

# 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 can using **National Theatre performances, publications and the building as a resource for teaching and learning** 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?**

## **National Theatre performances, publications and building**

**How can Drama and Theatre be developed in your school using NT performances, publications and building as a resource for teaching and learning?**

### National Theatre Performances

National Theatre programmes productions suitable for younger audiences each year. There are also occasional relaxed performances and access performances for groups with additional needs.

### Explore the NT

You and your class can take a self-guided tour through our fascinating building, discovering facts about the history, the architecture and a chance to see the magic that happens backstage from the Sherling Backstage Walkway. Download trail guide [here](#)

### All About Theatre

The NT publication *All About Theatre* is a colourful, accessible book about all the different aspects of theatre making from performance through to wigs, hair and make-up. It is widely available at good bookshops and online.

**What will be the impact for your school of using NT performances, publications and building as a resource for teaching and learning?**

### National Theatre Performances

- Children will develop their cultural understanding by having the opportunity to see a high quality performance at venue of national significance

### Explore the NT

- Children will explore the NT building using cross curricular links into History, Literacy, Geography, Art and Design Maths, Science
- Teachers will build upon the London Curriculum which uses the capital as inspiration to bring the national curriculum to life.
- (ADD when ready – South Bank LC offer)

### All About Theatre

- Teachers will utilise this resource to inspire pupils to find out all the kinds of careers that are available in the theatre.
- Children can use this resource to find out more about how theatre is made.
- Children will have a deeper awareness of the different career options available in the theatre profession.

**How can National Theatre performances, publications and building help you achieve your Artsmark Award?**

<b>Curriculum Design</b>	Artsmark schools use the arts curriculum to help children explore and make connections in other subjects. Using the NT as a resource for learning through seeing a performance, exploring the building or reading All About Theatre enables you to create curriculum links with literacy, history, geography, science, ICT, maths and art and design topics. Using downloadable resources, teachers can extend the learning of visits to the NT back in the classroom and create a fantastic learning journey for all.
<b>Children and Young People Engagement</b>	Children in Artsmark schools can demonstrate that they have involved children in the planning and delivery of arts experiences. Using the NT as a resource means that that children can help plan their visit to the NT and research the history of the building, careers in the theatre and performances that are on the main stage.
<b>Range of Offer</b>	Artsmark schools can demonstrate and evidence that children have had experience of arts and culture experiences of national significance. Using the NT as a resource enables schools to visit the National Theatre to see a high quality performance whilst making time to explore 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.  NT Learning can support you to find out more about your National Theatre and programmes your school can take part in.
<b>Equality and Diversity</b>	Artsmark schools have an understanding and commitment to equality of opportunity to arts and culture experiences. All NT Learning programmes are either free or have bursary support to ensure that a wide range of schools can take part in the NT learning programme including those for which the programme costs present a significant barrier to participation.
<b>Values and Ethos</b>	Artsmark schools actively promote a life-long love for learning and enjoyment of the arts. By using NT as a resource you can celebrate and promote excellent theatre practice in the UK and give children the opportunity to visit the NT for the first time.