

Arts Award and the Ofsted evaluation framework for schools (April 2024)

In preparation for judging the overall effectiveness of a school, the 2024 Ofsted inspection framework structures the judgements inspectors make across key areas. Inspectors are required to report on the overall effectiveness of a school and in doing so focus on the four key judgements:

- ▶ the quality of education
- ▶ behaviour and attitudes
- ▶ personal development
- ▶ leadership and management

They must also evaluate:

- ▶ the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) of pupils at the school, and evaluate the extent to which the school's education provision meets different pupils' needs, including pupils with SEND.

How can evidence from a school's Arts Award provision help to demonstrate Ofsted criteria?

Arts Award delivery can help to demonstrate that a school provides a well-planned arts curriculum that supports the SMSC development of its pupils, and can generate good evidence of quality of education, personal development, and leadership and management to provide and discuss at an Ofsted inspection. This resource will outline where the clearest links between the Arts Award framework and the Ofsted school inspection handbook are.

Impact Study

The Arts Award Impact Study, referenced within this document, was the result of three years research led by London South Bank University, more information about the Impact Study can be found at artsaward.org.uk/impactstudy. There are five key areas where Arts Award has been found to have a positive impact on young people;

Life Skills

Of the many positive impacts that Arts Award can have on young people, a key area is the development of skills transferable to the world of work, such as increased confidence, leadership and organisational skills.

Accreditation

Arts Award is a highly respected and universal qualification, based on sound approaches to teaching and learning.

Arts Choices

Arts Award influences young people's choice of subjects and supports successful applications for further study.

Entrepreneurial Skills

Completing an Arts Award encourages independent learning, creativity and communication skills; all vital for a career as a freelancer or arts entrepreneur or for careers beyond the arts.

Ofsted Criteria	Link to Arts Award
<p>The quality of education</p> <p>Leaders adopt or construct a curriculum that is ambitious and designed to give all pupils, particularly disadvantaged pupils (including pupils with SEND) the knowledge they need to take advantage of opportunities, responsibilities and experiences later in life.</p>	<p>One of the key areas evidenced in our Impact Study is the development of skills transferable to the world of work, such as increased confidence, leadership and organisational skills.</p> <p>Arts Award was shown to have had a positive impact on young people's education and career trajectories. The higher levels of Arts Award usually had the greatest impact, including for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds with less access to regular and diverse extra-curricular activities.</p> <p>Arts Award has also been shown to develop metacognitive skills, vital for children and young people as they progress through their education and into the world beyond formal education.</p>
<p>The school's curriculum is planned and sequenced so that the end points that it is building towards are clear and that pupils develop the knowledge and skills, building on what has been taught before, to be able to reach those end points</p>	<p>Arts Award as a recognised qualification (Explore-Gold) provides a clear end point for students to build towards. Criteria and evidence requirements are straightforward, progress sequentially through the levels and are practically focused.</p> <p>Arts Award offers clear progression through its five levels. This allows schools to sequence students' learning through different Key Stages, building on knowledge and skills as they progress. Each level has a clear and defined qualification outcome.</p>
<p>Teachers use assessment to check pupils' understanding in order to inform teaching, and to help pupils embed and use knowledge fluently and develop their understanding, and not simply memorise disconnected facts</p>	<p>Arts Awards portfolio based assessment, encourages practical application of skills and knowledge along with continual self-reflection on learning and skills development.</p> <p>Arts Award enables young people to 'learn to learn', to have autonomy and agency in their own personal and educational development working towards a qualification as a demonstrable end point</p>
<p>The curriculum remains as broad as possible for as long as possible, including when delivered remotely. The school does not offer disadvantaged pupils (including pupils with SEND) a reduced curriculum.</p>	<p>Offering Arts Award demonstrates a continued commitment to providing an arts curriculum, particularly where a school has opted for a three-year Key Stage 4. It also provides an accredited option to continue to offer arts provision if students are unable to access these subjects at Key Stage 4/5.</p> <p>The flexible nature of Arts Award makes it suitable for remote delivery, and accessible to a broad range of young people, particularly those with SEND.</p>
<p>Pupils with SEND are prepared for their next steps in education, employment and training, and their adult lives, including: further/higher education and employment, independent living, participating in society and being as healthy as possible in adult life.</p>	<p>Arts Award is a flexible and portfolio-based qualification. Evidence can be captured through a range of methods and young people can communicate in the ways that work best for them, including using signing and symbols. There is also no time limit for delivery (providing the young person is under 25), and so Arts Award may be achievable for young people who may struggle to achieve with other regulated qualifications.</p>
<p>Curriculum narrowing</p> <p>In Key Stages 2 and 3 schools need to provide a broad, rich curriculum....If a school has shortened Key Stage 3, inspectors will look for evidence that the school has made provision to ensure that pupils still have the opportunity to study a broad range of subjects, commensurate with the national curriculum, in Years 7 to 9.</p>	<p>Arts Award offers schools the opportunity to demonstrate they are providing a broad and balanced curriculum at all Key Stages.</p> <p>Arts Award offers a flexible and inclusive approach to self-directed learning. It achieves its ambitions to develop young people as artists and arts leaders. Primarily, Arts Award enables young people to 'learn to learn', to have autonomy and agency in their own personal and educational development.</p>
<p>Cultural capital</p> <p>As part of making the judgement about the quality of education, inspectors will consider the extent to which schools are equipping pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.</p>	<p>Taking part in Arts Award provides cultural capital for a range of young people, including those who are new to the arts. Through enabling young people to 'take part' and 'do it', and through validating young people's existing creative abilities, it fosters self-worth and a sense of entitlement to creative production and creative spaces. Arts Award can also provide some young people with 'social capital' through networking with artists and professionals.</p>

