



Artsmark
AWARDED BY ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Statement of Commitment

Application paperwork 1 of 2.

Name of school/education setting	Woodlane High School
DfE number	205 / 7153

Support

We are here if you need us.

Download our guidance on how to complete your Statement of Commitment:

<https://www.artsmark.org.uk/about/artsmark-award-document-downloads>

Get in touch with your Bridge organisation, who offer support throughout your Artsmark journey. Their details can be found online: <https://www.artsmark.org.uk/Bridge>



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).

Woodlane High School is a Secondary Special needs community school in West London. We currently have 105 pupils on roll and are keen to expand over the next few years and grow our school to share our outstanding practices with more children in the community. We also have a Medical and Mental health pathway which supports pupils in their academic and pastoral journey of integration into the main school or potential re-integration to mainstream provision. Every pupil has a tailored curriculum and we are fully inclusive in our approach to teaching and learning, enrichment and pastoral care.



Question 1 – up to 500 words How do arts and culture currently play a role within your setting's strategic values?

The outline of the plan above directly contributes to the raising of the profile of British values. Pupils get to elect representatives for Woodlane's Arts council and vote on themes that are offered, exploring the effects of a democratic process to reach a decision. This will also be in support of our annual Art theme day, where all pupils in the school take part in creative workshops experimenting with a wide range of materials inspired by various cultural influence and modern artist.

Pupils will get the opportunity to choose which workshops they can take part in and work as part of a team, getting to know pupils from different year groups and widening their social interactions, linking to the development of speech and language and communication needs of some of our pupils. We aim to widen this within the community through School performance and working with Art and drama practitioners in the local community.

We expect the Artsmark process to enhance the impact of our arts and cultural educational by helping all involved to:

- Develop the language and tools to think creatively
- Learn new skills
- Transfer skills to everyday situations
- Develop and share ideas that can be expanded upon
- Explore and experiment with original ideas
- Make exciting, challenging suggestions about answers or solutions to questions, problems or ideas
- Take risks in a supportive environment
- Feel at ease throughout the creative learning process
- See learning as fun and interactive
- Develop the school and grounds as a creative learning space.



Question 2 – up to 500 words

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

In our strategic improvement plan we are aiming to grow our school and raise our profile in the community as SEN leaders. We are using one of our strongest performing areas in the curriculum 'Art' to build our Arts council to develop a wider Arts culture within the school and beyond. We are looking to combine the creative skills and strategies to encourage Performing Arts and link this together with our already successful Art practises. We intend to liaise and work with community artists and practitioners to support us in our journey to raise our Arts culture and profile. We are also hopeful that our ideas for combining Art with performance to support our pupils in their communication e.g. Speech and Language and confidence, which is one of our key priorities as part of our School Improvement Plan.



Question 3 – up to 500 words

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

Woodlane is an Ofsted Outstanding school and we pride ourselves

Leadership –	Currently all staff take some responsibility in developing arts and culture in their own subject areas. Creative teaching and learning are an integral aspect of our Woodlane practice and can be seen across all areas of the curriculum.
Curriculum Design -	Teachers plan their own schemes of work and develop their 5 year plans separately, however through CPD, moderation and standardisation they come together to share best practice.
CPD-	More opportunities needed for in-house collaboration to develop skill sharing. We have already started working on this ensuring moderation is much more collaborative next academic year.
Pupil Engagement	Woodlane offers plenty of opportunities for school visits, performances and visitors to the school on theme days. Further investigation could be put in place for the development of an exhibition space and arranging visiting artists once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted
Range of offer	Woodlane can successfully demonstrate and evidence that pupils have access to a range of arts and cultural activities outside and within their community and locality. A drive of more work within the community and enrichment in the Arts will also be a focus this year.
Partnerships	Investigations and links to be made with local arts and culture providers. We have plans to work with the local community Theatre this year to further develop our relationships in the community.
Equality and diversity –	We celebrate Black History month each year and celebrate this via assemblies, displays, theme days and curriculum time.
Values and Ethos -	Art is highly valued at Woodlane and all pupils have access to art and have the opportunity to develop their skills over time.

