



# Craft for Artsmark Schools



Artsmark  
**Partner**

*Supporting cultural education, endorsed by Arts Council England*



## How can craft support your school's Artsmark journey?

The Crafts Council's vision is that every child has a chance to discover their practical abilities, develop their creative talents, and become a maker of the future.

This vision is rooted in the knowledge that craft skills lead to diverse careers and creative satisfaction throughout life.

As an Artsmark partner, we're committed to providing information and support to help you embed craft into your school's Artsmark offer. This document maps resources to help you at each stage of the Artsmark Framework.

To sign up to our Craft Education newsletter or to make a specific query, get in touch at [participation@craftscouncil.org.uk](mailto:participation@craftscouncil.org.uk)



## What is Craft?

Craft covers a range of disciplines, materials and ideas but has 3D making at its heart.

Materials could include clay, metal, wood, stone, textiles, leather, plastics, or newly invented materials. Processes could be traditional or innovative (including digital) but always include skill and creativity.

# Leadership:

The setting's Development Plan should clearly demonstrate an ongoing commitment to quality and diversity in arts and culture education across all phases and with clear milestones and measurements.

## How can craft help your school achieve this Artsmark objective?

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Craft is vital to young people's creative education. It develops new ways of thinking, can engage disengaged learners, and embeds experience of working with materials. It fosters persistence, creative thinking, problem-solving and agency.

Make it happen:

Use our advocacy tools to help you make the case for craft with staff and governor teams:

Ensure governors and senior leadership understand the impact of craft across the curriculum and the importance of all children and young people having access to a range of high-quality craft opportunities.

- Link craft and making to key objectives and targets for improvement in school improvement plans
- Highlight the broad range of career opportunities in craft

Spread the word and support other schools to develop their craft offer:

- If you're a secondary school, build craft into the work you do to support pupils during the transition phase
- Deliver a craft-focussed twilight CPD or TeachMeet for teachers from local schools

## Resources and Support:

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Use our advocacy tools to help you make the case for craft with staff and governor teams:

- Our [Craft Education Manifesto](#) makes the case for craft learning
- The National Governance Association (NGA) and Arts Council England developed an [eLearning module](#) about how arts and cultural education can be used for school improvement and enhancing the school curriculum
- [Supporting Craft in Schools: A Guide for Governors](#)
- Films about the impact of craft are hosted on our [Make Your Future page](#)
- Our [Craft Journeys](#) series highlights the diversity of jobs in craft that students might pursue
- Sign up to the [Craft Education newsletter](#) to hear about sector best practice and CPD opportunities in your area
- [Planning a TeachMeet: Start to Finish](#)

# Curriculum Design:

The value and impact of the diverse arts and culture curriculum is firmly embedded in the setting's curriculum offer across all phases.

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## How can craft help your school achieve this Artsmark objective?

Craft offers a broad range of creative activity that can challenge pupils to think differently. High quality craft activity develops 21st century skills (persistence; problem-solving; creative thinking), haptic skills, and wellbeing.

Craft offers a bridge between creative subjects and science, technology, and maths. Getting hand-on with ceramics or textiles gives students real-life experience of STEM, and knowledge of processes used in industry.

Make it happen:

- Use craft to enrich and enliven art and DT curricula, exploring disciplines and technologies from ceramics to 3D printing
- Embed making across the curriculum by exploring links to maths and science

## Resources and Support:

- Artsmark offer guidance on writing a [School Arts Policy](#)
- Our [Craft Club tutorials](#) will introduce you to a range of craft disciplines and activities for all skill levels.
- Our [Clay Science Teachers' Resource](#) shines a light on the chemistry of clay
- Use our [weaving resources](#) to deliver a great weaving lesson with links to maths
- Our [pewter casting](#) lesson plan also highlights links to science
- Further examples of craft schemes of work and lesson plans are available via the [Make Your Future blog](#)
- Cultural Learning Alliance Briefing Paper: [STEAM: Why STEM can only take us so far](#)

# CPD:

The setting can provide evidence of a clear commitment to CPD in the diversity of arts and culture for all members of staff and have allocated appropriate resources to enable this to happen.

