

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 **MAKE THEATRE DAYS**, part of NT Primary Programme, 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?

Make Theatre Days

How can Drama and Theatre be developed in your school using Make Theatre Days?

Make Theatre Days are a great opportunity to give children in years 4-6 an active and exciting introduction to theatre-making and the backstage world of the National Theatre. Select from a choice of four exciting days linked to different aspects of theatre-making: Puppetry, Performance, Design or Sound and Lighting. Visit the National Theatre to explore theatre from the inside out.

For more information – www.nationaltheatre.org.uk

What will be the impact of Make Theatre Days for your school?

- Children will develop skills in either performance, puppetry, design or sound and lighting.
- Children will be able to observe and discover a wide range of jobs needed to create professional theatre.
- Teachers are supported in making cross curricular links with English, History Science, ICT and Art and Design
- Children have the opportunity to visit a major cultural venue

How can Make Theatre Days help you achieve your Artsmark Award?

Curriculum Design	Artsmark schools use the arts curriculum to help children to explore other subjects. The Make Theatre Days programme ensures that children have a unique opportunity to see ‘behind the scenes’ of the professional theatre world and understand through our guided tour how theatre makers use mathematics, arts and design, history, science, literacy and ICT as well as a host of other skills to create excellent theatre.
CPDL	Artsmark schools show that they have worked with arts organisations to develop educator knowledge and skills. The Make Theatre Days programme provides a teacher training resource pack which outlines further activities to take back to school focused on puppetry, performance, design and sound and lighting. Teachers gain knowledge of the range of jobs and careers in theatre and the creative industries.
Children and Young People Engagement	Children at Artsmark schools can talk enthusiastically and demonstrate their knowledge and experience of high-

	<p>quality arts and culture provision. The Make Theatre Days programme provides a unique opportunity for children to work with professional artists at the National Theatre developing skills and a greater understanding in theatre making. The Make Theatre Days programme will highlight to children participating that whatever talent or skill they have, they could find an exciting job in the arts industry.</p>
Range of Offer	<p>Artsmark schools demonstrate that children have had experience of arts and culture within their locality. The Make Theatre Days programme ensures that your school has an immersive day at the National Theatre in London to engage in a ‘behind the scenes’ theatre experience they will never forget.</p>
Partnerships	<p>Artsmark schools demonstrate that they have investigated offers from arts and culture providers. Taking part in a Make Theatre Day is a great first connection to the NT, and will enable you to find out more about how the NT could work with and support your school.</p>
Equality and Diversity	<p>The content of a Make Theatre Day can be structured and adapted to cater for a range of needs and contexts, including SEND groups.</p>
Values and Ethos	<p>Artsmark schools promote arts and culture as a genuine career choice and promote opportunities for experience of working alongside people from arts and culture industries. Make Theatre Days are a perfect introduction for KS2 children to the world of professional theatre.</p>