

press release

2009



Wenhaston Primary School awarded Artsmark **Silver**

Arts Council England has awarded an Artsmark **Silver** to Wenhaston Primary School in recognition of the school's commitment to, and excellence in, arts education.

Since Artsmark began 9 years ago, almost 10,000 awards have been made, with 1649 schools receiving the award this year.

Sue Brinkley, **Head teacher** of Wenhaston Primary School in Wenhaston, said:

"I'm delighted that the Arts Council has recognised Wenhaston's dynamic arts education programme. Our students have really enjoyed working with musicians, artists, writers, dance and drama specialists, and I'd like to thank all our staff for their hard work in achieving this award."

Alan Davey, Chief Executive, Arts Council England, said:

"Arts Council England is committed to great art for everyone and we believe that the earlier children are creatively inspired, the more likely they are to have a lifelong engagement with art.

"Artsmark sets the standard for an outstanding arts offer in schools and it's great to see so many new schools attaining the Artsmark award this year. The award recognises Wenhaston's passion for the arts and belief in the power of creativity."

A school must dedicate a minimum of 10 per cent of its curricular teaching time to the arts to receive an Artsmark; 12 per cent wins a Silver Artsmark and 15 per cent

qualifies for Artsmark Gold. An Artsmark school also provides teachers' professional development and involvement with local artists and arts groups.

Any school in England can apply for Artsmark at: www.artsmark.org.uk

For further information contact:

School name

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Artsmark

Artsmark Helpline: 0800 0560 196 / www.artsmark.org.uk

Notes to editors:

1. Artsmark is a national scheme developed by Arts Council England in partnership with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department of Education and Skills, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, OfSTED.

Awards are offered annually and are valid for three years. Schools may re-apply for a higher level award within these three years, and they may also apply after their three year award is over.

2. The closing date for the tenth round of Artsmark is 18 November 2009. All schools in England - primary, middle, secondary, special, pupil referral units, maintained and independent - are eligible to apply. Details of how schools may apply are available at www.artsmark.org.uk or by calling the Artsmark helpline on 0800 0560 196.

3. Arts Council England works to get great art to everyone by championing, developing and investing in artistic experiences that enrich people's lives.

As the national development agency for the arts, we support a range of artistic activities from theatre to music, literature to dance, photography to digital art, and carnival to crafts.

Great art inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves, and the world around us. In short, it makes life better.

Between 2008 and 2011, we will invest £1.3 billion of public money from government and a further £0.3 billion from the National Lottery to create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.