

# 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 **PRIMARY THEATRE**, 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?**

## Primary Theatre

### How can Drama and Theatre be developed in your school using Primary Theatre?

The Primary Theatre programme introduces children in years 4-6 to Shakespeare. The programme includes a high quality Shakespeare performance in your school or a visit to the National Theatre to see a performance there.

For more information - <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/learning/primary-and-early-years/primary-theatre>

### What will be the impact of Primary Theatre in your school?

- Children will be introduced to a fully staged Shakespeare play specifically designed for younger audiences.
- Teachers will be able to develop schemes of work inspired by the creative learning programmes available - ranging from a pre-show workshop for your class or an in-depth education programme that includes CPD and teacher resources.

### How can Primary Theatre help you achieve your Artsmark Award?

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| <b>Curriculum Design</b>                    | Artsmark schools demonstrate a whole setting understanding and commitment to high-quality arts provision including experiences to see live performance. The Primary Theatre programme enables schools to give children a first experience of Shakespeare with an exciting performance either at your school or at the National Theatre. The Primary Theatre programme supports schools in delivering new and creative approaches to Shakespeare and Literacy.  |
| <b>CPDL</b>                                 | Artsmark schools show evidence that specialist artists have worked with their setting to develop knowledge, skills and understanding of high quality arts delivery. The Primary Theatre programme provides primary drama specialists to deliver practical drama sessions over four workshops with whole classes which culminate in a sharing of work to an invited audience. The Primary Theatre programme also offers an in depth one-day teacher CPD designed to help teachers take a more creative approach to literacy. The day provides teachers with a toolkit of drama-based techniques that can be used to explore Shakespeare or any other text or story. |
| <b>Children and Young People Engagement</b> | Children in Artsmark schools can talk enthusiastically and demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding and experience of high quality arts provision in their setting. The Primary Theatre programme enables you to bring excellent theatre to your school setting to give children the opportunity to see   |

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|                               | Shakespeare as a piece of live theatre for the first time. Children will have the opportunity to discuss, analyse and critique professional theatre in both verbal and written form.  |
| <b>Range of Offer</b>         | Artsmark schools can demonstrate and evidence that children have arts and culture experiences of national significance. The Primary programme enables schools to visit the National Theatre to see a high quality Shakespeare play designed for younger audience. The National Theatre is one of the most prominent performing arts venues in the United Kingdom.   |
| <b>Partnerships</b>           | Artsmark schools can demonstrate that they work effectively in partnership with arts providers and evidence that this is having a positive outcome for children and staff. The Primary programme provides creative learning options to suit your school which enable us to work with your school to create a wide variety of learning outcomes including building confidence, teamwork and speaking and listening skills. |
| <b>Equality and Diversity</b> | The Primary Theatre programme is flexible and can be adapted to different needs and learning styles. Our highly trained practitioners take a bespoke approach in each school to respond to the needs of each class and the school context.  |
| <b>Values and Ethos</b>       | Artsmark school link the arts to wider learning opportunities for children so that they can apply their arts learning in a wider context. The Primary Theatre programme gives a fantastic opportunity to introduce children from Year 4-6 to Shakespeare for the first time and create curriculum links with literacy, history and art and design.  |