



Artsmark
AWARDED BY ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Statement of Commitment

Application paperwork 1 of 2

Name of school/education setting	Portfields Primary School
DfE number	826/2002

Support

We are here if you need us

Use this template to draft and finalise your Statement of Commitment.

You must submit your Statement of Commitment **online** - we do not accept submissions by email. Please read our [Submission Guidance](#) for the steps to follow.

Download our [guidance](#) on how to complete your Statement of Commitment and get in touch with our national delivery partner, Goldsmiths, University of London, who is on hand to support you on your Artsmark journey.

Top Tips

- We expect settings to submit their Statement of Commitment within three months of attending Artsmark Development Training.
- We strongly recommend you use as much of the available word counts as possible when drafting your responses, to give us as much information as you can about the plans for your Artsmark journey.
- Our national delivery partner, Goldsmiths, University of London, is on hand to support you on your Artsmark journey. Visit our [Support and Resources](#) web pages to find out more.



Context – up to 150 words

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

Portfields Primary School is a community foundation school located in Newport Pagnell, a small town next to Milton Keynes. The school is a larger than average school with three to four form-entry per year group and approximately 580 pupils. Pupil numbers have reduced recently due to the ageing population in the town and a reduction in birth rates across the county. Approximately 70% of children live in the catchment of Portfields, with the remaining choosing our school as their preferred educational establishment.

Although the number of FSM and Minority Ethnic Groups are below National, there has been a significant rise in the last three years of 3.7% in both groups. This is more rapid than National figures of 1% increase in Ever 6 and 2.2% in minority ethnic groups. The number of children with an Educational Health Care Plan is above the National average



Question 1 – up to 500 words

How do arts and culture currently play a role within your setting's strategic values?
(Enter your answer here)

At Portfields, our vision for all stakeholders is to:

Connect

To deepen our positive relationships and partnerships with our Portfields School family and the local, national and global community.

Lead

To lead and innovate initiatives for exceptional educational and personal experiences where all members of the Portfields family take ownership of their learning.

Strengthen

Together, no challenge or situation is too big. We overcome obstacles by taking risks, supporting each other and building personal strength and resilience to face an ever-changing world.

Inspire

Our curriculum and enrichment opportunities inspire learners and nurture talents to create aspirational goals and unique lasting memories.

The arts and culture play a significant role in ensuring our strategic vision and values impact all stakeholders. We use the local, National and global community to **connect** our learning through the arts in our curriculum including the study of artists and musicians around the world, enrichment opportunities such as artist in residence and how we explore the different cultures through Language of the Term and the School of Sanctuary.

Innovative initiatives in the arts have enabled leaders, teachers and children to **lead** experiences such as the Age UK Art competition, Young Voices attendance for over 6 years and pupils engaging in the directing and stage management of our many productions such as Matilda and Joseph.

The arts are used to supplement the work of our mental health leaders to **strengthen** resilience and provide support for our pupils such as Art Therapy and in the weekly singing assembly, where children enjoy using song to start the week off in a positive way. Many pupils have grown in confidence and self-esteem when joining enrichment clubs such as performing arts, mosaic club and choir.

The school environment, curriculum and ethos **inspires** pupils to dream big and nurtures individual talents. In-house and National competitions are open to all pupils, many children have placed and received awards for their efforts. An example of a child dreaming big was joining our performing arts club, excelling in his role and inspired him to join an actor's agency to continue his dream.



Question 2 – up to 500 words

How and why will your Artsmark journey contribute to the priorities in your strategic improvement plan? *(Enter your answer here)*

One of our key strategic priorities is 'Portfields curriculum and enrichment is planned to deliver exceptional quality; pupils have access to a wide, rich set of experiences in a coherently planned way, opportunities for pupils to develop their talents and interests are of exceptional quality, and there is strong take-up by pupils.'

