



Artsmark
AWARDED BY ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Statement of Commitment

Application paperwork 1 of 2.

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name of school/education setting | Bretherton Endowed CE Primary School |
| DfE number | 888/3386 |

Support

We are here if you need us.

Use this template to draft and finalise your Statement of Commitment.

Our submission process has changed. You must submit your Statement of Commitment **online** - [we no longer accept email submissions](#). Please read our [Submission Guidance](#) for the steps to follow.

Download our guidance on how to complete your Statement of Commitment: artsmark.org.uk/resources and get in touch with your [Bridge organisation](#), who offer support throughout your Artsmark journey.



Context – up to 150 words

Bretherton Endowed CE Primary School is a small rural school in the heart of the Lancashire countryside. We have 4 mixed age classes and currently have 111 children on roll. Our staff are experienced practitioners and we are fortunate to have a fantastic team of teaching assistants who support teaching and learning in all classes. We are located in a low deprivation area and are predominantly white British. 8% of our children have special educational needs, currently SEND support on the register with no EHCP plans at the moment. The number of children eligible for free school meals has risen over the last 12 months to 11%. We are an active school with a Daily Mile track and success in our cluster and local sporting small school competitions. We hold the 'Basic Skills' Award and have a large whole school choir who regularly performs in and out of school.



Question 1 – up to 500 words

How do arts and culture currently play a role within your setting's strategic values?

Our mission statement is 'Walking in the footsteps of Jesus within our Christian family, we learn, grow, achieve and flourish together in God's love.' We aim to live out our Christian values every day and encourage children to do this through being thoughtful, hard-working and compassionate members of our school family. It is a happy school which encourages children to celebrate their unique and special qualities through expression via various art forms. We have an active and enthusiastic Arts Council who not only support children throughout school, but suggest excellent activities and advancements for various age groups. They have enhanced public areas, designed interactive displays and inspired others via their assembly and discussions following their visit to Van Gogh Alive. We encourage creativity, leadership and, through pupil voice, develop children who are confident, purposeful and independent thinkers who are the change they want to see in the world. Taking the four key principles, arts and culture play an intrinsic role in our school. Linked to the arts and cultural provision in 'learn', we have a comprehensive and cohesive curriculum that is currently being updated with additional links to maximise children's understanding of diversity and different cultures from around the world. We want to ensure that our children have an understanding of what diversity and equality looks like to them as citizens of the world. We also offer breadth in subjects through regular visitors, trips, competitions, experiences, after school opportunities and community involvement. Pupils interact with talent shows, musical instrument performances and drama eagerly - our children visibly 'grow' in their understanding of themselves and their place in the world. We teach children how they can understand how *they* learn best, to develop a growth mindset, to be resilient and to be self-reflective. Children grow in confidence through these wide experiences to interact with different stakeholders both in and out of school and oracy is developed through public speaking, productions, assemblies and social interaction. Our children achieve academically, with equal focus on all subjects and a desire to foster and develop talents and introduce children to new opportunities and open the door of possibilities. Our staff think outside the box in delivering the curriculum and through topics, workshops, enrichment weeks such as arts, enterprise, wellbeing, friendship and careers week, our children can aim high and set aspirational goals.



Question 2 – up to 500 words

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

Our strategic improvement plan this year has a number of key connections with our work within the arts. Primarily, we wanted to increase staff confidence in teaching and progression in learning in foundation subjects and use the science of how children learn to maximise outcomes for children. The development of staff CPD in relation to how to develop art through school has started and this has already impacted on staff and pupil

confidence in the use of sketchbooks and small stepped development within art and design. We are looking to develop this further through CPD for staff on all aspects of the art and music curriculum. Within this was the focus on leadership. Leadership of school set high expectations on the breadth of our curriculum and the excellent progress of our children and this is expected in all subject areas. This cascades through our experienced and capable subject leader who is confidently leading the development of art both within and out of class. Through the embedding of Arts Ambassadors that were set up last year, children art leaders have shown their ability to lead whole school initiatives and inspire others, just as our subject leader has developed and inspired our teaching staff.

