



**Artsmark**  
AWARDED BY ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

# Statement of Commitment

Application paperwork 1 of 2.

<b>Name of school/education setting</b>	<b>Oakfield School</b>
<b>DfE number</b>	<b>810 / 7007</b>

## Support

We are here if you need us.

Download our guidance on how to complete your Statement of Commitment:

<https://www.artsmark.org.uk/about/artsmark-award-document-downloads>

Get in touch with your Bridge organisation, who offer support throughout your Artsmark journey. Their details can be found online: <https://www.artsmark.org.uk/Bridge>



## Context – up to 150 words

Describe the context of your school or education setting (for example your phase of education, establishment type, location, number on roll and so on).

Oakfield School is a residential special school located in Hull. The school caters for pupils aged between 11-16, who have social, emotional, and mental health difficulties. All pupils who attend have an Education Health Care Plan. The range of needs in Oakfield is vast ranging from ADHD, Autism, Asperger's and ODD. The vast majority of pupils are of White British heritage and live in areas of high social economic deprivation.

The school currently has 84 pupils on roll, of these 84 pupils 13% are LAC, 67% are entitled to free school meals and 71% of pupils are eligible for support through the pupil premium.

Most pupils start in year 7, however pupils can be admitted to the school at any point in the year and in any year group.



**Question 1** – up to 500 words

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

The school has embedded arts and culture into the ethos and philosophy of the school during the schools previous arts mark journey (but we believe we can go further).

At Oakfield, we believe it is every pupil's right to expect excellent teaching of an enriched and engaging curriculum, in a safe learning environment, which will enable them to reach their full potential so that they become prepared for adult life.

The arts are cross-threaded within all aspects of the curriculum and the 24 hour wrap around care provided in the residential provision. We believe that a pupil's time at Oakfield is about acquiring good personal and thinking skills, developing communication and having the opportunity to be creative, explore and become involved in different art forms and cultures.

The school is committed to SMSC and operates various themed day days throughout the year as well as dedicated SMSC tutor time. We have an assigned SMSC governor and SMSC coordinator that plans, supports staff in delivery and evaluates the school thematic days and monitors the quality and impact of the Tutor programmes. This rigour enables the following: Students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence, distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England, accept responsibility for their behaviour and show initiative,

Currently the school offers art to all pupils in key stage 3 for two sessions per week. Pupils have the option for an additional art lesson on a Friday afternoon. Key stage 4 pupils have the option to study Art, Photography, Music or Product Design at GCSE level. Pupils work is on display within classrooms and this celebrates their achievement within the subject. Pupils are able to talk enthusiastically about their lessons/residential activities, what they enjoyed and if they have learnt any new skills or developed an interest. The pupils get the opportunity to express their thought and feelings within the school/residential council. These meetings are recorded to provide evidence that the pupils have an input into what happens within the school and in the residential provision.

We believe that through the love of arts and culture pupils develop self-confidence, resilience, self-esteem, positive thinking, which impacts positively on pupils making them open minded individuals that can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely.



**Question 2** – up to 500 words

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

In October 2017, the school achieved 'silver' in the Artsmark award. As a school we are committed at every level to continuing to raise the importance of arts within the new curriculum, and the need to build links to other subject areas to develop key skills, resources, create partnerships with other schools and organisations as well as continuing to work with artists within the local area.

The school improvement plan outlines our goals for improvement and how and when these goals will be achieved to improve student achievement by enhancing the way the curriculum is delivered. In the current School Improvement Plan, we have budgeted money to embed the new curriculum to meet the needs of the current cohort. Due to the new OFSTED framework, we as a school feel we have much more flexibility in the curriculum design and allowing it being pupil led based on their interests. Many of the pupils who attend Oakfield particularly enjoy the hands on creative subjects such as Art, Product Design, Design Technology and Photography. This is due to many of the pupils believing that they have 'failed' in other areas of the curriculum, the 'creative arts' department is one of the only subject areas which is not primarily based on the ability to read and write. By using the Artsmark award pupils can transfer the new learnt artistic skills to other areas of the curriculum making them more likely to re-engage and take calculated risks.

One of the key areas in our SIP is to provide suitable carers advice for students in Key Stage 4. As a school, we will be actively promoting arts and cultural industries as genuine career choices and plan to offer opportunities to take part in such industries during work experience (year 10).

We hope that through our SIP, we will place creativity at the heart of the curriculum, giving pupils the opportunity to become creative individuals academically, socially and emotionally with a knowledge and understanding of other cultures.



**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?

The school was awarded the 'silver' award in October 2017, and looking at the current criteria, we believe that Oakfield is still achieving silver in all areas and we would like to continue our journey towards gold and or platinum.

The strengths of the school are its commitment to SMSC. The school has a governor assigned to SMSC as well as having a SMSC coordinator that plans, supports staff in delivery and emulate the schools thematic days and monitor the quality and impact of the tutor programmes. SMSC is central to the development and growth of pupils as individuals. The theme days that have been operated historically are: arts, culture, E-Safety, prison me no way and innovation. Alongside working towards the Artsmark award we are also working towards the SMSC award.

We have established a music room, resourced with guitar, drums, piano and percussion instruments. This is accessed by pupils during the school day during planned music lessons and can also be accessed during the unstructured parts of the day or during residential evening activities.

The school has its own emotional well-being team on site consisting of 4 members of staff. The EWB team recently achieving the HeadStart Award. Head start is a collection of service and intervention programmes for supporting young people's emotional health and well-being.