Ofsted Criteria	Link to Arts Award
<p>Personal development</p> <p>The personal development judgement is used by inspectors to evaluate leaders' intent to provide for the personal development of all pupils, and the quality with which the school implements this work.... In this judgement, therefore, inspectors will seek to evaluate the quality and intent of what a school provides (either directly or by drawing on high-quality agencies and providers, for example the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, Cadet Forces and the National Citizenship Service), but will not attempt to measure the impact of the school's work on the lives of individual pupils.</p> <p>Developing pupils' confidence, resilience and knowledge so that they can keep themselves mentally healthy</p> <p>Provide an effective CIEAG, in line with the statutory 'Careers guidance and access for education and training providers', to encourage pupils to make good choices and understand what they need to do to succeed in the careers to which they aspire.</p> <p>Supports readiness for the next phase of education, training or employment so that pupils are equipped to make the transition successfully, including, for secondary schools, through careers information education, advice and guidance.</p>	<p>Arts Award offers a robust personal learning framework that raises attainment, bridges the gap (both in achievement and between stages of education) and introduces students to the arts. Assessment criteria supports the personal development of young people in and through the arts.</p> <p>It can also raise the profile of arts subjects in the school, and contribute to a school receiving Artsmark status, thereby adding value to the whole school. Arts Award is also an approved activity provider for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, providing co-curricular opportunities for personal development. Young people taking part in NCS can work towards Arts Award through a wide range of activities.</p> <p>Arts Award develops confidence, leadership and organisational skills. From our Impact Study, 80% of young people who took part reported a positive impact on their communication skills. There is also a lasting impact on students' creativity.</p> <p>Through enabling young people to set and complete their own creative challenges, Arts Award gives young people from a range of backgrounds confidence in their abilities. It also aids the development of resilience by encouraging participants to creatively solve problems, set themselves arts challenges and respond to unexpected situations.</p> <p>Arts Award enables young people to add valuable practical experience to their CVs when applying for further education or jobs.</p> <p>It also gives young people the chance to meet practicing artists and to discover that working in the arts and cultural sector is a feasible option. They can develop networks and useful contacts for taking their first steps towards employment.</p> <p>Delivering Arts Award supports evidencing a number of the Gatsby benchmarks. Our Impact Study showed that young people felt more engaged and motivated to progress in their education. 3 out of 5 said they better understood the options for a career or for the further study in the arts after completing Arts Award.</p> <p>Through Arts Award young people learn to work independently, helping them to prepare for further education and employment.</p> <p>The highest level offers UCAS points and can bolster applications for further study and work. Arts Award enables young people to lead their own arts project fostering personalised, independent learning which stays with them through further education and work. Higher levels also engender professionalism, giving young people a taste of responsibility, time management and leadership.</p>
<p>Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development</p> <p>Sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them</p> <p>Use of imagination and creativity in their learning</p> <p>Willingness to reflect on their experiences</p>	<p>Through participation in different art forms young people can learn about themselves and the world around them, fostering a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning. The arts are a powerful tool for achieving this across the curriculum and Arts Award can be delivered alongside all curriculum subject areas where the arts and creativity can be linked to the subject matter.</p> <p>Arts Award can be used to celebrate a wide range of art forms, including those not traditionally recognised in the UK education system.</p> <p>In our adviser survey over 90% agreed that Arts Award has a positive impact on young people's creativity. 9 out of 10 young people felt a strong positive impact on their artistic skills, even 3-6 years following Arts Award.</p> <p>Through Arts Award young people can understand creativity widely, from being able to make something of their own and solving problems, to writing their own opinions in a review.</p> <p>Reflecting upon experiences is a key skill developed through participation in Arts Award. The assessment format, with built in structures to encourage review and reflection on artistic practice involve meta-cognition and self-regulation.</p>

Ofsted Criteria	Link to Arts Award
Willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively	Through planning skills sharing activities and leadership projects there is opportunity for young people to engage with other community or social settings. These projects also encourage young people to both demonstrate, and reflect upon, their skills at working with others and problem solving. Young people can explore local and national careers, opportunities and organisations, as well as developing an understanding of their local arts and cultural landscape. Often young people are unaware of what is on their doorstep, and Arts Award is an excellent way to combat this.
Understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others	Pupils can explore art forms from their own and other cultures, developing their understanding and appreciation of these cultures.
Willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities	Arts Award supports and evidences participation in artistic, musical and cultural opportunities. It develops pupils' art form knowledge, skills and understanding through taking a creative approach to participation.
Leadership and management	
Whether continuing professional development for teachers and staff is aligned with the curriculum, and the extent to which this develops teachers' content knowledge and teaching content knowledge over time, so that they are able to deliver better teaching for pupils	Adviser Training offers CPD opportunities for staff, developing teachers subject content and teaching knowledge. This can also help to upskill staff who may not be arts specialists. Arts subject 'deep dives' will also require evidence of teachers' expert subject knowledge and the CPD opportunities they have had access to.
How leaders and governors have spent the pupil premium, their rationale for this spending and its intended impact on the learning and progress of disadvantaged pupils (including those with SEND).	Arts Award can evidence impact of pupil premium spending through attainment of an Ofqual recognised qualification.

This resource was produced with reference to Ofsted's School Inspection Handbook, updated April 2024 [Available here](#).

If you would like to discuss planning an Arts Award programme for your school, or have any questions about the whole-school benefits of running the award, please contact the support team at artsaward.enquiries@trinitycollege.co.uk or 020 7820 6178.