



WELCOME TO ARTSMARK MONTHLY



Hello again!

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

I sincerely hope that the Easter break isn't too much of a distant memory now and brought you some sunshine and time to relax. This month I am exploring **Quality Principle 2: Being Authentic**. It is an ideal time to consider those activities you may want to see take place towards the end of the Summer term or perhaps the new academic year and to make them real authentic quality arts and cultural experiences.

ARTSMARK AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to:

- **Newmarket Academy**, part of Unity Schools Partnership Trust, for their Silver Award
- **Heltwate School**, a SEND provision in Peterborough, for their Gold Award
- **The Round House Primary Academy**, in St Neots, Cambridgeshire, part of Diamond learning Partnerships, for their Silver Award



QUALITY PRINCIPLES UNPICKED

Quality Principle 2: Being Authentic

What does it mean?

To deliver authentic experiences there are many considerations, all of which ask; 'is it the genuine article?' In the words of the Arts Council England's [Cultural Education Challenge](#), we want to make sure that more children and young people can **create, compose, and perform**. We want every child to have the chance to **visit, experience and participate** in extraordinary work, and be able to **know more, understand more, and review** the experiences they've had. Let's break these 9 elements down into 3 key headings:

Practitioner

A specialist practitioner with a subject specialism is one of the best ways to provide authenticity. As a teacher or subject leader it is good to continue to develop your own creative practice. Working on individual projects with organisations, freelance practitioners, or having an artist in residence can inspire children and teachers alike. Children can see creative careers in action and it helps with laying the best foundations for progression in that subject.

Place

Being authentic means being exposed to real venues or cultural landmarks. This can mean going to a theatre, gallery, historic building or museum. We know that the last 12 months have deprived children of these experiences, and a virtual tour may be the closest they have got.

Resource

The authenticity of resource is a sensory experience in my mind; the smell of archived maps in the library; the sound of a professional jazz pianist; seeing a provoking painting exhibited; being in awe of a venue or cultural landmark or touching an artefact from the museum. These are the components that build children's cultural capital.

How could it look in my school?

To be authentic, you could ensure:

- Children create with real resources and budget is considered and prioritised for art consumables.
- Children see artwork in real life not just on the whiteboard or a printed copy.
- You work with your local library to connect with published authors, poets and illustrators.

- You work with museums to enquire how children will encounter genuine artefacts, while owing them the respect and care they need. Some museums create 'loan boxes' to bring the museum to your classroom.
- Teachers are artists in their own right (dancers, sculptures, painters, musicians, members of a choir...) and are encouraged to utilise these skills.
- Children are co-creators; they could work with a screenwriter to create the plot or stage directions for a play, or with an opera company to compose the lyrics for an aria.

What next?

A good starting point is knowing what budget you have for practitioners, places and resources. It is fine to have a wish list (don't we all?) but think about what authentic experiences you need to plan for across each Key Stage to ensure you have provided equal and inclusive experiences.

Don't forget to find out what skills, interests and passions already lie in your school community. This may mean asking in a local publication, or auditing staff and parents about themselves and their friends & family.

When you are authentic, you naturally create the best climate for additional Quality Principles such as **QP3: Being exciting, inspiring and engaging** and **QP6: Enabling personal progression**.



SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOLS

These awarded schools have been able to develop *Being Authentic* into their setting:

Nene Valley Primary School | Cambridgeshire

After losing a dance specialist teacher, a P.E. specialist was recruited, ensuring continued professional development and raising pupils' standards in dance, as well as teachers' confidence to deliver the new Darcey Bussell dance curriculum.

Silver Artsmark Award

Snap Community Primary School | Saxmundham

Highlights of the past two years include a KS2 visit to live music performances at *Latitude* Festival, author A. F. Harrold's visit, and the sourcing of ukuleles and violins despite funding pressures.

Gold Artsmark Award

Morley Memorial Primary School

External arts providers offered exciting input in assemblies, in some cases modelling ways of working that have doubled up as a form of teacher CPD.

Gold Artsmark Award

Sawtry Village Academy

Sawtry's *Meet the Professional* Programme and the opportunities for their students to take part in a workshop with a professional at their Club for Actors and Artists provides students with authentic experiences of promoting the Arts as a career of choice.

Gold Artsmark Award

Cliff Park Ormiston Academy

As well as a commitment to arts-rich pedagogies, the school has also invested in excellent facilities, including a printing press, ceramic kiln room, a Photoshop computer suite, a wood sprung dance floor, and a purpose-built drama studio, ensuring that students have experiences with industry standard resources.

Gold Artsmark Award

Thomas Wolsey Ormiston Academy | Ipswich

Regular 'Arts Days' bring in a variety of artists and organisations. Stop Gap Dance regularly come into the school, providing interaction with an authentic dance company, and also acting as an inspiration to disabled pupils.

Platinum Artsmark Award



DON'T MISS OUT

Artsmark Support

You can find all of our upcoming virtual **Development Training** (formerly 'Development Days') and **Support Sessions** for all stages of the Artsmark journey on our website.

Local Cultural Education Partnerships

If you don't know where to begin to find authentic arts and cultural providers than these networks are ideal. To find out more **visit the LCEP pages on our website** or contact us at **bridge@nnfestival.org.uk** to find out more about an LCEP near you.

Artsmark Partners

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 4!



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