**The Mighty Creatives: Group Schools Offer 2022/2023**

This programme is an opportunity to develop strong strategic connections within a network of schools, support subject leadership development, encouraging greater collaboration, and building connectivity for future partnership working.

The Mighty Creatives invite you to apply for a bursary of **up to £2500** to fund a teacher within your school to act as a ‘Specialist Arts Lead’ across your network. This network can take the form of any group of schools including: Teaching Schools, Multi Academy Trusts, schools grouped together through geographical proximity, or schools with a specialist focus of provision.

The bursary is intended to pay for staff cover costs to enable the Specialist Arts Lead to have devoted time to develop arts provision across the network. Previous recipients have used this time in the following ways:

* To explore local arts provision. Devoted time away from the classroom has enabled schools to find out more about arts and cultural opportunities available in their local area, and how they can benefit from them.
* To co-ordinate meetings across the network. By coming together schools have been better able to pool resources including subject-specific training opportunities, access to visiting artists, sharing expertise, and organising large-scale events such as shared performances or exhibitions.
* To identify additional sources of funding. Arts Leads have used the time to access TMC’s support, as well as undertake their own research into potential funding opportunities to further develop arts provision in their schools. Recently this has enabled one group of schools from 2021/22 to successfully apply to Paul Hamlyn Foundation’s Teacher Development Fund.

[Artsmark](https://www.artsmark.org.uk/), [Arts Award](https://www.artsaward.org.uk/site/?id=64) and the development of school art policies are the main tools used to achieve this, and in turn can support schools taking part to improve their arts and cultural provision, strengthen leadership, and encourage greater peer support across their network.

In addition to the bursary, groups of schools involved in the programme will have access to:

* **Tailored briefings** on how Arts Award and Artsmark can benefit your group of schools, delivered to Senior Leadership Teams by The Mighty Creatives.
* **Arts Policy development** **workshop and support** to enable your schools to strengthen their arts and cultural offer and evidence a strategic commitment to offering a broad and rich curriculum (in line with changes to Ofsted’s Inspection Framework).
* **Project support and guidance** from our specialist cultural education team
* **Arts Award training** for up to 15 people from across your cluster
* **Artsmark Development Training** for a minimum of 5 schools – a bespoke visioning and planning day designed to meet your school development priorities.
* **Promotion** of your school group’s success through the development of case studies to be promoted throughout the East Midlands by The Mighty Creatives.
* **Peer support network** for your specialist arts lead who will be invited to link with other specialist arts leads in similar roles across the Group School Offer network to support their learning and development as an arts leader.

**Examples of how schools have benefitted from the programme:**

**David Ross Education Trust (group school status; Academy Trust)**

The David Ross Education Trust used the Group School Offer to train 6 teachers to become Discover & Explore Arts Award Advisors, and to enable 22 of their schools to start their Artsmark journey. Involvement in the two awards has directly impacted upon the enrichment team’s ability to meet their ambitions and strategic objectives.

*“The framework of the awards have been fundamental in the development of our arts provision”* Jamie Healy, Primary Enrichment Coordinator

The Trust has encouraged the schools that undertook both Artsmark and Arts Award programmes to provide their students with a breadth of high quality arts experience that best fit their individual strategic priorities as a school, with strong links to their school improvement plans.

**St Luke’s C of E Primary School and partners (group school status; geographical location)**

This network of small schools from the High Peak area of Derbyshire have an established history of working closely together across many areas of the curriculum. Involvement in the programme enabled them to focus on collaborative working across arts subjects as well. The schools wanted to explore how they could further their collaborative approaches to pooling resources, for example access to visiting artists, as well as sharing their own practice in one another’s schools and offering peer support. As a result of the programme, the schools continue to meet regularly to support one another, as well as programming CPD opportunities for staff led by internal and external professionals.

**Who can apply?**

This offer is open to schools in the East Midlands who:

* Can demonstrate an established relationship with a group of other schools (at least 5) who are committed to developing arts activity across their network.
* Can commit to at least 5 schools registering or re-registering with Artsmark by December 2022 and attending an Artsmark Development Training Day by Spring half term break 2023. To find out more about Artsmark [here](https://themightycreatives.com/what-we-do/programmes/artsmark/).
* Have support from their Senior Leadership Team or Governing Bodies for their involvement in this work.
* Have accessed pre-application support from The Mighty Creatives.
* Applications are welcome from schools and organisations throughout the East Midlands but are particularly sought from DfE Category 5 and 6 Local Area Districts (listed in FAQs below).

**Key Timeline and Milestones**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **10am Friday 27th May 2022** | Deadline for applications. |
| **8th June 2022** | Applicants informed of outcome. |
| **23rd June 2022 16.00 – 17.30** | Lead schools invited to attend a twilight online introduction and network meeting for all lead coordinators joining the programme. |
| **By end of Sept 2022** | Agree timetable of activity with TMC  Artsmark and Arts Award briefings for Senior Leadership Teams (delivered by TMC).  First grant payment (£1500) |
| **Autumn term 2022** | All schools register or re-register with Artsmark and attend/book onto Artsmark Development Training by December 2022. |
| **Spring term 2023** | Meetings with TMC Consultant to begin work on Arts Policy development.  Attend Arts Award training |
| **By 3rd March 2023** | Evaluation meeting with lead schools.  Final grant payment (£1000) |

**FAQs**

**Currently our network consists of less than 5 schools, but we should be able to recruit more interest over the new few months. Can I still apply?**

Due to the nature of this funding, it is a requirement that at least 5 schools are fully committed to the programme at the point of applying. If you are unable to demonstrate this commitment from at least 5 schools, it is unlikely that your application will be successful.