Woodlane has moved from strength to strength with the visual arts and offers all our students the opportunity to pursue the full GCSE accreditation through the Edexcel exam board. The success of art at Woodlane demonstrates that the pupils who attend the school are highly receptive and responsive to a creative curriculum.

Planning and adaptation to cater for the individual needs of our pupils is one of the areas that I consider a strength within all subject areas. The arts provide students at Woodlane a level playing field where they can achieve outcomes in line with mainstream peers. Data proves that achievement in art consistently exceeds expected outcomes and this is accredited to the recognition of the learning styles of our pupils; kinaesthetic and visual. This knowledge is embedded in our teaching philosophy and is highly valued by all staff. We are constantly looking for ways to adapt our teaching and learning to create a more inclusive environment for all our learning styles and this is an area of expertise that can be shared within an Artsmark family.

An area of development is undoubtedly Performing Arts and we aim to offer all students the opportunity to experience and explore all aspects of this, from Drama, Dance and Music to circus skills, storytelling and voice acting. This will be imbedded into the curriculum and will become a permanent addition to the current curriculum we offer.



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?

- Raise the profile of our school and further celebrate the ‘Art culture’
- Enhance the performing arts aspect of our school
- Create and lead an Arts Council
- Performance
- Work with professionals in the industry
- Art theme day
- Work with local community

Addressing the gaps within the arts provision we offer, pupils will have the opportunity to experience dance, drama and music on a deeper level, with lessons and experiences embedded within the timetable.

Recognise the need for more structured collaboration / skill sharing sessions amongst TA and teaching staff to strengthen the delivery of the workshops and make sure that the end result demonstrates strong collaboration. Teaching assistants with specific experience/qualifications in the Arts will be given the opportunity to use their skills to enhance the experience of our students.



Question 5 – up to 500 words

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

- Overall funding for the Arts in the school,
- Investment in CPD,
- opportunities for whole school planning,
- utilisation of external expertise – technical or otherwise
- Allocated time in staff meetings to discuss plans and progress
- Fascinating timetable changes to allocated time for students to explore additional aspects of the Arts and prepare for a whole school performance.
- Guidance on building partnerships with outside organisations.



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)

We will have achieved our goals and ambitions when all aspects of the Arts are fully and permanently embedded into the school's ethos and philosophy.

Our student Arts council will allow pupils to be the driving force behind implementing changes and they will be consulted throughout our Artsmark journey; by having this pupil voice, which we consider an integral part of the process, it allows students to have a greater sense of ownership over what we are trying to achieve.

The staff and pupils will both recognise and be able to explain the impact our Artsmark journey has had on the school as a whole. There will be visual evidence around the school that demonstrates the strength of our progress with various pieces of art celebrating pupil's achievements.

Approval

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

I confirm that I have read, approved and endorsed the Statement of Commitment and agree to oversee and support the Artsmark journey

I agree to the Artsmark Award Terms and Conditions

(These are available online at artsmark.org.uk/terms-and-conditions)

Headteacher Name: Tim Heapy

Date: 20/07/21

I confirm that I have read, approved and endorsed the Statement of Commitment and agree to oversee and support the Artsmark journey

I agree to the Artsmark Award Terms and Conditions

(These are available online at artsmark.org.uk/terms-and-conditions)

Chair of Governors Name: Guy Vincent

Date: 20/07/21

Checklist

Make sure your Statement of Commitment is complete before you submit to us.

- My school/setting name is written at the top of this document
- My DfE number is at the top of this document and matches the one I registered with
- My answer to the Context question has no more than 150 words
- My answers to Questions 1-6 have no more than 500 words each
- The Headteacher and Chair of Governors have approved this document

Ready to submit?

You should submit your Statement of Commitment within **three months** of attending your Development Day training.

Email your Statement of Commitment as an attachment to artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk

We will confirm receipt within five working days.