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## How can craft help your school achieve this Artsmark objective?

Craft provides opportunities to invest in skills throughout careers, helping teachers develop their personal creative practice and passion for their subject.

Make it happen:

- Reinvigorate specialist teachers' creative practice by providing them with opportunities to develop new craft skills.
- Develop links with local organisations (Higher Education Institutions, museums, galleries, artist studios) that can provide insight into contemporary craft practice
- Support specialist teachers to pass on their skills to the rest of the staff team, helping them to understand the relevance of craft to their subjects.

## Resources and Support:

- Check out the [Make Your Future blog](#) for examples that demonstrate the value of craft CPD for teachers
- Use our [Craft Club tutorials](#) to share craft skills with non-specialist teachers. You could even start a staff Craft Club!
- [Sign up](#) to our Craft Education Newsletter to hear about CPD taking place in your area.
- Review your practise by using our [Reflective Diary](#) for teachers and educators

# Pupil Engagement:

All children and young people in the setting can talk enthusiastically and demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and experience of high-quality and diverse art and culture provision in their setting.

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## How can craft help your school achieve this Artsmark objective?

The diversity of contemporary craft provides a huge range of opportunities to engage pupils in making, whatever their interests—from fine art to engineering solutions to make the world a better place.

Make it happen:

- Support students to develop a passion and take the lead in their own learning— Arts Award can be a part of this journey.
- Develop students leadership skills — help them teach others through skill share workshops, curate exhibitions or sell their work through craft fairs.

## Resources and Support:

- Our young people's group shares craft opportunities for young people via social media. Follow [@CraftsYouth](#) on Twitter to stay up-to-date
- Arts Award can support young people to find their own creative path and share their work with others. Check out our [Arts Award Supporter Guide](#) and use our craft-focussed Arts Award [Bronze](#) and [Silver](#) log books to support your work
- If your pupils are delivering their own events (fairs, exhibitions, or workshops) they can advertise them via [Crafts Council Opportunities](#)

The following resources can help you develop a youth-led practice:

- [Sound Connections Equalizer](#)
- [Training sessions from Artswork](#) exploring youth-centred facilitation
- [Guided by Young Voices](#) by Roundhouse and Arts Council England, a guide to youth governance
- A New Direction's [research into creative ecosystems](#) and young people's place within them
- [The Teenage Market](#) provides a platform for young people to showcase their work

# Range of Offer:

The setting can demonstrate a diverse and universal offer of wide-ranging, high quality arts and culture experiences within and beyond normal teaching hours.

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## How can craft help your school achieve this Artsmark objective?

Craft provides a range of opportunities to engage with specialists: from working with practitioners in school, to visiting makerspaces or artist studios in your area.

Make it happen:

- Create opportunities for pupils to work with artists and makers in school
- Set up a Craft Club to provide a forum for pupils to extend their skills
- Get to know your local gallery education officer to find out about upcoming craft-linked exhibitions or workshops

## Resources and Support:

- [Guide to Getting the Most from Working with an Artist](#)
- Our [Maker Workshop Offer](#) highlights maker educators you can work with in London, Leeds, and Birmingham, or take a look at our [Directory](#)
- [Craft Club](#) provides easy-to-follow tutorials produced by professional makers, as well as chances to share pupils' work via a national platform
- Get involved with national festivals like [Hey Clay!](#) and [Make:Shift:Do](#). Put on your own event or encourage students to take part in events taking place locally
- Visit one of our [exhibitions](#), at venues around the country
- Become a subscriber to [CRAFTS magazine](#), with six issues a year and access to a full digital back catalogue.

# Partnerships:

Settings can demonstrate that they understand the value of working with a diverse range of partners to provide and deliver high quality arts and culture education.

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## How can craft help your school achieve this Artsmark objective?

Craft provides opportunities to build partnerships across sectors: you might work with a studio ceramicist, but you could also make connections with a university, theatre props department, [healthcare or automotive industries](#).

