not be able to leave and go back to the online form once you've started.

Top Tips for completing your form

- Don't forget to include your school name AND your DfE number (make sure you have this to hand when you're submitting)
- Remember, you'll only be able to include free text only (no tables, diagrams or images, hyperlinks, additional evidence documents or appendices.)
- Read all the questions first (use your word limits for each question wisely!)



- The new Arts Council submission system will not let you go over the word limits set for each question.
- Question 3 might be a good place to start (then feed into Question 1)
- Remember, this document will be read with your Statement of Impact at the end of the process.
- Having a mixture of qualitative and quantifiable measurements will make both your Statement of Commitment and your Statement of Impact (SOI) stronger. Should you need to pass the writing of the SOI Artsmark on to a colleague they will know exactly what the impact is being measured against.
- A good question to ask after each area for development is “So What?”. For example: 'improve a teacher’s subject knowledge' - so what? What do you implicitly hope this will result in? Make it explicit.

Statement of Commitment – Guidance notes for each question

Context

Describe the context of your school or education setting (for example your phase of education, establishment type, location, number on roll and so on).

This will give the Artsmark assessors an overview into your specific setting. Do not use this to answer any of the questions below.

Describe the demographic of your school; mention here if you are part of a Trust, a MAT, or a particular cluster.

Question 1

How do arts and culture currently play a role within your setting’s strategic values?

Guidance questions to consider:

- What is the importance and value of the arts to your school, the curriculum and to child development (principle)
- How do the arts support your school values? How do the Quality Principles align with your school values?
- Think about the impact of the arts you have seen on your young people, and its impact on teaching and learning (pedagogy)

Having already worked on question 3 and considered the self-assessment framework describe:

- What is strong about your current provision with some generic examples?

Question 2

How and why will your Artsmark journey contribute to the priorities in your strategic improvement plan?

Guidance questions to consider:

- How do the arts feature in your SIP? If they do not, how will they?
- What school improvement priority or priorities can Artsmark support?
- In what ways will Artsmark do so? i.e. how can using the Artsmark framework (self-assessment criteria and Quality Principles) to address school development?
- What key change are you looking for and how will your future plans support that?

Question 3

Looking at the Artsmark Award criteria, where does your setting currently have strengths and where would you like to develop?

This question asks you to consider, across the different self-assessment criteria, where your school is now. Looking across the criteria, this might help you identify what level you are currently and what level you want to work towards.

- This assessment should clarify where your strengths lie and in which areas you want to develop your arts and cultural provision.
- Addressing each criteria, map the level you are working at, i.e. silver working towards gold. Use a sentence or so on each giving your best examples to explain your assessment.
- This will be very useful for your final Statement of Impact when you can cross reference your starting point and end stage against each criteria.
- Have you been able to work with all the staff to audit the provision across the school?
- Similarly, have you been able to work with young people to find their views on the value of the arts in school and areas they would wish to develop?



Top Tip!

Have you visited the online Statement of Commitment course on our TMC learning platform? It has short video guidance for each question on the form. The learning platform also has a course on completing your Statement of Impact, for when you're ready to do so. You can access it whenever is convenient for you and as many times as you want to.

Visit <https://the-mighty-creatives.teachable.com/> to find out more.

Question 4

What are the goals and ambitions for your Artsmark journey and what steps will you take to achieve these?

Artsmark is a forward looking programme. This question asks you to create a broad action plan based upon your school development needs. Your response should be free text, NOT in a table.

- In using the Self-Assessment framework you will have identified the key areas that you want to develop, i.e. strengthening young people's engagement; and embedding the arts more fully in curriculum design....
- What are the stages you need to undertake to explore success against these key areas? Clearly identify each activity as part of this question.
- For your own use, and as a working document, it will be useful to identify what the activity is, who is leading on it, what change you are looking for, how the impact will be measured and evidenced, and to allocate timescales for the activities.
- Remember that undertaking Artsmark supports staff and young people to reflect upon the impact arts can make on teaching, learning and upon the school community. Build time in for reflection at key points.
- Ensure the action plan is achievable (and identify those key areas you want to and are able to measure for impact)
- Quality Principles – you will have considered the quality principles and how they could support your plans at your development day. Include references to which quality principles support and align with your plans.

This question will allow you to create an overall plan, but you might want to create a more detailed Action Plan for your Artsmark journey.

Question 5

What support will you need and what resources will you commit to achieve your goals and ambitions?

This question enables the school to identify what needs to be put in place and resources allocated to support your action plan.

- List the support required and map this against each generic activity.
- As Artsmark provides a framework for quality arts provision and this requires time for reflection across the school, then stake out a claim for reflection time - for the arts team, for the students, for the staff and any other participants.

Question 6

How will you know you have achieved your goals and ambitions? What will success look like and how will you evidence it in your Statement of Impact?

Consider the key aims and objectives you have identified in the above questions think about:

- What overall change are you hoping to see?
- What key areas are you focusing on and what does success look, feel and sound like?
- What kind of evidence do you need to see to know if you have made a difference? (When will you collect this and who will be involved?)
- How and when will you analyse your evidence?

Submitting your Statement of Commitment

The next page contains all the information you need to submit your Statement of Commitment...



Artsmark Submission Guidance

Applies from 6 September 2021

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| 1. | <p>Download the Word template Statement of Commitment or Statement of Impact from our website. Read our Statement of Commitment guidance and Statement of Impact guidance resources to help you. We've recently updated our guidance recognising the impact Covid-19 may have on your plans.</p> |
| | <p><i>Remember, the Artsmark framework is designed for whole school engagement, so make sure you have the support and involvement of your SLT and colleagues in preparing your submission.</i></p> |
| 2. | <p>Write and finalise your draft offline. Remember to keep within the word limit for each question and we can't accept additional evidence or information such as images, media, hyperlinks or weblinks.</p> |
| | <p><i>Don't forget, your regional Bridge organisation offers a range of support which we encourage you to access. They can help you in planning and writing your submission. Find your Bridge's contact details here.</i></p> |
| 3. | <p>Get approval from your Headteacher and Chair of Governors, or where those positions don't exist, persons with equivalent levels of responsibility. Once they have approved your finalised document, you are ready to submit online.</p> |
| | <p><i>Remember, we no longer accept submissions via email. You must use your unique web link (see below) to submit.</i></p> |
| 4. | <p>Access your unique web link. A unique submission web link will have been emailed to you. The link takes you to an online version of the Statement of Commitment or Statement of Impact, personalised for your setting, so please don't share your link externally. You'll see your setting name and DfE number have already been entered for you at the top of the online form.</p> |
| | <p><i>Can't find your link? Don't worry, we can resend your link on request if you've lost it, just email artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk</i></p> |
| 5. | <p>Copy and paste your answers to each question from your draft Word document into the online form. If you've exceeded the word count or included any media or graphics you won't be able to submit the form until these errors are corrected. Confirm your Headteacher and Chair of Governors' approval at the bottom of the form.</p> |
| | <p><i>Important: you can't save the online form and return to it, so make sure your prepared answers are complete before entering online.</i></p> |
| 6. | <p>Click Submit! You'll be redirected to a completion page confirming that your form has been submitted. We will send an email to confirm we've accepted your submission within <u>five working days</u>.</p> |