



National SMSC Quality Mark Verification Report

Name of School: Blue Coat Church of England School & Music College

Headteacher: Mrs V Shelley

SMSC Lead: Mrs G Hathaway

Verification visit: 10th December 2019

Dear Mrs Hathaway,

I am delighted to inform you that as a result of the recent verification visit, Blue Coat 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 inviting me in to your school and for the warm welcome I received from staff and students. The school is an exciting and vibrant place to be where students are clearly valued as human beings first and foremost with their personal development at the heart of everything that is done at Blue Coat.

I would also like to thank the students who met with me to discuss their feelings around your SMSC provision. Student feedback was glowing for all aspects of SMSC development and they understood the role of the school in their development into adulthood. Students could articulate well the skills and attributes that SMSC has developed within them, and how they would take this forward post 16. Students also evidenced an ethos of respect, inclusivity and diversity throughout the school, understood the rule of Law and other fundamental British Values and looked forward to the upcoming mock General Election and the excitement around school that this was creating. Students felt prepared for life in modern Britain and discussed the way that current affairs are debated and highlighted during form times, to ensure they are abreast of local, national and international issues. They particularly liked the simple but effective CHRIST values that are the foundation of everything you do. Students explained these values to be very much like a road map for future success both as individuals and as part of a wider society.

There was a clear understanding that change at Blue Coat is driven from the students, with teachers acting as facilitators only – an example being the excellent range of lunch time clubs set up and ran by students for students. Restorative justice is used well at the school and students see the value in this, and use it as an opportunity to develop empathy and self-reflection skills.

I would also like to pass on my thanks to the parents and governors who gave up their time to speak to me. Parents were equally glowing in their praise for the school and the values and positive attributes it is instilling in their children. Parents were even able to explain the CHRIST values and how these run through to life at home. Parents gave good feedback around the value the school places on holistic development and understood the importance of SMSC in preparing their children for life in modern Britain. The school offers an abundance of trips and visits to all year groups and places great value in offsite learning and learning outside the classroom – particularly in seeking those awe and wonder experiences. Governors were clear about their role in SMSC development and explained the importance given to SMSC during Governor meetings. A clear action plan is in place to continue on this positive journey of development.

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I was delighted to meet with SMSC Lead, Mrs Gemma Hathaway and listen to her enthusiasm for, and clear understanding of, the importance of SMSC for students at Blue Coat School. There is a clear SMSC vision, shared by all senior leaders and driven relentlessly by Mrs Hathaway. The SMSC lead understands the changing nature of SMSC as the world and society develop year on year and tailors the SMSC experience to match this. PSHE is developed well, is constantly evolving, and provides students with the safe space in which to discuss prominent social, cultural and moral issues of the day. Mrs Hathaway is driving forward the embedding of SMSC values cross curricular and was able to give good examples of where this is already improving outcomes. I am confident that Mrs Hathaway will continue to place SMSC development at the core of student experiences at Blue Coat now and in the future.

I congratulate Blue Coat School on the Gold standard of SMSC development that is afforded their pupils. Young Citizens will be in touch 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 Blue Coat; the following are a few key examples:

- SMSC is embedded well at the school and is evident clearly in discussions with the Head teacher, Governors and students. Clear opportunities exist, both inside and outside the classroom, to develop all aspects of SMSC.
- Students are developing well their critical enquiry skills and curiosity for the wider world.
- Students understand and value the role of democracy in their lives and how to use this as a vehicle for change.
- Extracurricular activities, both at lunch time and after school, exist out of student requests and continue to be popular.

Areas for development:

- Continue your work around embedding SMSC across the curriculum, in each subject area and ensuring students understand the links across the range of subjects they study.
- Continue developing your work around visiting speakers so they continue to reflect the wide variety of cultures that exist in modern Britain and to ensure students are exposed to those that are different to their own.

Verifier: David Brandrick

SMSC Quality Mark Manager: Victoria Quijada

Please note that this award is recognised for 3 years and that re-verification should be sought by December 2022