Make it happen:

- Create new partnerships with craft organisations and businesses in your area. Look for opportunities to create relationships that are long-term and mutually beneficial

## Resources and Support:

- Map opportunities in your area with our [Craft Map](#)

These resources give useful tips on delivering successful partnership projects:

- Charities Commission: [Working in Partnership](#)
- [Artists Working in Partnership with Schools](#)

# Equality and Diversity:

The setting's Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) or equivalent evidence should demonstrate commitment to equality of education and opportunity of arts and culture experiences in line with the Equality and Human Rights Commission's protected characteristics.

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## How can craft help your school achieve this Artsmark objective?

Craft offers opportunities to engage harder-to-reach young people, and research shows a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing. Craft activities help develop haptic skills and can be adapted for students with a broad range of needs.

There are a huge range of career paths in craft; shine a light on a range of examples to show students that a creative career might be for them.

Make it happen:

- Offer a range of craft skills to engage different students
- Use craft activity as a way of supporting your school's LGBTQ+ or anti-racism agendas
- Highlight creative career paths
- Support students thinking about pursuing a creative career

## Resources and Support:

- Craft Club Resource: [Crafters with SEND](#) gives advice on adapting craft activities for a range of audiences.
- For some great resources about creative careers, check out our [Craft Journeys](#) profiles, [infographic](#) and the Sorrell Foundation's [Creative Journeys film](#).
- Ravensbourne College provides [Advice and resources](#) to support students in developing a portfolio and writing personal statements.

# Values and Ethos:

Settings actively promote diversity and a life-long love for learning and enjoyment of arts and culture. This is reflected in the school environment, ethos, and shared language used by the setting's community to celebrate and promote their achievements in arts and culture.

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## How can craft help your school achieve this Artsmark objective?

Craft and making provides students with a means of expressing themselves, and exploring complex ideas and feelings. Evidence suggests that hand-making can support cognitive development and improve levels of achievement across all subjects. Studies have shown that craft can improve wellbeing and mental health.\* Advocate for every student to have the access to a craft education.

Make it happen:

- Commit to offering every pupil the chance to discover a passion for making
- Offer students the opportunity to share their work; celebrate their achievements

## Resources and Support:

The Crafts Council's research team have drawn together resources to help you advocate for the value of craft. Read their thoughts [here](#)

# Resources at a glance:

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## Arts and Wellbeing:

- [Creative Health: The Arts for Health and Wellbeing](#)

## Arts Award:

- [Arts Award](#) can support young people to find their own creative path and share their work with others. Use our [Arts Award Supporter Guide](#) and our [craft-focussed Arts Award Bronze Log Book](#) and [Silver Log Book](#)

## Craft Advocacy:

- [Craft Education Manifesto](#)
- Supporting Craft in Schools: [A Guide for Governors](#)
- [Make Your Future: Reinvigorating Craft in Schools](#)

## Craft Careers:

- [Craft Careers Infographic](#)
- [Craft Journeys](#)
- [Advice and resources from Ravensbourne College](#) about developing a portfolio and writing your personal statement
- Sorrell Foundation— [Creative Journeys film](#)

## Demonstrating Impact:

- Partnerships for Learning: [Evaluating Arts Projects](#)
- Artsworld Training: [Evaluating Youth Arts Projects](#)

## Craft Across the Curriculum:

- [STEAM: Why STEM can only take us so far](#)
- [Clay Science Teachers' Resource](#)
- [Weaving resource](#)
- [Pewter Casting Lesson Plan](#)

## Youth-led Practice:

- [Sound Connections Equalizer](#)
- [Training sessions from Artsworld](#) exploring youth-centred facilitation
- [Guided by Young Voices](#) by Roundhouse and Arts Council England
- A New Direction's [research into creative ecosystems](#) and young people's place within them
- [The Teenage Market](#) provides a platform for young people to showcase their work

## Support for Teachers:

- [Reflective Diary](#) for teachers and educators
- [Craft Club tutorials](#)
- [Planning a TeechMeet: Start to Finish](#)
- [Crafty Map](#)

**FUTURE  
MAKERS**