In addition, a key priority was embedding and enhancing explicit examples of diversity and equality within our curriculum and we are currently weaving in cultural diversity, both world and local examples within music, D & T, Art and Design and English so that in our predominantly white British school, our children have a real understanding of the diverse world that we live in and joy and appreciation for diversity in our society. Through our fifth development priority we have looked 'to foster the creative arts so that our children have the opportunity to see their talents in all aspects of school life. From drama, public speaking, debating, arts, design, and music by working towards the National Arts Mark, we aim to offer our children a diverse spectrum of opportunities to excel.' This has been a valuable focus in the 2021/2022 school year as we are coming out of a period of a national pandemic with lockdowns, restrictions, bubbles and home learning. Despite keeping a breadth of curriculum being taught within lockdowns, we know that our children have missed out on collaboration and creativity, and have been faced with additional stresses and mental health issues. By leading change through this priority we have been able to offer a suite of learning opportunities which extend beyond the classroom. This also links to our personal development priority of providing out of school clubs run by professionals or teachers in all subjects in the curriculum to allow for reconnection and enjoyment. Going forward, developing we will have a further focus our Art and Music curriculum content, continue to develop pupil leads and through developing local and national cultural capital for all children we will reduce opportunity gaps and maximise enjoyment, knowledge and skills throughout school.



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?

Our strengths:

- In striving for excellence, we ensure that our pupils have a great number of opportunities to experience, as well as participate in, the arts. Every class is involved in a class assembly involving singing, dancing, acting based on their curriculum topic and they take part in a key stage production every year. We have visiting actors/theatre and they provide acting masterclasses with all age groups. We offer

after-school clubs in acting, dance, choir, Brass, Art, craft club, digital and design and many more. Our pupils are exposed to live music in every class through our talented children performing in a talent show, visiting local brass bands and orchestra and trips to the Royal Philharmonic and annual theatre shows as a whole school.

- A passionate, knowledgeable, hardworking and inspirational Art and Design Lead in Lesley Hymers, our school can plan for and deliver high quality art outcomes in all years. Forward thinking to how we can continually improve, engage pupil voice and offering support and guidance to staff, we are able to make changes that impact on children quickly so that we are continuing to enhance provision.
- Our pupil voice group 'The Art Ambassadors' have been established for over 2 years and through their love and enjoyment of the arts, they plan, design, deliver and lead many art initiatives in school as well as experience high quality art. They look for art opportunities in our grounds through nature, in our community and in the wider world.
- Our well-established Arts week every 2 years is an inspirational driver to adults and children alike. Through careful planning, aspirational outcomes, quality visitors and opportunities and the experience of showing their work in a gallery, children are immersed in the knowledge and skills of being an artist.
- Utilising an external dance specialist to offer dance in and out of school
- Whole school choir, engagement with 50% of school and examples of high-quality performances

Areas that we are looking to develop are:

- Embedding our updated art and design curriculum through enhanced CPD for staff so that all aspects of art can be taught with clear learning intentions and progression. To maximise the links in our art curriculum to diversity for children and the use of chronology as a curriculum driver, to know how art in the past originated and how it changed and influenced the present.
- To roll out a new updated music curriculum which offers greater opportunity for individuality, child initiated and child led learning through school and which promotes a love and appreciation of music and technical skill and knowledge to enhance enjoyment. To increase the opportunities for children to play instruments and create and compose their own work. To experience high quality music both in and out of school which aims to lead to a lifelong appreciation.
- To further develop post lockdown connections in our community in developing art in school or sharing art within the community.



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?

Our high aspirational goals are that all children will leave Bretherton with a love and appreciation for a wide variety of art and culture through having experienced a variety of high quality professional and amateur artists, designers, performers and performances so that they can continue to be enriched as they further their education and beyond. We aspire that our children will be advocates of the arts, see the importance and the enrichment that the arts offers us in relation to wellbeing, the expressing of feeling and emotions, opportunities in personal development and enrichment so that the arts is viewed as a right for all rather than an offer for the few. We hope that our children can use their knowledge and skills in the arts to be kind, thoughtful, happy and self-regulated adults who have compassion and tolerance and respect for all. We hope some children will be inspired to consider future careers in the arts as well as understand how the arts can be an important and enriching part of their lives. We are only able to provide a stepping stone on this journey but our involvement in the ArtsMark will provide a clarity of progress and also a space for our gifted and talented pupils to shine. We intend to outline a calendar of CPD for staff with high quality external providers over a variety of art, design and music areas. For example, we have planned workshop style CPD for staff in relation to lino printing and sculpture. We are planning coaching in order to develop our use of sketchbooks throughout school. We will also strategically plan our trips, visitors, experiences and opportunities to ensure that we are offering breadth to all subject areas and which support progress not just in their own subject but can link to others e.g. cross curricular links in writing. Our subject leaders will embed our revised curriculum from September 2022, deliver training and support planning so they can monitor outcomes and reflect over the term on the content of diversity and a variety of cultures. Included in this will be a review of chronology and the history linked to art, design and music to support pupils understanding of the impact of the past on both the present and future. We intend to develop further community partnerships and collaborations including our local High School and Nurseries, so that we can share and inspire our community through the arts. We would like to introduce a pupil buddy system across the Key Stages to mutually inspire collaborative artworks and record these in sketchbooks, as well as open up links with Edge Hill University teacher trainees interested in the Arts.



