

## Artsmark

At Burnham-on-Crouch Primary School, we believe that every young person should have the opportunity to be creative and to experience and participate in arts and culture. Through our environment and our school ethos, we actively promote a lifelong love for learning and enjoyment of arts and culture through a range of experiences and opportunities. Our Curriculum intent is driven by the need to prepare children for life in a forever changing, diverse and multicultural world as well as developing a love of lifelong learning. It provides a valuable foundation to embed our key values and reflect the demands of the National Curriculum. It is ambitious, inclusive and ensures equality of opportunity and experience.

Our commitment to Artsmark has ensured that we have invested heavily in the arts, through investing in specialist teachers, converting our ICT suite into a discovery room dedicated to the arts, developing an art gallery and purchasing books and resources. The number of children participating in extra-curricular clubs since committing to our Artsmark journey has increased significantly.

Children are provided with opportunities to immerse themselves within the arts, where they can expand their horizons and reflect on carefully chosen pieces of art. Through the Arts, children are encouraged to use their imagination and creativity, to explore ideas and feelings in works of Art and express themselves through their own art and design activities.

Children are taught about how artists represent moral issues through their work, with links to the wider world, through carefully chosen topics, artists and links with global matters, such as Black Lives Matter. Our curriculum, provides opportunities for children to reflect on the ways in which cultures are represented in art and design, understanding the ideas behind art, craft and design in different cultural contexts and explore a range of festivals and celebrations from our own and other cultures.

Mental health and wellbeing of the children is supported and confidence, resilience and character is built upon through opportunities for creativity. Children are equipped with the cultural capital needed to succeed in the future.

The percentage of children achieving school expected standard or above in the arts has risen significantly across the school as a result of our Artsmark journey. In 2018/19, there was a 25% increase in the percentage of children achieving expected standard in art. There was a 7% increase in the total number of children achieving greater depth across the school. The attainment for art in the year 2018/2019 was 79%, rising to 92% in 2019/202. In the year 2018/2019 the attainment for music was 78%. In 2019/2020 it rose to 90%. This improvement is attributed to skilled teaching, better planning and the arts being more visible and accessible in the school.

The Artsmark process enables opportunities for CPD and for staff to work collaboratively with specialist teachers, external support (which as included The Royal Opera House and The Essex Music Hub) and the local community. Four members of staff were provided with a CPD opportunity to develop their engineering skills and awareness. In turn, they were able to motivate and inspire the future generation in the area of STEM. The children took part in a

whole day of activity learning all about physics and engineering. It challenged stereotypes in the world of engineering and inspired our pupils with different career path opportunities.

Through strong leadership of the arts, professional support from Artsmark, is tailored to the needs of our school in order to strengthen our arts provision. We are committed to providing quality provision of arts and culture and this is reflected in our school development plan.

Children's art work is showcased throughout the school and work is of high quality. Children are encouraged to take ownership of their personal progression within the arts and are able to talk enthusiastically about their work, including their knowledge of arts and culture. Pupil voice and pupil engagement are key indicators in our Artsmark success.

Through the student council, children have been able to share their opinions about arts in the school. Children wanted more opportunities to sketch in class. This has resulted in the purchase of more stimulating resources. Pupil voice allows us to involve the children in planning and delivering specific areas of art they are interested in, allowing them to take ownership of their learning.

We spent time providing wide-ranging and high-quality arts and cultural experiences, during and outside normal teaching hours by:

- Winning the best designed float in the local carnival
- Creating a photography club – children can learn about composition and the mechanics of taking a photograph. One child has had two photographs published in a local newspaper. The children have created a gallery viewing to share their work with other children and parents.
- Since employing professional dancers, children have competed in dance competitions in the community.

Ofsted 2019:

'A broad range of extra-curricular clubs, trips and visiting speakers enhances pupils' learning experiences. Pupils gain a variety of knowledge and skills that prepare them better for the next stage of their education and life in modern Britain.

Specialist subject teachers pass on their enthusiasm and passion to teachers and pupils alike. Subject leaders ensure that teachers develop excellent subject knowledge and plan activities that motivate and engage pupils. This contributes to the substantial and sustained progress that pupils make across all areas of the curriculum.

Pre Assessment from NACE report Quote:

The school makes excellent use of external professionals. This gives pupils, who have talents in areas outside the expertise of their teachers, a chance to make good progress. It also has the added benefit that pupils whose talents may go unrecognised, are being identified by these specialists. In addition peripatetic teachers are using their wider connections to access further opportunities for the pupils outside of school.

Stronger links have been forged within the community via following the art trail, providing author and illustrator visits, community singing and visiting our local secondary school productions. Our children have been given the opportunity to produce art work for local community festivals, a Christmas tree festival, singing and dancing in the local carnival, sketching around the local area and performing the 'Big Sing' at a local secondary. Furthermore, visits from professionals in the local and wider community have been inspirational to our children. It has created a platform for staff to evidence the aspirations they have for children beyond the Dengie and plays a fundamental point in promoting arts and cultural industries as genuine career options from an early age.

The governing body has recognised our commitment and dedication in providing enriched opportunities for our children especially increasing our children's access to diversity and cultural differences.

Through our Artsmark journey, we are able to bring learning to life through arts, culture and creativity. The Artsmark process ensures that the arts are an integral part of our curriculum and ensures that all children have access to a creative, diverse and culturally rich curriculum. The Artsmark community provides exciting opportunities through new partnerships with inspirational cultural organisations and creative practitioners. Through this collaborative work, our most advantaged children are provided with the cultural capital they may otherwise not experience.

More information about Artsmark can be found on the following web site:

[www.artsmark.org.uk](http://www.artsmark.org.uk)