The pursuit of Artsmark accreditation is an important step for our school and closely aligns with our strategic improvement plan, particularly regarding our aim to provide an exceptional curriculum and enrichment programme. One of our key strategic priorities is ensuring that Portfields' curriculum and enrichment offer a broad and rich set of experiences for our pupils. The Artsmark journey plays a crucial role in helping us achieve this priority by enhancing the quality and diversity of our arts curriculum.

As we embark on our Artsmark journey, school leaders will have the opportunity to explore new and creative ways to plan arts opportunities. This process is designed to boost our pupils' confidence, skills, and engagement in the arts. By working

together and reflecting on our practices, we can identify creative pathways that not only meet the Artsmark framework requirements but also enrich our current offerings, creating a vibrant learning environment where students can truly explore their creative potential.

Additionally, achieving Artsmark accreditation gives us a framework for quality assurance in our curriculum. This accreditation demonstrates our commitment to high aspirations for all pupils, staff, and the wider community. Securing this award will reinforce our dedication to educational excellence, instilling pride among our school community and assuring parents and local organisations of our commitment to nurturing creativity.

The Artsmark journey paves the way for stronger connections with the local community. It encourages collaborations with local artists, cultural institutions, and creative organisations. These partnerships will expand our pupils' horizons, offering amazing opportunities for professional experiences and unique initiatives that inspire their artistic interests. We aim to position Portfields as a creative hub within our community, enriching not just our curriculum but also our relationships with local stakeholders.

Furthermore, the Artsmark initiative aligns perfectly with our goal of ensuring that every pupil has access to high-quality opportunities in the arts, promoting inclusivity and fairness. By showcasing our commitment to the arts, we highlight the importance of every student's talents and contributions, addressing the diverse backgrounds and needs of our student body.



Question 3 – up to 500 words

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

(Enter your answer here)

At Portfields, we have developed an ambitious and stimulating art curriculum designed to nurture creativity, self-expression, and a lifelong appreciation for the arts in all our pupils. Our bespoke scheme of learning provides regular opportunities for pupils to engage with the works of a diverse range of artists, craftmakers, designers, and architects from history to the present.

We believe variety is key to our arts programme. Pupils are encouraged to experiment with different media, from painting and sculpture to drawing and digital art, allowing them to express their artistic voices. Sharing their work with the community is an important aspect of our ethos, highlighted by our first art exhibition that celebrated World Refugee Week. Every child across the school had the opportunity to display their artwork centred on the theme 'Our Home', which reflects both their creativity and empathy for global issues.

Cultural capital is woven into everything we do; with whole-school events such as our collaborative 'Pebble River' art installation and the art exhibition helping to foster a sense of community. Working with professional artists in residence, pupils

have created a mosaic and collaborated on graffiti projects, enhancing their practical skills while learning from experts in the field.

Cross-curricular opportunities further enrich our arts provision. Pupils have the chance to respond artistically to their learning, whether through creating artwork in English linked to literary texts or producing pieces in Religious Education that deepen their understanding of the world. Our staff engage in regular workshops at Oakgrove School to keep our artistic practices fresh and inspiring.

In addition to visual arts, we recognise that music plays a vital role in a well-rounded education. Our music curriculum, based on the KAPOWs scheme and aligned with the 2014 National Curriculum, aims to nurture a lifelong love of music in every child. We focus on fostering musical development, creativity, and confidence, equipping our pupils with the skills and knowledge they need to appreciate, participate in, and create music for years to come. We provide access to a range of instruments in a dedicated music room, creating a space that encourages musical exploration.

Pupils have numerous opportunities to perform, whether through Rock Steady concerts, the school choir at local churches, dancing during the annual Christmas light switch-on, or participating in Young Voices concerts. Our Performing Arts Club stages musicals at Stantonbury Theatre, and our youngest pupils get to shine in the EYFS Nativity.