Question 5 – up to 500 words

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

Bretherton school team is committed to meeting the goals and ambitions identified in our Action Plan to enhance our overall Arts provision. It is vital that every staff member has input into the process and that we collaborate effectively, identifying strengths and prioritising the arts experience for each teacher's class. We intend to meet and review the enhanced arts provision at regular intervals throughout the process of Arts Mark, gatekeeping to ensure delivery of the high-quality experiences set out. Some further support from the local community will be required when organising events and creating

village/external displays. We are lucky to have a very supportive network of parent helpers who will attend external events where needed. In order to foster relationships with other settings we will require time to visit them within the school day and for pupils to attend also. We would also ensure that time is dedicated to allow those settings to visit our school, led by our Arts Council pupils. As a school we are privileged to have staff who are passionate about building our Arts curriculum and who will engage in relevant CPD for this purpose. Teachers are eager to learn new techniques from experts and increase the profile of equality and diversity understanding amongst pupils. We will achieve this by attending Twilight sessions as well as sessions led by our local primary school group TarDis. Following our recent Arts Week, our school arts resources are plentiful and these will be reviewed regularly. We currently have a number of quality pencils and graphite available as well as wire-bound sketchbooks for each pupil. Our excellent Early Years provision includes a variety of mark-making materials and outdoor exploration for transient art which can be expanded further in the new school year. Our Art Box will be enhanced with the purchase of manikins and other items; this is currently part of the Art Action Plan 2022/23 and budgeted for. Furthering art links with both Music and Design & Technology we are looking to purchase some design applications for the school iPads at minimal cost and some small drums for group music sessions. We have an excellent PTFA group who hold fund-raising events for school resources and this can be utilised for coach trips and possible mini-bus use for our wide-reaching links. We also have a hugely supportive board of governors who will help identify any further needs of the provision throughout the process and connect us further with the community of parents and our local village.



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?

At Bretherton we feel we have a solid foundation of celebrating artistic expression. We will know we have achieved our goals and ambitions when we capitalise on this and ensure a wide range of artists are regularly covered, diversity is explored more thoroughly, children's interest is ignited by a variety of exciting arts experiences and they are more aware of employment opportunities in the industry. We also aim to achieve a greater understanding in pupils of the flow of their art education from Early Years to KS3 and how they can demonstrate improvement year on year. This will be evidenced through our collaborations with the local High School and nursery links. We also hope to enhance the development of our gifted and talented dance/drama pupils through the High School collaboration and larger group experiences of drama and musical theatre. Our range of offer will be broader and more closely in line with the needs of such pupils. We hope to also evidence a greater understanding of critical reflection of their own and others' artwork using sketchbooks as well as developing their project management experience which will be evidenced in the planning and production of collaborative endeavours. Pupil, parent and staff voice will allow

us to pinpoint the success of these activities and how pupils are more engaged with the arts generally and eager to participate. Blogs will help us to record all actions taken towards meeting our goals alongside a dedicated section of the school website and regular Twitter updates. Concrete evidence will be recorded in our A3 Art folder for outstanding work and photographic and video evidence maintained. We will record and promote any interactions with outside organisations and ensure meetings are minuted and progress is regularly reviewed. Success will also be evidenced through the ability of students to confidently talk about these experiences and share their enjoyment for learning within the arts with both their families and the wider school community. Our Statement of Impact will demonstrate a school environment at Bretherton that is a place for pupils to express themselves freely and via a variety of artistic methods of their choosing. Children will be much more aware of Arts on the International stage, understand more about diversity and have experienced employment opportunities within the industry. Through collaborations we hope they see how art can bring people of all ages together for a common expressive goal and develop a love and appreciation for the display of these artistic expressions through gallery exhibits and shows. Pupils will have enjoyed a much greater depth of experience in the Arts and be able to re-define their understanding of how 'Art' influences many aspects of their lives.

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: Alison Moxham

Date: 22.07.22

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Chair of Governors Name: Tommy Wilson

Date:

Checklist

Make sure you've checked the following before you submit online:

- 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
- I have not included any images, media, hyperlinks or weblinks in my answers
- The Headteacher and Chair of Governors (or where these positions don't exist, persons of equivalent levels of responsibility) have approved this document.

Ready to submit?

You should submit your Statement of Commitment within **three months** of attending your Artsmark Development Training.

Once you've finalised your answers and have completed the checklist above, you are ready to submit **online**. **We no longer accept submissions by email.** Copy and paste your answers into your online Statement of Commitment form using the unique web link we emailed to you. Can't find your link? Get in touch to request it by emailing

Artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk