



**Artsmark**  
AWARDED BY ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

# Statement of Commitment

<b>Name of school or education setting</b>	<b>St Anselm's Catholic Primary School</b>
<b>DfE number (seven digits)</b>	<b>310 /3501</b>

## Guidance

Fill in this Statement of Commitment once you have attended a Development Day. There are six questions which are designed to summarise your current and future commitment to developing arts and culture within your school or setting, and a 'context' box which allows you to give some background information about your setting. This Statement of Commitment will be the foundation of your Artsmark journey and should show a direct link between your setting's:

- arts planning and provision
- long-term strategy and vision

Make sure you consider our [Self-Assessment framework](#) before filling in this Statement of Commitment. We will only consider the information you have written in this document when assessing your submission, we cannot accept any hyperlinks, pictures, additional evidence documents or appendices. Your submission will be returned if your answers run over the word limits, you have not included your setting's name and DfE number, and the document is not signed.

You should send your Statement of Commitment to Arts Council England within one term of attending the Development Day. Please email your filled-in Statement of Commitment to Arts Council England at [artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk)

Or you can post a copy of it to:

Artsmark  
Arts Council England  
Brooklands  
24 Brooklands Avenue  
Cambridge  
CB2 8BU

If you need any help, you can look on our website at [artsmark.org.uk](http://artsmark.org.uk) or contact your local Bridge organisation. Our network of Bridge organisations are there to support you throughout your Artsmark journey. Find your local Bridge organisation on our website at [artsmark.org.uk/Bridge](http://artsmark.org.uk/Bridge)

---

## Context

Please describe the context of your school or education setting (for example, your phase of education, establishment type, location, number on roll and so on). This will give the Artsmark assessors an overview into your specific setting. Do not use this to answer any of the questions below. **Do not write more than 150 words.**

St Anselm's is a two form entry VA school in Harrow; it is oversubscribed and has a good reputation in the community and the Local Authority. The school deprivation indicator is broadly in line with the national average, with 422 pupils on roll and 45.73% having English as an additional language. 10.66% have SEN or a EHC plan, and 5.21% are known to be eligible for free school meals. The children enter the school with skills, knowledge and understanding in line with the National Averages. St Anselm's is part of the West Cluster of Extended Schools in Harrow and offers the core facilities for Extended Schools. The school has achieved FMSIS, National Healthy Schools Award, Extended Schools Core Offer, Rights Respecting School Award at Level 2 and has a Travel Plan (Gold Standard). The school was judged outstanding by Ofsted in March 2012.

---

## Question 1

Please explain the central importance of the arts to your setting, both in terms of principle (values/curriculum/developing the whole child) and pedagogically (effect on improving the quality of provision/teaching and raising standards). In your answer, refer to:

- current provision
- plans for future development of the arts

**Do not write more than 500 words.**

As a Catholic school our ethos is the basis of all that we do. We are passionate about our faith and our curriculum. The Gospel Values are at the heart of our curriculum and we are working collaboratively with local and national schools to develop a highly creative and innovative curriculum with our faith at the core. We have recently produced a stunning selection of artwork linked to our faith under the Diocese of Westminster focus of Adoramus.

We strongly believe that at St Anselm's the Arts are at the heart of an enriched curriculum. We currently provide a wealth of opportunities for children to develop socially, emotionally and culturally in their learning and believe they contribute positively to children's mental health. Not all children are academic and these children should be given multiple opportunities to shine in other areas such as the arts. We work collaboratively with Harrow Arts Centre and Harrow Music services and work alongside specialist artists who help to develop our practice and support the children in their learning.

St Anselm's has a strong reputation for music provision and each year children have opportunities to perform on stages both locally and nationally. This year our choir have performed at the local choir showcase and are looking forward to upcoming events such as the Choir Slam . We design our own creative showcase arts event at the end of the summer term and perform this to parents, governors and members of our local community.

We are looking forward to our Artsmark journey and recognise that this is an exciting opportunity at St Anselm's to include our enriched Arts Provision into the redesigning of our curriculum and ensure that the arts are at the heart of everything we do. Our curriculum is currently driven by a growth mindset incorporating the theories of SOLO Taxonomy. SOLO Taxonomy describes levels of increasing complexity in a child's understanding of a subject, through five stages. Each level embraces previous levels, but adds something more. SOLO Taxonomy helps pupils to understand the process of learning and focus on their strengths and areas for development. We believe that using this mindset will allow all pupils to achieve at their own level.

We are in the process of electing a pupil led arts council who will be the voice of the children and be fundamental in driving forward the arts within our curriculum. Pupil voice is an area that we are excited about further developing. Allowing pupils to help to design their own learning is creative and inspiring for all. Our new arts rich curriculum will be led by the children and supported by a creative team of arts leaders who will manage and promote arts provision within and in addition to the curriculum. We aim to then share our practice with other schools and arts organisations.

Our plans also include developing drama and dance throughout the curriculum with a strong focus on both of these areas. These areas allow children to express themselves in a creative way and will impact positively on behaviour and mental health.

