



## **Artsmark COVID-19 FAQs**

*Last updated: 16 June 2020*

We understand that COVID-19 and subsequent school closures will have an impact on your Artsmark journey, therefore we have made several changes to fully support you as you work towards your award.

We want all our settings to continue to benefit from the usual time frames of an Artsmark journey despite the disruption, so have made decisions that consider the period during which schools are closed and the time it will take to settle back in once they return in full. We've worked on the basis that schools will return in full for the start of the Autumn Term and we will review our decisions if this isn't the case.

Please read our FAQs below which outline the key changes and offer guidance on your next steps, wherever you are on your Artsmark journey. If you have any further queries, please contact the Artsmark team: [artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk).

### **Registration**

#### **I'm new to Artsmark, can I still register?**

Yes - Artsmark registrations are open! We temporarily closed registrations for a period due to school closures. We've seen how you've used arts and creativity to support your pupils' wellbeing during the coronavirus pandemic, which is why, as you begin to navigate returning to school, we're re-opening registrations. We hope that all settings can use Artsmark's flexible framework to embed arts and creativity across the curriculum, allowing you to continue to put children and young people's wellbeing at the heart of your school. Find out more about Artsmark and [register today](#).

#### **I want to re-register my setting, can I re-register?**

Yes! Our registrations are open again, so you can re-commit to the Artsmark programme and continue your setting's creative journey by [re-registering today](#).

If you have questions about how re-registration affects your award status, please go to the 'Awarded Settings' section.

### **Development Days**

#### **I registered for Artsmark before COVID-19 and due to the current situation, I haven't been able to attend a Development Day within the recommended three months. What should I do?**

We recommend you attend a Development Day within three months of registering. However, this is a guideline rather than a fixed deadline, and we understand that

the process may take you longer given the current circumstances. Contact your Bridge Organisation who can advise you on any upcoming Development Days that you could attend.

**Can I attend a Development Day online?**

Some of our Bridge organisations are offering online sessions. Your Bridge organisation will invite you to attend an online Development Day or other introductory support session if available. Please contact your regional Bridge Organisation for further information.

**I can't attend an online Development Day due to other commitments during the current crisis. Can I wait and attend a Development Day once schools have reopened?**

We recommend you attend a Development Day within three months of registering; however, this is not a hard deadline. You are welcome to attend a Development Day when you are able to. If you have concerns about your Development Day attendance, please contact your regional Bridge Organisation.

**Statement of Commitment**

**I attended a Development Day and I am due to submit my Statement of Commitment however, due to the current situation, I do not feel ready to submit. Can I have an extension?**

We recommend you submit your Statement of Commitment three months after attending your Development Day, however this is a recommendation and not a hard deadline. We understand that under current circumstances, you may need more time. Please contact your regional Bridge Organisation for further support and guidance on writing your Statement of Commitment during this time.

**Can I still submit my Statement of Commitment while schools are closed?**

Yes, we are still accepting Statement of Commitment submissions. Your Bridge organisation can support you in writing your Statement of Commitment and you can download our [guidance document](#) from our website. When you are ready, and the document has been approved by your headteacher and Chair of Governors, please submit it by email to [artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk)

**I want to submit my Statement of Commitment now, but I'm worried about formally starting my Artsmark journey while schools are closed. Can I have an extension?**

Your Artsmark journey formally starts from the date you submit your Statement of Commitment. However, we understand that while schools are closed it will be challenging to start developing your arts provision and working towards the objectives outlined in your Statement of Commitment.

As a result, if you submit your Statement of Commitment to us during the summer term while your school remains fully or partially closed, we will automatically record your submission date as 01 September 2020. This means that your journey can start from when we expect schools to have returned, and you can benefit from the full two-year delivery phase in which to achieve your goals and submit your Statement of Impact. If you would prefer to start your journey straight away, we can also record your actual submission date for you at your request.

**My Statement of Commitment is ready to submit now, but due to COVID-19 I won't be able to start implementing changes until later in the Autumn term or early 2021. Can I have a longer journey or start my journey then?**

If you do not feel your journey can formally begin until further into the Autumn term or beyond, please wait and submit your Statement of Commitment to us at a later date, when you are ready to commence your journey.

### **My Artsmark Journey**

**I want to continue my setting's Artsmark journey during this time, can I do so?**

Yes! You are welcome to continue delivering your Artsmark activity however you can over this period, but we understand if you are not able to. For information on extensions to your journey, see the Statement of Impact section below.

**Some of the plans that I had put in place to meet the objectives outlined in my Statement of Commitment have been cancelled or are no longer possible due to school closures. Can I have more time?**

For settings who are in the middle of their Artsmark journey (you are yet to submit your Statement of Impact), we have offered an extension to acknowledge the disruption and impact of school closure on your plans. All settings who were eligible for an extension have been contacted. Please see the Statement of Impact section below.

### **Statement of Impact**

**My deadline for the Statement of Impact is approaching soon but I'm worried I'm not going to be able to submit it. Can I have an extension?**

Yes. We understand this concern and have put in place a nine-month extension for all settings who are on their Artsmark journey and have upcoming Statement of Impact deadlines. We contacted these settings on 13 May 2020 specifying their new, extended deadline. If you think this extension is applicable to your setting but

you did not receive this email, please contact [artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk).