As we look to the future, we are excited to further develop our arts curriculum by involving governors, parents, and other schools to share best practices. Our Portfields Passport will elevate this initiative by providing tailored opportunities for students to lead and shape their arts and cultural learning experiences, showcase their work, and take trips to galleries and theatres.



Question 4 – up to 500 words

What are the goals and ambitions for your Artsmark journey and what steps will you take to achieve these? *(Enter your answer here)*

Our goals for this journey are all about enriching our arts programme and strengthening our ties with the wider community. We believe that by taking concrete steps, we can create a thriving arts culture that truly reflects our school and the community around us.

One of our main aims is to build stronger connections with the wider community. We know that arts education really benefits when it is connected to local life. To achieve this, we will explore opportunities to engage with local artists and cultural organisations. Inviting more artists in residence will be a key part of this effort. By having practising artists work alongside us, our students can gain first-hand insights into their fields, inspiring their creativity and deepening their understanding of the arts.

We also plan to organise regular visits to exhibitions and galleries, making this a fundamental part of our arts curriculum. These outings will introduce our students

to a range of artistic styles and practices, helping them appreciate the arts on a broader scale. By partnering with local galleries and museums, we hope to create tailored visits that enhance our curriculum and bring art to life for our pupils.

Additionally, collaboration with other schools will be a vital step in our journey. We are looking forward to working with nearby schools on joint arts projects that can serve the whole community. By pooling resources and ideas, we can create engaging events that benefit students and the surrounding area. We will communicate with the town council about launching community arts initiatives that celebrate student artwork and introduces local talent.

Our "Portfields Passport" initiative will be enhanced to offer even more opportunities for students to showcase their creativity through performances, especially in English. This programme aims to boost confidence and encourage self-expression, allowing students to engage with various artistic forms, such as playscripts and poetry. Regular showcase events will enable pupils to share their talents and connect with one another in meaningful ways.

We are excited about exploring heritage and celebrating diversity by getting involved in local arts festivals, such as the Newport Pagnell Cultural and Literary festival. These events provide a fantastic platform for our students to perform and exhibit their work to a wider audience. We will encourage participation by arranging trips and workshops leading up to these festivals, ensuring our pupils feel prepared and confident to shine.



Question 5 – up to 500 words

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

(Enter your answer here)

To achieve our educational goals and ambitions effectively, it is important to put in place a solid framework for support and resources. This will help us improve the quality of our arts education and ensure that our students benefit from a well-rounded and enriching experience. Below are the essential support structures and resources we require to meet these objectives, particularly in relation to our commitment to the ArtsMark.

First, providing release time for our school leaders is essential. This dedicated time will give them the opportunity to focus on gathering evidence for the ArtsMark accreditation. This process involves extensive data collection and analysis, showcasing our dedication to high standards in arts education. By allowing this release time, we enable our leaders to refine our arts programme and ensure that all aspects of our curriculum receive the attention and resources they need.

It is also crucial to allocate time for regular meetings with the wider staff. This collaborative approach allows for contributions from everyone, helping to develop our arts initiatives. By encouraging all staff members to share their insights and expertise, we can build a more integrated and expansive arts programme. These discussions will lead to a more cohesive approach to arts education throughout the school.

A significant element in enhancing our arts curriculum involves budgeting for artist residencies and exciting educational trips. Inviting artists to work with our students provides them with invaluable hands-on experience and inspiration. Additionally, organising trips to galleries, performances, and exhibitions exposes our pupils to various art forms, ideas, and cultures. Such experiences are vital for nurturing their creativity and critical thinking skills, making dedicated funding for these activities essential.

We also need to ensure that our budget includes resources for both art and music. High-quality materials and instruments significantly impact our teaching effectiveness and the richness of our students' learning experiences. By committing financial resources to these areas, we can enhance both the quality and quantity of our provisions, ensuring that our students have access to the best tools for their artistic development.