**We’re keen to develop an arts network but our schools aren’t in a position to do Artsmark at the moment. Can I still apply?**

Due to the nature of this funding, it is a requirement that at least 5 schools involved in the programme are fully committed to registering or re-registering with Artsmark by December 2022.

**We’ve applied for the Group School Offer before, can we apply again?**

We’re keen to ensure our funding reaches as many schools as possible, and to that end are likely to prioritise new groups of schools. However, former applicants are welcome to apply provided the programme will be supporting a new cohort of schools within their network.

**What are the Artsmark registration fees? Can the grant be used to support this?**

The Artsmark registration fee is £500, or £250 for schools with under 100 pupils. Grant funding cannot be used to pay for Artsmark registration fees.

**We work very closely with local arts organisations, can they be part of our group school network?**

A minimum of 5 schools must be part of every group. However, we are keen to encourage collaboration between schools and the cultural sector, and therefore welcome applications that demonstrate partnerships with local arts organisations.

**We may not be able to complete the programme by March 2023, will we be granted an extension?**

Due to the restrictions placed on TMC, all activity **must** be complete, and funding awarded, by March 2023.

**Do our pupils need to do Arts Award as part of the programme?**

Given the timeframe within which the Group School Programme must be complete, we do not expect *delivery* of Arts Award to take place before March 2023, only the training element. The Group School Offer is intended to strengthen collaborative working across an existing network of schools and help lay the foundations for arts and cultural activity to thrive into the future.

**Where are the DfE Category 5 and category 6 Local Area Districts?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **District Name** | **Upper-tier Local Authority** | **Category grouping** |
| Derby | Derby | 6 |
| Amber Valley | Derbyshire | 6 |
| Bolsover | Derbyshire | 6 |
| Chesterfield | Derbyshire | 6 |
| Erewash | Derbyshire | 6 |
| High Peak | Derbyshire | 6 |
| North East Derbyshire | Derbyshire | 6 |
| South Derbyshire | Derbyshire | 6 |
| South Holland | Lincolnshire | 6 |
| Corby | Northamptonshire | 6 |
| Daventry | Northamptonshire | 6 |
| East Northamptonshire | Northamptonshire | 6 |
| Kettering | Northamptonshire | 6 |
| Northampton | Northamptonshire | 6 |
| Wellingborough | Northamptonshire | 6 |
| Nottingham | Nottingham | 6 |
| Leicester | Leicester | 5 |
| East Lindsey | Lincolnshire | 5 |
| Lincoln | Lincolnshire | 5 |
| Ashfield | Nottinghamshire | 5 |
| Broxtowe | Nottinghamshire | 5 |
| Mansfield | Nottinghamshire | 5 |
| Newark and Sherwood | Nottinghamshire | 5 |

**Do we have to identify an Arts Specialist Lead in our application? Does this have to be a teacher in our school?**

Capacity to develop and manage new programmes of work is often cited as one of the barriers schools face. Therefore, the requirement to identify an individual who can devote time and energy to co-ordinating activity across the group of schools is essential to your application. Whilst it is ideal if this can be used as a development opportunity for an aspiring leader currently teaching within school, any individual can be named as the Arts Specialist Lead, provided they are well-placed to support schools across your network.

**What do I do next?**

If you’re interested in this offer, please get in touch for some pre-application support; contact the Artsmark team directly: [artsmark@themightycreatives.com](mailto:artsmark@themightycreatives.com) or by phone 07725 660 525. We advise you to look at application questions before we arrange a pre-application call so we can support any areas you are not sure about.

The Mighty Creatives will let you know the outcome of your application by email by Wednesday 8th June 2022.

The deadline for applications is **10am on Friday 27th May 2022.**

**You will need to apply using our online application form** [**here**](https://themightycreatives.com/group-school-offer-2021-2022-application-form/) **but here is a copy of the application questions for reference below.**

**Group School Offer Application Questions (for reference only)**

You will first be asked some for some basic contact information:

* Name
* Role
* Email
* Phone number
* Name of Lead School
* Address of Lead School

**Application questions**

1. **What is the nature of your group/network status?** i.e. a Teaching School, Multi Academy Trust, geographical relationship, or other.
2. **How would this offer support the development of your network of schools and what difference would this offer make to your network?** Please reference how it would support at both a strategic and practical level.
3. **How many schools will you be able to reach through your group / network?** Please list all these schools and confirm that which schools are committed to registering or re-registering with Artsmark by December 2022.*Please be aware there is a £500 registration fee for each school (£250 for small schools with under 100 pupils).*
4. **Would you like to take up the offer of free Arts Award training for your network/group of schools, and if so, why?** Please let us know if any ofyour schools currently have Arts Award advisers or deliver Arts Award already.
5. **Who will be your Arts Specialist Lead for the programme and how will this opportunity support their professional development?**
6. **What activity do you intend your Specialist Arts Lead to undertake as part of this programme?** *Please outline key activities and timeframes where possible.*

**If you have any questions about this programme or application process please contact** [**artsmark@themightycreatives.com**](mailto:artsmark@themightycreatives.com) **or call 07725 660525.**