



National SMSC Quality Mark Verification Report

Name of School: Dorothy Barley Junior Academy
Verification visit: 24th May 2018
Headteacher: Cathy Leicester
SMSC Lead: Lauren O'Connor

Dear Ms Leicester,

I am delighted to inform you that as a result of the recent verification visit, Dorothy Barley Junior Academy has been awarded Silver level of the National SMSC Quality Mark, and this has been confirmed by the Quality Assurance Panel.

I would like to offer particular thanks to the pupils who escorted me around the school and spoke with such passion about the work that you do. Each child spoke with pride and enthusiasm about their school and their learning. It was lovely to hear Harrison describe his school as a 'Welcoming place that invites every newcomer into the big family.' I would also like to give a big thanks to the pupils I met with to talk about the different ways the school contributes to their SMSC development and the many ways in which they support each other. The children I spoke with appear to appreciate and understand that their teachers have to work hard to support every child in their learning and in their happiness, both inside and outside the classroom. Thank you also to the two members of the Governing Body who took the time to meet with me and share their recount of Dorothy Barley's journey and their vision for the journey ahead.

It must be said that Dorothy Barley Junior Academy has come on a long, and at times, difficult journey; one that has taken the school from special measures to good, which was awarded just over a year ago. The staff, in particular you and Ms O'Connor have worked very hard to involve the school in many different initiatives in order to support the children in a variety of ways from the creation of the new Learning Council, where appointed children are subject specialists and are involved in planning and evaluating, to the introduction of Visible Learning displays, Philosophy for Children, Restorative Justice and the 'warm fuzzies' which encourages the pupils to think and say positive things to each other.

I congratulate Dorothy Barley Junior Academy on the Silver standard of SMSC development that is afforded their pupils; the Citizenship Foundation will be discussing with the school which aspects of their provision can be shared with other schools.

Strengths of the school's SMSC development:

Through your self-evaluation and our discussions it evident that there are numerous SMSC related strengths at Dorothy Barley; the following are a few key examples:

- The opportunities for Pupil Voice are strong. Pupils could give examples of how their contribution and opinions have made improvements to the school environment.
- The learning displays are regarded highly by the pupils. They not only demonstrated the learning value of the displays but also showed a clear sense of pride and a love of learning whilst taking turns to explain and describe each display.



- SMSC is regarded highly within the school. Not only is this demonstrated through the application of the Quality Mark, but also through the dedication of the staff and governors to ensure that all aspects of SMSC are shared, understood and reviewed.
- The school is constantly trying to find new ways to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of the children who attend Dorothy Barley and the community they live in. Most children are from a range of minority ethnic backgrounds and speak English as an additional language. The school is due to hold a cultural celebration evening to which all parents are invited.

Areas for development:

- Strengthen the feeling of empathy within the school by using the idea of looking back on the journey that the school has come on to encourage the pupils to look back and look at their heritage and family's ancestral journey.
- Consider an alternative word to demonstrate the learning value of 'Tolerance' more positively. Words discussed were: appreciation and celebration.
- Take time to celebrate what has been achieved. We spoke about creating a special 'Dorothy Barley and its History' display in order to track the story of Dorothy Barley Junior Academy.

Verifier: Victoria Quijada

Chair of QA Panel Yvonne Richards

Please note that this award is recognised for 3 years and that re-verification should be sought by May 2021