Moreover, ongoing professional development is incredibly important. Specifically, continuous professional development (CPD) in music is vital for enhancing subject knowledge among staff. External CPD opportunities offered by the local council or specialist organisations can effectively fill knowledge gaps and equip teachers with innovative strategies and methodologies. Investing in staff development will ultimately lead to higher-quality teaching and a richer experience for our students.



Question 6 – up to 500 words

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?

(Enter your answer here)

Reaching our goals and ambitions in arts education is all about creating a vibrant and engaging environment where creativity can flourish. The indicators of success are several key factors that we will highlight in our Statement of Impact.

First and foremost, art should be a visible part of our school. We envision art reflected in every display, transforming our environment and making it an inspiring space for everyone. This initiative not only elevates the overall aesthetic of our school but also encourages both students and staff to take pride in their contributions. We will keep a record of these displays and gather feedback from our community to demonstrate our commitment to the arts.

The confidence and ability of our staff to teach the arts effectively will be a significant measure of success. It is essential for our staff's voice to reflect their skills and confidence. By providing ongoing professional development and collaborative planning opportunities, we can ensure that our educators feel well-equipped to inspire students. Testimonials, peer observations, and collaborative documents will serve as evidence of how well our teaching staff engages with the curriculum.

The enthusiasm of our pupils will also serve as a crucial indicator. When students are enjoying the arts and achieving excellent outcomes, it demonstrates that our arts programme is thriving. We will employ various assessment tools, including

performance evaluations and displays to showcase what our students are accomplishing. Participation rates in enrichment activities will also provide insight into the level of excitement surrounding arts education. High engagement will signify a strong culture of creativity within our school.

Additionally, the involvement of the whole school community—including parents, local residents, and governors—in the arts will further point to our overall success. We will host events that encourage collaboration, such as art exhibitions and creative workshops, allowing everyone to take part. Gathering feedback, attendance records, and community involvement will highlight how valued the arts are not just within our school but also within the wider community. Building supportive relationships with parents and governors will enhance resources and opportunities for our students.

In order to develop diversity and inclusion in the arts, evaluating how well different perspectives and backgrounds are represented in our offerings will be crucial. We will track participation from various demographic groups to identify both our achievements and areas that require improvement. This might involve incorporating even more diverse artistic traditions into our curriculum and inviting input from underrepresented communities.

Finally, creating an arts community among local schools is a fundamental goal for us. Collaboration with neighbouring institutions will help promote art-sharing initiatives and joint projects, celebrating creativity beyond our individual schools. We will keep records of these collaborative events and shared resources to demonstrate the partnerships being built through our dedication to arts education.

Approval

Click the box to agree to the statements and enter the name and date this was approved.

- x I confirm that I have read, approved and endorsed the Statement of Commitment and agree to oversee and support the Artsmark journey
- x I agree to the Artsmark Award [Terms and Conditions](#)

Headteacher Name: Sarah Folkard

Date: 13.1.2025

- x I confirm that I have read, approved and endorsed the Statement of Commitment and agree to oversee and support the Artsmark journey
- x I agree to the Artsmark Award [Terms and Conditions](#)

Chair of Governors Name: Rebecca Hook

Date: 13.1.2025

Checklist

Make sure you've checked the following before you submit online:

- x My answer to the Context question has no more than 150 words
- x My answers to Questions 1-6 have no more than 500 words each
- x I have not included any additional information or evidence such as images, media, hyperlinks, or web links in my answers
- x The Headteacher and Chair of Governors (or where these positions don't exist, persons of equivalent levels of responsibility) have approved this document.

Ready to submit?

You should submit your Statement of Commitment within **three months** of attending your Artsmark Development Training.

Once you've finalised your answers and have completed the checklist above, you are ready to [submit online](#). **We do not submissions by email.**

Copy and paste your answers into your online Statement of Commitment form using the unique web link we emailed to you. Can't find your link? Get in touch to request it by emailing artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk