**Template press release – awarded schools**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Fulwell Junior School receives prestigious Artsmark Award**

Pupils and staff at Fulwell Junior Schoolare celebrating after receiving a prestigious **Artsmark Platinum Award**; the highest creative quality standard for schools and education settings, accredited by Arts Council England. The award was given in recognition of the school’s outstanding provision and contribution to excellence in arts education.

Artsmark supports schools to develop and celebrate arts and cultural education, putting creativity and wellbeing at the heart of the curriculum, as well as ensuring every young person can be creative and access a diverse, high-quality cultural education.

In order to achieve their Artsmark Award, Fulwell Junior Schoolhad to develop their arts and culture provision to embed a broad and ambitious curriculum. This was achieved by creating an overall plan that was committed to and delivered across the whole school.

Fulwell Junior Schoolwas supported by Culture Bridge North Eastin planning and developing their objectives. Culture Bridge North Eastworked alongside the school at various stages to support their Artsmark Award achievement.

The Artsmark assessor commended Fulwellon their commitment to the arts and learning**: ’What comes across loud and clear is that everything you do has learning at its’ heart…what an impressive school Fulwell Junior School is.’**

The assessor praised the school’s commitment to embracing challenges and using them as an opportunity to promote creative learning eg; ‘upon returning to school post pandemic closures making Romeo and Juliet a whole school project involving all pupils’

As a result of their Artsmark journey, the school has strengthened its’ leadership model which has ‘increased the school’s capacity to exploit cross curricular links and ensure the **Arts provide a strong vehicle across all areas of the curriculum.’**

The school’s approach to teaching pupils about careers and aspirations was praised: **‘The authentic and personalised way you capture pupil voice through career passports is to be celebrated and a practice that should be shared with other settings.’**

Fulwell Junior School has forged many strong partnerships with a range of cultural providers including Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, Southbank Arts Council Collection and Shakespeare For Schools Festival. Pupils have learned about gallery curation meeting conservators from galleries and museums (including The British Museum) resulting in the establishing of their own ‘Aspirations Gallery’ in school.

Assessors said: **‘Your setting strikes us as a school that is constantly striving to improve on its own personal best.’** This captures everything about the school’s mission to ‘Be the best that they can be.’ as they continue on their next Artsmark journey.

On receiving the award, Headteacher Mr Peter Specksaid: “We’re extremely proud of achieving our Artsmark PlatinumAward. Following our recent outstanding Ofsted, we are committed to continuing to deliver a high-quality arts and cultural education and we look forward to continue to grow with Artsmark. ”

Dr Darren Henley OBE, Chief Executive of the Arts Council, said:

“I would like to congratulate Fulwell Junior Schoolon their Artsmark Award. Becoming an Artsmark school demonstrates that through offering a broad, ambitious, and creative curriculum, every pupil can develop character and resilience, increasing their knowledge, curiosity and skills that will remain with them through to adult life.”

For more information or images, contact:

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**About Artsmark Award**

Artsmark Award is the only creative quality standard for schools and education settings, accredited by Arts Council England. It can help unlock young people’s potential, building their confidence, character, and resilience.

Artsmark’s clear and flexible framework can be used to embed creativity across the whole curriculum, address school improvement priorities and ensure every young person can access a diverse, high-quality cultural education.

Artsmark is open to primary, secondary, and special schools, pupil referral units, secure settings, youth offending teams, hospital schools and sixth form colleges. Artsmark is awarded at three levels; Silver, Gold and Platinum.

Visit [**artsmark.org.uk**](https://www.artsmark.org.uk)for more information.

**About Arts Council England**

**Arts Council England** is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in [*Let’s Create*](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/letscreate) that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million **Emergency Response Package**, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of the bodies administering the Government’s unprecedented £1.96 billion **Culture Recovery Funds**. Find out more at [www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/BSZ4Cr8O0hqnMXUGP2-l?domain=artscouncil.org.uk).

Visit [**artscouncil.org.uk**](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk) for more information.