



WELCOME TO ARTSMARK MONTHLY: ISSUE 1



Hello!

I'm Abi, Education Programme Manager at Festival Bridge. I look after our Artsmark programme - so if you've attended one of our Development Days, Support Sessions, or received feedback on a Statement of Commitment or Impact, chances are you've encountered me along the way!

So, welcome to the first edition of Artsmark Monthly. In lieu of our annual celebration event, we want to spotlight the amazing work our schools have been doing. I'll also be unpicking one of Arts Council England's seven *Quality Principles* each month and exploring how you might further incorporate them into your setting. February's focus is all about *Developing Belonging & Ownership*; I hope you enjoy reading!

ARTSMARK AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to:

- **Hillside Primary School in Ipswich**, part of the Active Learning Trust, for their first Silver Award
- **Samuel Ward Academy in Haverhill**, part of Unity Schools Partnership, for their Gold Award
- **Springwood High School in Kings Lynn**, part of West Norfolk Academy Trust, for their Gold Award
- **Castle School in Cambridge**, a SEND provision, for their Gold Award



QUALITY PRINCIPLES UNPICKED

Edition 1: Developing Belonging and Ownership

What does it mean?

This quality principle asks you to nurture and build pupils ownership and belonging in arts and cultural activities. You are being prompted to:

- review and plan opportunities to share the unique viewpoint of young people about activity they have or will be part of
- as a subject leader or governor, monitor what young people say about arts and culture in the curriculum
- think about how you provide space for children and young people to know that they are a member of the creative and cultural world and can make informed choices

How could it look in my school?

We see this principle in action where schools provide choice, autonomy, decision-making and creative responses. By taking the time to reflect and consider this with colleagues, you'll often find many examples of this already happening in your teaching practice, from classroom choices to school councils. Artsmark asks you to consider how to understand this work as an intent across your school's provision rather than ad-hoc chance. Feedback from pupils is useful to start developing this principle. It can solidly show that a student's opinion shapes their learning and can help them to realise their own interests and skill set which in turn will give them direction. Could this be a feature of your planning or embedded across your setting?

Being part of a project allows students to guide their own journey. Arts Award does this well, as its flexible framework allows participants to influence their experiences, and teachers to mould the content to a variety of ages, needs and skillsets. Decision making around art form or evidencing can reinforce that the work is owned by the student. Could

a project like this be part of your yearly offer or work towards a larger event in your calendar?

Councils are a popular choice as they place the student in a role of decision making and create a group dynamic. Councils bridge the gap between children and adults, showing that young voices are heard. When you're starting a group like this, consider representation so all students in your setting have a sense of belonging.

What next?

The Quality Principles aren't just a tick box list of things to achieve - each one is a progression and it's always possible to develop practice around each principle. So how will you develop belonging & ownership?

Look at your current provision, what you'd like to focus on and what you need to get there. Consider what the impact will be and how you could share this with others. This Quality Principle is closely linked to *Principle 4: Ensuring a positive and inclusive experience* and *Principle 5: Actively involving children and young people* so make sure your aims for *Belonging & Ownership* are clear.



SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOLS

These awarded schools have been able to develop belonging & ownership in their setting:

Sparhawk Infant | Norwich

Silver Artsmark Award

Sparhawk conducted pupil voice interviews with their children to better understand their interests and passions. Their focused teaching in these areas then see the pupils using the appropriate terminology and vocabulary.

Ken Stimpson Community School | Peterborough

Gold Artsmark Award

Ken Stimpson pupils are given space for feedback through the student council and class discussions and more formal questionnaires. These activities then influence curriculum change and opportunities offered which might not have been considered. Regular career workshops and advice has seen an uptake in pupils following Arts careers through different routes.

Chantry Academy | Ipswich

Platinum Artsmark Award

Chantry Academy has Student Arts Leaders at all key stages to support delivery of arts and whole school projects including SMSC, and also support a number of primary schools. The Arts have been placed centrally to students' first interaction with the school, which reinforces their commitment to a breadth of Arts opportunities.



DON'T MISS OUT

You can find all of our upcoming virtual [Development Days](#) and [Support Sessions](#) for all stages of the Artsmark journey on our website. Get in touch with any query, big or small, via bridge@nffestival.org.uk.

Looking for an organisation to partner with to improve your provision or work collaboratively with to share expertise? Check out our [Artsmark partner database](#).

Thanks for reading - see you next month for issue 2!



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