

'Making a Mark'

Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

University of St Mark & St John

Originally established as a teacher training college in 1838, **Plymouth Marjon University** has since developed a wider range of public sector focussed provision in the fields of Youth and Community, Early Years Education, Speech and Language Therapy, Language Education, Sports Development, Coaching and Physical Education and Outdoor Adventure.



The thing that makes us stand out is our students; they are the inspiration and motivation for all we do. We were named the top University in the UK for social mobility in a one-off report in 2014, demonstrating the power of giving students both the skills to succeed and the confidence to use them.

The Social Enterprise Mark criteria includes a requirement for all applicants and renewing Mark Holders to answer a set of social impact questions, which illustrate how they are striving to meet their social/environmental objectives. Below are examples of how **Marjon** is Making a Mark, striving to create a positive impact on people and planet.

Embedding values into all we do

We are a values-based organisation and as such, our values are at the heart of everything that we do:

- **Humanity** – we are student-centred, making a difference to individuals and society

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- **Curiosity** – we push boundaries and enjoy searching for a better way. We encourage potential and possibility
- **Ambition** – we empower people to be the best that they can be
- **Independence** – we nurture self-belief, independence and wellbeing. We encourage diverse views and independent thought

We support the development of social enterprises and encourage our students in this direction. Our new Business School and it's Enterprise and Employability hub; The Edge, is dedicated to supporting students and local entrepreneurs with their values-based businesses, from the initial idea and launch, all the way through to growing and scaling a sustainable enterprise.

Contributing to the local community

We produce graduates whose primary role will be to work within and enhance the output of the public sector, and as an institution continue to provide a broad range of public benefit to our community.

Marjon Sports makes an active contribution to the wider community, not only through sports facilities being made available to community groups and schools locally, but through the supporting of key sports within hub clubs, encouraging children from across the City to engage in active sport from a young age to their late teens.

University-operated clinics offer a range of rehabilitation programmes, and are undertaking innovative work with the Macmillan Cancer Support, supporting patients in improving their health and wellbeing.

Widening participation in Higher Education

We are committed to widening participation, with over 97% of students attending the University coming from State Sector schools and almost 40% from lower socio-economic groups; making us one of the most inclusive institutions in England (2015/16).

As part of our widening participation strategy, we support the raising of aspiration and attainment through the provision of workshops at feeder schools, mentoring programmes and summer schools, increasing awareness of the benefits of higher education.

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