

Artsmark and National Theatre Programmes for Primary Schools

Introduction

NT Learning provides children and young people with the chance to discover new skills and experience the excitement of theatre, through inspiring programmes and projects across the UK and at the National Theatre in London.

The **Primary Programme** works with Primary schools across the UK, offering a range of projects for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 students. The programme offers many opportunities for enrichment with a focus on creativity across the whole primary curriculum.

All NT Primary projects provide resources and professional development opportunities for teachers enabling them to effectively support their students to enjoy, engage and immerse themselves in the programme whilst learning new skills themselves. All our workshop leaders are professional theatre artists who have been trained to work in a school setting. They include actors, directors, designers and theatre technicians who bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our programmes.

The National Theatre is a registered Artsmark Partner Organisation endorsed by Arts Council England who can support schools in achieving their Artsmark Award accreditation. Artsmark is a nationally recognised quality standard for schools which helps to develop, celebrate and strengthen high quality arts and cultural provision in education settings.

All National Theatre programmes are highly subsidised to enable a broad range of schools to take part. In addition, **we offer bursaries for schools where even the subsidised cost would be a barrier to participation.**

The following document illustrates how **LET'S PLAY** can ensure high quality, authentic arts activity with your school whilst supporting you on your Artsmark journey.

Artsmark schools are awarded their accreditation by Arts Council England based on the following 8 criteria; leadership, curriculum design, continued professional development (CPD), Children and young people engagement, range of offer, partnerships, equality and diversity, values and ethos. We have mapped each of our primary programmes against the Artsmark criteria below to ensure that your Artsmark journey is a success:

How can Drama and Theatre be developed in your school using National Theatre Programmes?

What will be the impact of National Theatre Programmes in your school?

How can National Theatre Programmes help you achieve your Artsmark Award?

Let's Play

How can Drama and Theatre be developed in your school using Let's Play?

Let's Play helps schools to create extraordinary school plays with support from the National Theatre.

Let's Play is an ambitious creative learning programme that can transform creativity and theatre-making in your school. Using a programme of continued professional development and learning, specially commissioned plays for children to perform and a suite of learning resources, Let's Play inspires learning across the curriculum.

For more information – www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/letsplay

What will be the impact of Let's Play in your school?

- Children will develop valuable core skills and attributes such as empathy, teamwork and leadership.
- Teachers will learn how to stage high-quality school productions.
- Teachers will enhance their understanding of creative learning, and explore how to apply these skills to their future classroom practice.
- The whole school community will come together to celebrate achievement and champion creativity.

How can Let's Play help you achieve your Artsmark Award?

Curriculum Design - Artsmark Schools promote a broad and balanced curriculum.	The Let's Play programme will support teachers to show progression of knowledge, skills and understanding by providing specialist theatre making courses for both KS1 and KS2 teachers, led by professional theatre artists, and access to curriculum linked teaching sequences with a focus on creative learning techniques that teachers can embed into their future classroom practice Let's Play supports curriculum design by providing resources and ideas for using the chosen play as a stimulus for learning across the curriculum. It also encourages teachers to develop these ideas further and offers space for teachers to identify their own opportunities for differentiation and extension.
CPDL - Artsmark Schools provide evidence of a clear commitment to giving teachers CPDL in the arts.	The Let's Play programme provides continuing professional development in staging high quality school productions, and in rehearsal room and drama techniques which can also be used across the curriculum. Let's Play is designed as a teacher led programme that focuses on developing teacher's skill and confidence in order to leave a legacy of creative teaching and learning embedded in the school.

<p>Children and Young People Engagement Artsmark Schools demonstrate that they have involved children in the planning and delivery of preparing and organising a live performance.</p>	<p>The Let's Play programme puts children at the centre of the process, ensuring they feel ownership and that every pupil has the opportunity to contribute to the final piece. In addition to performing in the production, children can take on a variety of roles including costume, props, lighting, sound and projection. Children will have the opportunity to complete an Arts Award which will develop their independent learning and critical thinking skills.</p>
<p>Range of Offer - Artsmark schools demonstrate a diverse offer of high quality arts experiences within and beyond the normal teaching hours.</p>	<p>The Let's Play programme provides an opportunity for schools to utilise the Let's Play resources as part of an assembly, as a high quality extra-curricular activity, to connect with a curriculum subject or theme or as an end of term celebration. It is designed to permeate school life and support a culture of creativity.</p>
<p>Partnerships - Artsmark Schools demonstrate that they understand the value of working with arts partners to provide and deliver high quality arts education.</p>	<p>The Let's Play programme provides support to both teachers and children to deliver high quality arts activity in schools. Schools are able to access year-round online tools to support them in the facilitation of excellent theatre in schools. Enabling them to access the expertise of an arts partner in a way that is flexible and convenient to them.</p> <p>Teachers are encouraged to build relationships with teachers in other schools through the CPDL training, and continue to engage in peer support via the Let's Play online community. Schools are encouraged to share and celebrate their involvement in the programme with other schools in their locality.</p>
<p>Equality and Diversity - Artsmark schools demonstrate a commitment to equality of education and opportunity in the arts.</p>	<p>The Let's Play programme offers plays which explore themes such as gender, independence and friendship to give pupils a greater understanding of the world in a safe creative space, and contribute towards Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) learning. The Let's Play programme offers range of specially commissioned plays which have been piloted with a range of schools including a SEND setting to ensure that they are inclusive and flexible to the needs of all schools. Theatre making is a collaborative process where every individual makes an important contribution to the rehearsals and the final performance, and Let's Play embeds this in the programme.</p>
<p>Values and Ethos - Artsmark schools actively promote a life-long love for learning and enjoyment of the arts. Artsmark schools should be actively working towards Arts Award.</p>	<p>The Let's Play programme has designed a bespoke Arts Award package for the programme to ensure that all children taking part in the programme can achieve a Discover Arts Award accreditation. Through CPDL and learning resources, the Let's Play programme will also enable teachers to link the plays to the broader curriculum so that children can apply their arts learning in a wider context.</p>