(499)

---

## Question 2

Following on from your answer above, please describe how and why Artsmark will contribute to your strategic improvement plans. **Do not write more than 500 words.**

St Anselm's held an Artsmark Gold award up until recently. However, this has now expired; we are both proud of our continued commitment and provision of Arts teaching and we are eager to regain this status for our outstanding school. Following a close self-evaluation of our outstanding school, the senior leadership team and the arts leaders in the school have identified that some of our objectives on the school development plan could be met with an increased focus on the arts. For example one of our objectives for English is to increase the number of boys who achieve greater depth in writing. It has been identified that this could be down to lack of imagination and creativity so by creating an arts rich curriculum fuelled by art, music, dance and drama, this could have a positive impact on writing outcomes. We know that children who can express themselves in dance and drama feel more confident and positive about their writing.

We are committed to the arts as a means of providing a positive and inclusive experience for all and know that our increased focus and our art rich curriculum will impact positively on children's mental health as well as having a positive effect on pupils' attainment across the curriculum.

We plan to attach a specifically named arts governor who will work collaboratively with our arts leaders and our newly elected arts council to drive forward our objectives from our school development plan.

Our school development plan identifies gaps in the teaching of dance and drama. We believe Artsmark journey will help us to facilitate success in these highlighted areas by ensuring pupils are confident, have a high self-esteem and a mind-set that enables them to take risks.

Another priority is to establish greater pupil voice in terms of the arts in order to allow for pupil ownership of the curriculum. Allowing the children to explore a range of concepts and take ownership of learning within a topic whilst linked to the curriculum is paramount in our plans. The Artsmark journey will help us to review our current provision and ensure that our pupil led arts council will further strengthen our pupil voice.

**(343)**

**Question 3**

Please set out your setting's strengths and areas for development in relation to the eight Artsmark Award criteria, as explained in the Self-Assessment framework. **Do not write more than 500 words.**

**1.**

St Anselm's values a rich arts culture and is committed to embedding this ethos into our new creative curriculum.

**2.**

Our Headteacher and leadership team are passionate about driving the arts throughout the curriculum and their vision is one of an arts rich curriculum full of opportunities for all children. The arts leaders throughout the school work together to plan and deliver a rich art curriculum. We look forward to welcoming our new pupil arts council to help deliver Artsmark.

**3.**

We pride ourselves in the showcasing and celebrating of children's arts learning through displays, presentations and performances of children's work. Pupil voice is an area we recognise that needs further development and will form part of our action plan.

**4.**

St Anselm has schemes of work and programmes of study embedded in our school. These show progression in knowledge, skills and understanding. We are currently in the process of redesigning our curriculum to ensure greater creativity is embedded throughout. Although our current Arts provision is extensive, through self-evaluation we have identified some areas for development which will form the basis of our action plan.

**5.**

As a school we feel we offer our children a high quality arts provision which extends beyond the school day. These opportunities include:

- Music lessons provided by a music specialist
- A creative curriculum
- Nativities, class assemblies, and end of year performances
- Choir
- Band
- Art club
- Participation in the Primary Shakespeare project
- African Drumming
- ICT club
- Irish Dancing

- Ballet
- KS1 & KS2 Drama Workshops
- Year 6 annual study of Shakespearian play and visit to the Globe Theatre
- Visits to performances at the Ryan Theatre and our local arts centre
- Peripatetic music teachers teaching a range of different instruments which include tin whistle, guitar, and violin
- Blocked Art and DT weeks linked to other areas of the curriculum
- Art competitions both local and national
- Working with specialist teachers from other providers
- St Anselm's got Talent Showcase
- Gym
- Netball
- Running Club
- A&J Soccer
- Science Club
- Recorder
- Knitting club

## 6.

At St Anselm's we have collaborated with local professional artists who have worked with us to support staff in the development of art skills. Staff have attended London galleries and taken part in workshops that have supported staff in their confidence to teach art. We have also liaised with other local schools who have specialist art teachers. This allowed us to run a whole school project on self-portraits ensuring progression in all year groups.

More recently staff have taken part in a Dance workshop led by a Dance specialist from the local authority. Staff were equipped with a range of skills to teach high quality dance ensuring there was challenge and differentiation for all pupils.

## 7.

We have established strong partnerships with Harrow Music Service and are able to participate in a range of music performances across the borough and at our local art centre. We are also part of the Primary Shakespeare Project and work in collaboration with 5 other primary schools in Harrow.

## 8.

We are a rights respecting school that celebrates every child's achievement and progress. We are proud to be known for our high quality standards of teaching and learning across the whole curriculum.

(498)

## Question 4

Thinking of your future work, what steps will be essential in order for your setting to complete your Artsmark journey? What will your action plan look like? This might include, but does not need to be restricted to:

- auditing current provision
- establishing whole-setting planning for the arts (for instance where the arts are used to improve teaching and learning in other curriculum areas, or where other curriculum content links to the arts curriculum)
- developing a CPD programme
- building partnerships with other settings and arts and cultural organisations
- developing approaches to gathering evidence of impact and evaluating progress

***Do not write more than 500 words.***

Our action plan will focus largely on our needs related to the school development plan. We have a strong starting point and want to now think about creating a CPD programme that will enable St Anselm's to flourish and fly excel in the arts. We want to continue to equip our teachers with the skills and confidence to teach a high quality arts curriculum and will therefore ensure the provision of CPD to upskill all teachers.

