



National SMSC Quality Mark Verification Report

Name of School: Blue Coat Church of England School

Headteacher: Mrs. V Shelley

SMSC Lead: Ms. S Clemo and Ms. G Hathaway

Verification visit: Friday 19th May 2023

Dear Mrs Shelley,

I am delighted to inform you, that as a result of your 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 offer particular thanks to the staff, parents, governor, and pupils for the very warm welcome I received throughout my visit. Thank you to the pupils I met, they were extremely proud to be part of the Blue Coat family and were so enthusiastic to share and explain your school CHRIST Values, which are fully embedded into school life. They were able to tell me about all the wonderful SMSC opportunities available at Blue Coat School and how much they value other cultures and diversity, *'We are so inclusive here and we celebrate everyone and their beliefs'. 'Cultural Day is one of the best things that happens here because we all learn from each other.'* Pupils spoke passionately about the leadership opportunities and how this helps to improve their school; it was wonderful to hear that sixth form pupils deliver assemblies to the younger year groups, including safeguarding and being inclusive. They were all able to tell me about how much support they receive from staff around their own well-being and mental health, *'We are taught to be well-rounded people. Our teachers care, they really care and when they nod at you, they really mean it. They always check in on us.'*

The Governors and parents all spoke about Blue Coat with such pride, always matched with huge smiles. They were able to discuss why SMSC is important to the development of children, the continuous support from all school staff and how the happiness of the children is always at the forefront, *'Blue Coat gives our children a broader perspective on life. It is very much about developing the child and they always go above and beyond.'* Parents spoke about the sense of belonging and safety at Blue Coat. *'It's an easy choice when picking schools, this will always be number one'*.

I would also like to thank and congratulate Shannon for her ongoing passion and enthusiasm for SMSC, which is mirrored throughout the Blue Coat family. Shannon and I looked back at the previous development points and discussed how much they have grown and embedded SMSC across the curriculum. The SMSC monthly challenges are popular, and I was lucky enough to look through some of the incredible work submitted by pupils, in particular the work around The Holocaust and Refugees.

I was taken on a tour of the school, in which Shannon and Gemma pointed out many SMSC opportunities, for example, The Careers Space within the library, the staff pupils and the theatre. I particularly enjoyed seeing the Library and QR codes linking to local employment opportunities, pupil voice boxes, along with the Inclusion Unit; what wonderful and enriching opportunities you are providing for all pupils. Under great leadership, it is clear to see that SMSC really is at the heart of the school and all staff (that I was lucky enough to speak with) gave a clear insight and voiced the school's vision, answering all questions with professionalism and confidence.



I congratulate Blue Coat School on the Gold standard of SMSC development that is offered to their pupils.

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 Gold, the following are a few key examples:

- Pupil, Parent and Governing Body Voice –. All were able to articulate a range of SMSC opportunities available, giving examples with enthusiasm and pride. Your core school values were apparent in all answers and the foundations for all the wonderful SMSC work. Your school governors are actively involved in all aspects of school life and regularly work with staff to further enhance learning opportunities.
- The celebration of culture and diversity across the school. This is evident in a range of days you invite pupils to take part in and also the Syria Cook Book you are putting together with the wider school community.
- Your sixth form area, including support leaflets from the NHS, supporting students with staff members who represent both further education and apprenticeships after school. The extracurricular clubs which are provided, including a Gospel Choir and Environment Society; many pupils referenced these during the pupil voice.

Areas for development:

- Look at further ways to promote British values and pupil voice. Votes for School is a great resource to aid discussions and debates in challenging areas and within current affairs. Pupils will build on their knowledge and skills when there are conflicting views/ topics.
- Continue to raise the SMSC profile and ethos by embedding parent and community events.
- Share all the wonderful SMSC opportunities and provisions you have in place with other schools.

Thank you once again for welcoming me into your school. Your positive culture and ethos are infectious, I can see why pupils, staff, parents and Governors are proud to belong to the Blue Coat family and I left feeling touched by all the incredible things you are doing.

Verifier: Abbie Underwood

SMSC Quality Mark Manager: Victoria Quijada

Please note that this award is recognised for 3 years and that re-verification should be sought by May 2026