The school has both a residential pupil council and a school council. Meetings take place regularly and the minutes are shared with all staff and pupils. During the meetings the pupils offer suggestions for change and are consulted before changes occur. Oakfield recognises the importance of pupil voice and it is an integral part of driving the school forward. We feel that during this process we can further enhance pupil voice and create a pupils arts council that meant termly to gain their views on how we can further incorporate arts and culture into the school.

The residential team work with pupils on an evening to increase opportunities to having access to arts and culture activities. All the staff on the residential team have responsibility for developing the activities and trips on offer. The cultural evening are a great success within the residential- these activities was taking place termly but due to staffing change, these have become less frequent and regular. Our ambition is to have these experiences increased and reflect on future events so the new pupils have the chance to participate in the culture evenings again. We are hoping to have a multi-functional room within the residential that the pupils can access on an evening that is a safe space for them to experiment with music and arts without having environmental limitations.

The area we would like to develop most is partnership work with various arts and cultural organisations. We hope that this will provide opportunities for us to share good practice ie in relation to planning, resources, skills and experiences. Utilising this expertise will allow us to build staff confidence in the delivery of arts and culture within the school.



**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?

Looking towards the next stage in our Artsmark journey, our ambition is for a holistic approach towards art and culture and continuing to change the ethos of the school to identify talents in the pupils that are not routed to core subjects but that are expressive in their forms. We have already identified one lead person from the school and the residential staff team to drive the planning out across the school and the residential provision. We will work closely with the SMSC coordinator. As a team, we will plan and offer a diverse range of cultural and artist opportunities for the pupils which will help enrich their own development.

We plan to hold in-house training regarding art based skills for staff who feel they don't have the confidence to promote arts to the pupils. This should help raise the enthusiasm within the staff team which hopefully will diffuse amongst the pupils. We are also planning whole school SMSC and diversity training courses.

In order to encourage pupil engagement we feel that inviting contemporary artists into the schools will gain the interest and enjoyment of the pupils. Developing partnerships with other provisions will enable us to provide and deliver high quality activities with a holistic approach to arts and culture.

We will continue to develop and enhance the schools links with the wider community and we plan to hold a family and friends fun day on a Sunday in the summer months.

Our overarching aim is to achieve a life-long love for learning and enjoyment of arts and culture and this will be reflected in the school environment, ethos and shared language used by the school community to celebrate and promote our achievements in arts and culture.



**Question 5 – up to 500 words**

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

To maximise the chances of gaining gold/platinum award both myself (Lee Thompson) and Ellie Batty feel it would be beneficial to have time aside on a half termly basis to discuss the next steps in the artsmark journey but also time to reflect and evaluate the process. This would be beneficial as currently I work the normal school day 8-4 and Ellie works shifts in the residential provision and so conversations are generally in passing rather than dedicated time.

We plan to include all staff and pupils with the planning through whole school discussion sessions, inset days, residential activity planning meetings and pupil council meetings both in school and in residential. This will create the opportunity for whole school planning that caters for pupils with different abilities and learning styles. Through the expertise of myself and Ellie Batty, we will be reviewing the planning for the whole school, including the activities provided by the residential to explore the endless opportunities finding ways to bring children to the heart of the collaboration and get them planning alongside the staff, confidently maximizing our chance of the whole school succeeding in achieving the Gold or Platinum Artsmark Award.

To enable engaging and exciting activities to pupils a budget needs to be established both for the creative arts department but also for the Artsmark journey. This will allow for new resources to be purchased (without taking the money away from a different subject). During our previous Artsmark journey, we encouraged staff to put forward ideas/proposals for residential activities/ curriculum lessons with costings and myself and Ellie would decide if they were worth purchasing. We feel this method was effective and would continue with this processes as we aim for gold/platinum.

Currently the school has partnerships with various organisations, none that are specifically related to arts and culture education. We hope that during the next two years we can build working relationships with arts and cultural organizations. This will provide opportunities for us to share good practice in relation to planning; resources skills and experiences utilising this expertise will increase what we can provide the student and empower the staff to gain confidence in the delivery of arts and culture with in the school.



**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?

We will know we have achieved our goals and ambitions when arts and cultural is fully embedded into the schools ethos and philosophy. Success will be evident in the form of pupils having the opportunity to experience art and by doing so will develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence, initiative and understanding and how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely.

Pupils will take an active role in driving the journey and will be consulted throughout. By having pupil voice as an integral part of the process, it allows pupils to have a greater sense of ownership over their work and activities.

The staff and pupils will talk positively about the ‘arts’ and be able to state the impact it has on the school as a whole- not only on pupils academic progress but there social and

emotional progress. The school environment will be a warm and welcoming place with various pieces of art displayed all around from the school celebrating pupil's achievements.

We will evidence our success in the statement of impact by attainment data, quotes from staff and pupils following theme days and other activities, staff confidence levels, the level of engagement as a school we have with parents and will discuss the relationships we have developed with the wider community.

### 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](https://artsmark.org.uk/terms-and-conditions))

**Headteacher Name: Rachel Davies**

**Date: 6/2/2020**

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**Chair of Governors Name: Lee Morfitt**

**Date: 6/2/2020**

### Checklist

Make sure your Statement of Commitment is complete before you submit to us.

- My school/setting name is written at the top of this document
- My DfE number is at the top of this document and matches the one I registered with
- 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
- The Headteacher and Chair of Governors have approved this document

## Ready to submit?

You should submit your Statement of Commitment within **three months** of attending your Development Day training.

Email your Statement of Commitment as an attachment to [artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk)

We will confirm receipt within five working days.