



Artsmark
AWARDED BY ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

16th July 2024

West Heath Primary School receives prestigious Artsmark Award

Pupils and staff at West Heath Primary School are celebrating after receiving a prestigious Gold Artsmark Award.

Artsmark is the only creative quality standard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England. It supports them to develop and celebrate arts and cultural education across the whole curriculum, bringing learning to life for children and young people.

To achieve their Artsmark Award, West Heath Primary School had to develop their arts and cultural provision to embed a broad and ambitious curriculum. This was achieved by creating an overall plan that was committed to and delivered across the whole school.

West Heath Primary School received professional support and training throughout their two years – 2022 to 2024 and developed partnerships with many professional companies like Birmingham Royal Ballet, Birmingham Hippodrome, Music Hub, Birmingham Arts School and many more.

'At West Heath Primary School, you have made a strong start to your Artsmark journey, with evidence of a great deal of joined up thinking and ensuring your efforts to boost arts rich learning pay off to maximum effect.' The Artsmark assessor commended West Heath Primary School on being particularly strong in the direct engagement with children and young people, using a range of different consultation opportunities to regularly get their feedback and demonstrate to them you are listening and responding. This approach led to the establishment of the KS2 dance team, begun as a means of addressing behavioural issues among girls in the playground. It is now using dance as a medium to strengthen cooperation and teamwork. You have also made great progress with regard to Values and Ethos across the school. Your Artsmark lead has been instrumental to this, helping to raise awareness, offer training and generally cement practice so that the arts are integrated as a real wraparound feature that runs through all school provision. A good example is your Creative Arts Playground, which is utilised both during playtime as well as community stay-and-play sessions after school. This means that students get to engage in creative activities for longer, fostering a sense of community and collaboration beyond regular school hours.'

On receiving the award, Mrs Hooper said: "We're extremely proud of achieving our Artsmark Gold Award. We are committed to delivering a high-quality arts and cultural education and we look forward to continue to grow with Artsmark."

Dr Darren Henley OBE, Chief Executive of the Arts Council, said:

"I would like to congratulate West Heath Primary School on their Artsmark Award. Becoming an Artsmark school demonstrates that through offering a broad, ambitious and creative curriculum, young people have the opportunity to develop character and resilience, increasing their knowledge, curiosity and skills that will remain with them through to adult life."



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About Artsmark

Artsmark is the only creative quality standard for schools and education settings. It can help unlock young people's potential, building their confidence, character, and resilience. Artsmark's clear and flexible framework can be used to embed creativity across the whole curriculum, address school improvement priorities and ensure every young person can access a diverse, high-quality cultural education.

Artsmark is open to primary, secondary, and special schools, pupil referral units, secure settings, youth offending teams, hospital schools and sixth form colleges. Artsmark is awarded at three levels; Silver, Gold and Platinum. www.artsmark.org.uk

About Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. From 2023 to 2026 we will invest over £467 million of public money from Government and an estimated £250 million from The National Lottery each year to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.

www.artscouncil.org.uk