

# Statement of Commitment

## Establishment Details

Name: Wood End Park Academy

DfE Number: 3122082

Bridge: A New Direction

Bridge details: <http://www.anewdirection.org.uk/>

## Context

**Describe the context of your school or education setting (for example your phase of education, establishment type, location, number on roll and so on).**

Wood End Park Academy is a state Primary school in the London Borough of Hillingdon and a member of the Park Federation Schools Trust. Currently there are 940 children on roll in the school (academic year 2022-23). The school is made up of 72.3% children whose first language is not English. The school hosts families and teachers from an array of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds where Somalian and Indian make up the majority.

## Question 1

**How do arts and culture currently play a role within your setting's strategic values?**

Following the schools most recent Ofsted inspection in 2017, it was concluded Pupils were gaining an appreciation of artistic and musical skills through the curriculum model however, progression in non-core subjects like Music and Art was seen to be uncertain, more particularly so in the development of skills. Since then, SLT and Subject Leaders of Wood End Park Academy (WEPA) have designed the curriculum to enable children to achieve their goals and aspirations across all aspects.

As part of the school's ethos' the Arts play a valuable role in developing a love of learning in a safe learning environment, which will enable them to reach their full potential. For instance, singing assemblies, Art and DT week activities, dance units in PE and opportunities to showcase talents to parents and the wider community during events like culture Fest.

The achievements and successes of Music and the Arts at WEPA are frequently celebrated which is evident as you move through the school. Each year group has displays showcasing the progression and final outcomes created during Art and DT week, such as a Great fire of London display in Year 2 and a Punch and Judy puppet display in Year 5. The Head Teacher collects outstanding outcomes from every unit which is then displayed on the schools website, app and TV in the front reception. For World Music Day, the children are encouraged to create their own musical instruments which are exhibited for visitors to view around the school. Finally, each class dedicates a morning to their class parents to perform as assembly.

Further to this, at the end of every term, Curriculum Awards such as 'Amazing Artist', 'Daring Designer', 'Perfect at PE' and 'Marvellous Musician' are awarded to a child from every class in each year group to recognise talents, skill and progression.

The school is also dedicated to ensuring high quality provision for SMSC. In doing so, the children at WEPA are

fortunate to take part in a number of themed days throughout the year which coincide with our Music and Arts curriculum. For example, one activity for British Values Day was to create different pieces using a range of mediums based on each value. As well as this, pupils are encouraged to take part in the National 'Spirited Arts' competition which in the past we have won. Every afternoon, the children are exposed to 'Awe and Wonder' photography pictures to encourage children to think deeper and develop an appreciation of the environment and world around them.

Teachers and staff are exposed to CPD training through the course of the year to ensure high quality teaching and learning. Each Year group has a designated planner for each subject to allow subject planning days to take place. In doing so, the meetings generate next steps to ensure the continual progression and improvement of skills as children move through the school. As part of this, the teachers have developed subject concepts and vocabulary which are embedded in the subject plans.

## Question 2

### How and why will your Artsmark journey contribute to the priorities in your strategic improvement plan?

The Wood End Park Academy School Improvement Plan outlines our goals for improvement and how and when these goals will be achieved by optimising curriculum delivery. As part of the schools most recent Academy Improvement Plan for 2022-23- Quality of education: Teaching, Learning and the curriculum, it was decided that Music and Art would be a great focus for the Academic Year. These subjects were chosen to ensure next steps from the Ofsted 2017 inspection were met; "knowledge and skills are taught progressively (in subjects outside of the core subjects) and in sufficient depth so pupils progress as they do in English and Mathematics."

As part of this improvement focus, WEPA is beginning to implement the National Music Plan and Artsmark to ensure high quality learning, strong pupil progress and to boost opportunities for inclusion and diversity. Artsmark, combined with our core values will support us in achieving these next steps to ensure a safe, happy nurturing environment where creativity is prized.

The additional success criteria that has been added to the schools development plan and include;  
To improve the visible progression of skills seen from their start point to their final outcomes.  
To ensure strong delivery of lessons which foster high outcomes  
For Pupils to access Art enrichment opportunities

A mindful overview of Art and DT has been outlined and implemented by our Head Teacher to ensure key skills are interwoven between units to allow prior learning to be built upon. Excellence in teaching and learning will be detailed in curriculum planning driven by CPD and Year group planner meetings. The Senior Leadership Team and Governors have 'actioned' to create more occasions where pupils could be exposed to enrichment opportunities and believe that greater community engagement would be an excellent way of exploring this. Again, this would further strengthen the core value of serving the community in everything we do.

