

Artsmark Evidence: A Guide for Awarded Settings Re-registering for Artsmark

In your Artsmark Statement of Impact, you were asked for evidence of impact, not just immediate but over time. Being able to draw on a range of evidence strengthens your case and offers more than a purely anecdotal account of what took place.

As an awarded setting, what does the feedback you received last time tell you about the kind of evidence the assessors appreciated or were looking for?

Start by thinking about the evidence you provided in your previous cycle. What did you offer evidence about? You might consider these headings as well as others specific to your own Artsmark journey:

- Curriculum changes, e.g. embedding the arts, new curriculum design, range of offer
- Opportunities and events for your students and staff
- CPD
- Relationships with partners
- The sharing of practice
- Student voice
- Development of pedagogy
- The role of leaders, including governors
- Assessment and evaluation

Make a map or grid, noting the main themes along with the types of evidence you provided. Consider also:

- How was this evidence collected?
- How did it demonstrate fulfilment of the eight Artsmark criteria in the self-assessment framework?
- What was missing?
- Use separate columns or layers of tracing paper to complete this task

As you move into the next cycle, you are now in an ideal position to consider

- Your goals and ambitions
- The types of evidence that will demonstrate impact most effectively

- The relevance of this evidence to the eight criteria in the self-assessment framework
- The systems needed for capturing and storing evidence and the further value such a bank of evidence could have

In the document '[Generic Learning Outcomes Checklist](#)' (Arts Council England/[Inspiring Learning for All](#)), the following areas are assessed:

- Knowledge and understanding
- Skills
- Attitudes and values
- Enjoyment, inspiration, creativity
- Activity, behaviour, progression

This would serve you well as a framework for gathering evidence as would the Arts Council's [Quality Principles](#). These are some of the types of evidence you could use:

- Data (attainment/results, tracking data, attendance figures, data gleaned from surveys)
- Quotes and feedback (look for evidence of impact)
- Observations (by teachers, students, governors, assessors, advisers, partners)
- Surveys and questionnaires (to staff, students, parents etc.)
- Interviews and focus groups
- Work samples
- Documents (policies, statements, curriculum plans, minutes, planning documents)
- Website content (online galleries, podcasts, social media, newsletters)
- Photographs and film
- Mind maps

It's unlikely that you will recall everything you did over a two-year period without keeping a careful record. This could be in the form of an online portfolio, or a file of hard copies. Give some consideration about where it will live and how you will encourage colleagues to share responsibility for evidence-gathering.

Monitor the usefulness of the evidence you are gathering - against what you intended to measure and report back on - as you go along.

Thinking of its further value, how might you share the evidence you have collected with other members of the school community and beyond? Could you create a display or exhibition? Will you ensure that it remains available to all, not only as a useful resource for your next Artsmark journey but as a model of project management and a tool for reflection when planning INSET?

Tools and resources

Arts Council England

- Artsmark website: www.artsmark.org.uk (information and new blog posts)
- Your Artsmark Award document
- Quality Principles: www.artscouncil.org.uk/quality-metrics/quality-principles
- Generic Learning Outcomes Checklist (produced with Inspiring Learning for All): www.artscouncil.org.uk/measuring-outcomes/generic-learning-outcomes

Theory of Change

Theory of change is an approach to creating an outcomes framework and the means to achieving desired goals within your particular context: www.theoryofchange.org

A New Direction

- Artsmark Award on the A New Direction website: www.anewdirection.org.uk/what-we-do/artsmark
- Toolkits for the Artsmark Statement of Commitment and Statement of Impact: www.anewdirection.org.uk/artsmark-support