**My Statement of Impact is not yet due, but I will not have achieved what I set out to do by the deadline due to the current crisis. Can I have an extension?**

Yes. Settings that are currently on their Artsmark journey and are yet to submit their Statement of Impact, will be automatically granted a nine-month extension to their Statement of Impact deadline. This acknowledges the period of time that schools were closed, and also allows some time for schools to recover once fully returned. We contacted all settings that are eligible for this extension on 13 May 2020 specifying their new, extended deadline. If you think this extension is applicable to your setting but you did not receive this email, please contact [artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk).

**I'd like to continue working towards our original Statement of Impact deadline, do I have to use the extension period I've been granted?**

You do not have to use the extension period if you do not feel it is necessary. This is an optional extension as we understand that COVID-19 may have affected each school differently. You can submit your Statement of Impact at any time prior to your deadline if you are ready. Your Bridge organisation can support you in writing your Statement of Impact and you can download our [guidance document](#) on our website.

**Are you still accepting Statement of Impact submissions while schools are closed?**

Yes, we are still accepting and assessing Statement of Impact submissions at this time. Your Bridge organisation can support you in writing your Statement of Impact and you can download our [guidance document](#) on our website. When you are ready, and the document has been approved by your headteacher and Chair of Governors, please submit it by email to [artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk).

**I submitted my Statement of Impact and am waiting to hear the outcome of my assessment. Are you still assessing settings?**

Yes. We are still working within our usual timeframe for assessment and are assessing all settings who are submitting their Statement of Impact to us at this time. Settings will be informed of the outcome no later than the end of the next academic term after submitting their Statement of Impact. We are not experiencing any delays to our assessment process but if you think you should have received an email about the outcome of your assessment then please email [artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk).

## **Awarded Settings**

We granted an award extension to 1 January 2021 for awarded settings whose current Artsmark award is due to expire before December 2020. This was to acknowledge that while our registrations have been closed, some awarded settings have not been able to re-register and maintain engagement with Artsmark during this period. Please note that if you were granted an extension to your Artsmark award, this is still valid and **re-opening of registrations will not impact your extension**. However, you are welcome to re-register for the programme sooner if you'd prefer.

### **Our award expired during school closure/is due to expire soon, and as registrations were closed, you granted me an award extension until 1 January 2021. Now that registrations have reopened, does my award extension still stand?**

If you were granted an extension to your Artsmark award, this is still valid, and **the re-opening of registrations will not impact your extension**. Your extension was granted to allow time for registrations to reopen and for you to re-register once schools are fully returned before losing your awarded status. You're your current award will remain valid until 1 January 2021 but you can re-register at any time. We encourage all settings to re-register for Artsmark before their award expires if they are able to. Registrations are now open! [Re-register for Artsmark here.](#)

### **Our award expires after December 2020, will it be extended?**

No, our award extensions only applied to those whose award expires before December 2020. This is to support settings who have not been able to re-register for Artsmark while our registrations have been closed for a period during 2020. The extension allows time for our registrations to reopen as schools return, and time for those settings with upcoming expiry dates to re-register while managing the return of their school during the Autumn term before losing their awarded status. Settings with an award expiry date of 2021 and beyond remain unaffected by registration closures and can re-register when they are ready, with no impact on their award status.

### **Our award expires before December 2020 but we re-registered for Artsmark before registrations closed. Why hasn't our current award been extended?**

Our award extension offer applies to settings whose award expires before December 2020 and who had not yet managed to re-register for Artsmark before we closed registrations on 29 March 2020. This was to support settings who have not been able to re-register for Artsmark while our registrations have been closed. The extension for these settings was to allow time for registrations to reopen and

for those settings with upcoming expiry dates to re-register while managing the return of their school during the Autumn term.

If you had already re-registered for Artsmark, congratulations! You can begin to embark on your new Artsmark journey. When you submit your Statement of Commitment to us for your new journey, you will receive your 'Working Towards Artsmark' logo which will replace your Artsmark Award logo once it expires.

**I've recently been awarded, when will I receive my certificate and/or plaque?**

Our offices are currently closed so we are not able to send out certificates or plaques at this time. We will send any outstanding certificates or plaques when we re-open. For details on when this will be, please stay up to date by visiting our Coronavirus Update website page. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused by the delay and will endeavour to get your certificate to you as soon as we are able.

**Help and Support**

**Who do I contact if I need further support with my Artsmark journey?**

If you have questions regarding extensions or registrations, we ask you to contact us at Arts Council England. The Artsmark team are working from home but we are still available to provide support to you. Please email [artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:artsmark@artscouncil.org.uk). If you need support regarding Development Days or guidance completing your Statement of Commitment or Statement of Impact, please contact your local Bridge Organisation.

**Where can I find the latest updates about Artsmark and COVID-19?**

Our Coronavirus Update page on our website outlines the latest updates regarding the Artsmark programme and should be your first port of call if you have any questions. We will also keep you informed via Twitter and Facebook so be sure to follow us on social media for the latest.