The Artsmark programme will help to ensure that these objectives of the improvement plan are met, and in doing so, will expose the children to greater opportunities and help them to make strong progress in the Arts. We have a commitment to pupils experiencing a broad, relevant and memorable curriculum in all areas. Within this, is the aim that pupils develop skills to an admirable level and retain these skills for future use; we wish this to be the case for ArtsMark subjects too. Another aim is that pupils appreciate the diversity within areas of art and the ArtsMark will help us to do this.

## Question 3

**Looking at the Artsmark Award criteria, where does your setting currently have strengths and where would you like to develop?**

1. Values and ethos

At WEPA 'creativity is prized' and we believe that an Arts culture is permeated within the curriculum. Arts are celebrated and valued as an important part of school life which is displayed around the school, through positive pupil voices conducted throughout the year and ambitious staff who are encouraged to propel students' ideas to generate high quality outcomes. Our Art, Music and Sports Ambassadors have responsibilities such as: looking after resources, conducting activities outside of the classroom; promoting love for learning.

2. Leadership

Arts culture is embedded through the thoughtful planning set out by our Head Teacher and Subject Leads. The Leadership team are committed to drive individual talents through an exposure to a range of Arts mediums as the children progress through the school. Leadership, Governors and Trustees of the school continually evaluate the impact of learning in the Arts, hence, why it is a huge drive at WEPA..

3. Children and young people

Children at WEPA talk enthusiastically about the Arts as well as demonstrate their understanding of skills and knowledge which is evident in outcomes and pupil voice. The children are exposed to a range of opportunities as they move through the school.

4. Curriculum design

The themes and programmes of study in the Arts at WEPA are cross-linked with core subject lessons. Our curriculum allows the children to make strong links with other aspects of their learning to enable a smoother progression through units and create higher quality outcomes.

5. Range of offer

We offer a range of experiences at WEPA, such as Museum and theatre trips. However, we recognise that this is something we need to further develop and believe Artsmark will help us to do this.

Area of Improvement

Exposure to a wider range of Artists from a range of backgrounds

Exposure to the Arts outside of the timetabled day

6. CPD

Subject Leaders for the Arts perform CPD sessions for whole school staff (at least 1 per year) as well as further CPD for subject planners on planning days. The school's Art Lead has begun a forum for Leads within the Federation which should help to develop pedagogy and increase the quantity and quality of CPD delivered to staff in Art and DT specifically.

7. Cultural collaborations

At WEPA, families and the wider community take part in events to celebrate our children's successes. For example, class assemblies, school performances and Culture Fest. Nonetheless, we believe this criterion could be further developed.

Area of Improvement

Opportunities for inter-federation collaboration through workshops and projects.

Partnerships with organisations within the local community to host activities on site and offsite

8. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Every child at WEPA has equal opportunity to Arts and Culture. We understand that children have differing needs and have catered for these children through scaffolded resources and tasks to ensure continual progression and high quality outcomes for all pupils. Children who do require additional support are supported and monitored according to their individual action plans.

**Question 4**

**What are the goals and ambitions for your Artsmark journey and what steps will you take to achieve these?**

Our main goal is to improve the quality and standards of the Arts at Wood End Park Academy.

Provision:

Our Art Lead and Music Lead will firstly conduct an Art and DT staff audit and music review at the beginning of the year to understand what is working well and what needs to improve in our current planning. This will also include understanding the needs and limitations of staff and how a directed CPD might assist in moving forward. Evaluation and feedback from any CPD will include areas to develop further where we will take suggestions from staff.

As well as this, a pupil voice will be conducted with each year group to find out areas of weaknesses and what the children feel could help to improve their Arts experience as well as learning.

This staff audit and pupil voice will be conducted throughout the course of the two years to navigate our areas to develop.

Range of offer Criteria which we aim to develop and how we aim to do this:

Head Teacher, Art Lead and planners to discuss where to engage the community in our curriculum to allow 'real life' examples to pupils.

Provide children with the opportunity to study different artists across different ethnic backgrounds to mirror the diversity in our school and local community.

Opportunity different targeted groups such as 'Gifted and Talented', 'SEN children' and 'Pupil Premium children' to take part in extracurricular activities outside of the classroom- linked to Federation Art Lead forum.

Expose the children to a wider range of instruments to learn in class and offer tutoring sessions - getting the Hillingdon music service in.

Exposing the children to more opportunities to listen to live music from a range of cultures- we will ask for parent volunteers to play and set up partnerships with the community.

Expanding the range for Drama and the dance.

