



National SMSC Quality Mark Verification Report

Name of School: Bower Grove School

Headteacher: Mrs Lynn Salter

SMSC Lead: Miss Candise Higgins

Verification visit: 26 May 2021

Dear Mrs Salter,

I am delighted to inform you that as a result of the recent verification visit, Bower Grove School has been awarded **Gold** level of the National SMSC Quality Mark and this has been confirmed by the Quality Assurance Panel.

I would like to thank you for all the hard work, time and rigour you have put into preparing for your SMSC visit, particularly in light of the additional challenges that Covid demands. The opportunity to discuss and witness your day to day provision enabled me to experience a wealth of excellent practice that is embedded in the fabric of the school, its aims and ethos of Respectful, *Responsible, Ready to learn*.

Thank you to Jaydon and Criegon who were fantastic tour guides - polite, caring and a credit to Bower Grove. It was wonderful to hear their love of their school and sense of belonging.

I would like to congratulate your students: Ethan, Alfie, Rosie, Leo, Ellie, Jamie, Paige and Rio for sharing their opinions with me. To hear them talk of how safe they feel, how much they enjoy their school and how they look after each other is a testament to the hard work and passion of your staff team and their commitment to ensuring the best possible experience for their students. Jamie in particular was a fantastic advocate for the way in which the school had nurtured him and given him strategies and tools that will equip him for the future. It was wonderful to hear him talk about the *Challenger* Activity break that he had experienced.

I would particularly like to thank your Governors, Mrs White and Mrs Burgess for their time and helpful insight into the importance that SMSC has within the school and how it provides a bedrock for the way in which the school operates and influences the positive learning experiences for the students. They were keen to highlight, the strong leadership, vision and drive, how the staff invest in the students, provide excellent role modelling and make every interaction one of value.

My thanks also go to your wonderful parents who took time to explain how the school is providing such positive experiences for their children and preparing them for future as a valued and independent member of society. They could not praise the school and staff enough, identifying that you 'go the extra mile and make everyone feel valued'.

Finally, I would especially like to thank Miss Candise Higgins, your SMSC lead, for the dedication and thought she have put into ensuring the visit was a success and for providing such comprehensive evidence of the SMSC provision within the school. Her passion, pride and enthusiasm comes shining through.

I congratulate Bower Grove School on the **Gold** standard of SMSC development that is afforded their pupils. Young Citizens will be in touch with you to discuss which aspects of your provision can be shared with other schools.

Strengths of the school's SMSC development:

Through your self-evaluation and our discussions it is evident that there are numerous SMSC related strengths at Bower Grove. The following are a few key examples:

- **The world beliefs** curriculum and the way it is delivered provides students with relevant and engaging knowledge that prepares them for living in a diverse world and enhances their experience of inclusion.
- The **Theme of the Fortnight** (TOTF) and **Golden Duck** rewards system provide opportunities for developing and embedding positive values and attitudes and an appreciation of individual achievements and respectful behaviours.
- The drive to provide extra-curricular opportunities enriches the students lived experience, provides *awe and wonder* and enables them to develop a sense of achievement and self-worth.
- The robust development plan and curriculum planning provides a clear framework that is planned, assessed, and reviewed and supports the individualised pathway for each student to develop a strong sense of belonging and community.

Areas for development:

- Consider becoming a beacon/ champion school for SMSC provision to share good practice with other neighbouring schools and enrich opportunities for students to share their own achievements and development.
- Revisit extra-curricular provision in light of lost opportunities due to the pandemic.
- Explore Post Covid provision for mental health and wellbeing of staff and pupils.

Verifier:



Mai Kennedy

SMSC Quality Mark Manager: Victoria Quijada

Please note that his award is recognised for 3 years and that re-verification should be sought by May 2024.