Progress will be measured by initially implementing a new arts rich curriculum with effect from September 2019, feedback from the newly formed pupil arts council who will have a half termly slot at the regular school council meetings, monitoring planning and feedback from teachers.

Phase leaders and subject leaders will monitor their subjects and year groups through planning, performance management observations and the range of activities on offer to the children. The newly elected pupil led arts council will be assessing feedback from the pupils about their curriculum and feeding back to the school community in a half termly newsletter which will be shared with parents and Governors and will be available on our website.

One of our inset days will be dedicated to one of the areas of development on the school development plan such as Dance or Drama throughout the curriculum. We will invite in professionals to train the staff in areas where there is a lack of confidence and boost momentum for the ARTSMARK project.

We will strive to build partnerships with likeminded schools/education settings and other relevant organisations within the local community and continue to work with our local arts centre/ on joint projects with other local schools.

The ARTSMARK named governor will monitor and assess progress of our objectives in half termly reviews at our Pupil Committee meetings.

We will invite local schools and people from our school community into our school to share our successes and celebrate with us. This will allow us to share our excellent practice and become leaders in the development of the arts curriculum.

We want to provide more opportunities for pupils to experience professional productions and aim to ensure that at least one school trip per year group will be planned to ensure that pupils are exposed to some element of quality arts.

---

## **Question 5**

What support will your setting need to maximise your chances of fulfilling your Artsmark objectives? This might include, but does not need to be restricted to:

- overall funding for the arts in your setting
- investment in CPD
- opportunities for whole-setting planning
- external expertise – technical or otherwise

***Do not write more than 500 words.***

In order to further improve and strengthen our current provision we have recognised and identified some key areas of support that will enable us to maximise success.

As a school we are privileged to already have a wealth of creative staff who are passionate about building our Arts rich curriculum. We have in the past invited professional artists into the school who have share their expertise with staff and pupils alike, however we recognise that this needs to be an ongoing commitment that we must commit to and make provision in the budget for this type of professional development.

We have already allocated nearly a whole term of insets for staff to work with each other to build a new 2020 curriculum that is innovative and rich in Arts. This has given staff the opportunity to dedicate time to have rich discussions about the curriculum that will be on offer next year.

We have a strong SPA (Staff and Parents association) that support the school in many ways. One of their fundraising events will be dedicated to our ARTSMARK journey in supporting cost of some of the specialist training for staff.

We believe that approximately 4-5 terms will give us enough time to fully implement our action plan. We are building a strong Arts team who are committed to driving this plan forward. Together with a forward thinking creative staff, eager and responsive children, a creative group of pupils who will form our pupil arts council, an arts named governor and fully supportive parents, I believe we will achieve our status as an ARTSMARK school.

---

### Question 6

The Artsmark Award will help create a network of like-minded settings. What areas of expertise will you share with other settings on their Artsmark journey and how will you achieve this?

***Do not write more than 500 words.***

Music is a particular strength in the school as we have a specialist music teacher who is passionate about this form of art and has a strong connection with Harrow music service to enrich the provision for children at the school. Performance is a strong element within the school and children regularly watch and perform in recitals, concerts, and productions in and out of the school. All classes receive specialist music teaching at least once a week and children as early as reception are introduced to rhythm reading and year 2 note reading. Extra-curricular activities are offered to all children who play an instrument and more recently, a school band has been formed. The school band has performed at various school functions and is thoroughly enjoyed by the children. Furthermore we have a local arts centre where we regularly perform alongside other school in our borough. Some of these performances include Festival of Youth Music and the Schools Choir Showcase. We know that music is a strength of the school as feedback from parents and governors is very positive. Children's performances have been said to be outstanding.

Drama is a strength of our school in many ways. Children take part in a range of performances such as end of year productions, nativities, assembly performances, and some classes take part in a Shakespeare Project which is performed alongside other schools in the local theatre. We would

like to further embed drama throughout our curriculum by offering opportunities in all areas of the curriculum to perform. We are planning a new creative curriculum which will support our vision to ensure that drama and performing is at the core of children's learning. As our skills in planning and delivering a drama rich curriculum improve through expert CPD, we will ensure that these skills are shared with our cluster schools and the Artsmark community. We also intend to strengthen our links with schools that have expertise in this area and will call on one of our local high schools to support this.

**Signatures**

By signing this document you agree to the Artsmark Award Terms and Conditions. These are available on our website at [artsmark.org.uk/terms-and-conditions](http://artsmark.org.uk/terms-and-conditions)

We cannot accept changes of font or signatures on behalf of the Headteacher or Chair of Governors.

Headteacher's signature:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Full name: \_\_\_\_\_Anne Monahan\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_13/9/2019\_\_\_\_\_

Chair of Governors' signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_Ailish Healy\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_13/9/2019\_\_\_\_\_