Partnerships Criteria which we aim to develop and how we aim to do this:

Firstly, the WEPA Art Lead will lead a forum in order to communicate with Art Leads from the federation schools. The aim for these meetings is to discuss ideas and outcomes, develop her own pedagogy as well as discuss opportunities to collaborate via competitions, whole federation projects and workshops. Further to this, it should provide our Art Lead with access to contacts in the local community.

During 'Futures Week' we aim to engage parents or members from the local community to come into school and conduct a talk/workshop with the children to explain their jobs and the importance of Arts in the school and National curriculum.

Find a local expert who would be willing to come into school to deliver after 'Art/DT', music workshops and dance/drama workshops..

We plan to enter competitions and events within the Borough and Federation.

## Question 5

**What support will you need and what resources will you commit to achieve your goals and ambitions?**

Time and Space

WEPA is fortunate to have a good amount of indoor and outdoor space for activities to take place. Such space includes, KS1 hall, KS2 hall, the gymnasium, MUGA pitches, playing fields and separate KS1 and 2 playgrounds. Most recently one of the classrooms has been adapted to become the Music room which now holds the majority of the school's musical equipment.

Class timetables have been carefully structured so that music is taught once per week and a whole week during the end of each half-term is dedicated to Art and DT projects.

#### Resources

All staff regularly partake in CPD training to ensure they are equipped with skills needed to deliver high quality lessons. Currently, the school has an Art and DT resource cupboard which holds essential resources. Every classroom is equipped with their own sets of equipment such as paintbrushes and paint. As mentioned above, all musical equipment is stored in the music room. Any material/equipment that needs to be purchased will need to be included in the revised budget. The school is lucky enough to have multiple cupboards which hold P.E and sports equipment.

#### Cost

In order for WEPA's Artsmark journey to be exciting for both teacher and children alike, a budget will be established based on actions to pursue.

We may need to establish other ways to fund extra activities in order to fully commit to the Artsmark journey and ensure progression in our subjects.

#### Support

All staff involved in the Artsmark journey will be supported through continual meetings with Subject Leads and the Head Teacher. Further expertise will be contacted over the course of the two years if needed. Other schools in the Federation Trust including one that has already gained their Award will provide additional support through in person meetings and online when needed.

#### Evaluation

To ensure we secure the chances of gaining the ArtsMark Award, it would be beneficial to set aside allocated time (half-termly) with the necessary subject leads and the Head Teacher to discuss next steps in our journey and also the potential to evaluate what has been completed. This will allow staff to come forward with key goals and dates to work to.

#### System (Communications)

The Arts subjects will be consistently monitored to ensure that we see improvements and progress in the children's acquisition of skills and knowledge. Monitoring of the subjects will take place in a number of ways which include pupil voice, pupil's work, recording and capturing of performances/workshops and staff auditing. All evidence will be filed on the schools shared drive and will be accessible for all staff to add to.

Forums such as whole staff CPD sessions for Arts and the subject planning days will be used to communicate intent and information regarding the subject.

## Question 6

**How will you know you have achieved your goals and ambitions? What will success look like and how will you evidence it in your Statement of Impact?**

At WEPA, we will know that we have achieved our goals and ambitions through the children's understanding and appreciation of the Arts in school and the wider community. Evidence will be captured both orally (pupil voice, performance, development of vocabulary) and also through physical outcomes.

We collect, half termly, samples of exemplary outcomes in all curriculum subjects. These examples will be compared to the year before and we will look for improvement in skill, technique and knowledge. Knowledge and understanding of skills developed will be measured in at least termly pupil voice. Both sources of evidence can be

shared at Trust level to moderate and check our pupils are gaining benefits i.e. developing better etc as a result of our work.

Lead teachers will be involved in moderating work and data should yield more pupils working at age-related and exceeding age-related expectations too.

A survey conducted by parents will also demonstrate their appreciation of the Arts subjects with the vast majority of parents saying their child enjoys the Arts and also they are pleased with the skills their child has developed. We will collect this feedback and further feedback at an annual Arts Mark Exhibition.

Finally, we will compare CPD evaluation at the end of the 2 year project and compare it to the staff audit completed at the beginning of the Award. We should see staff who are more confident in teaching the subject but also staff who can say their student enjoys the subjects.

I confirm that I have read, approved and endorsed the Statement of Commitment and agree to oversee and support the Artsmark journey

I agree to the Artsmark Award Terms and Conditions (These are available online at [artsmark.org.uk/terms-and-conditions](https://artsmark.org.uk/terms-and-conditions))

Headteacher name: Surjeet Johra

Chair of Governors name: Nevin Abraham