



National SMSC Quality Mark Verification Report

Name of School: Portchester Community School

Headteacher: Mr. R. Carlyle

Assistant Headteacher & SMSC Lead: Ms J. Grew

Verification visit: 26th May 2021

Dear Mr Carlyle,

We are delighted to inform you that as a result of the recent verification visit, Portchester Community School has been awarded the gold level of the National SMSC Quality Mark and this has been confirmed by the Quality Assurance Panel.

Mr. Rees was delighted to virtually visit the school and see some of the excellent things you do through discussions with students, staff, parents and governors to produce such a delightful ethos to support the development of successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. In 2018 OFSTED noted that "The school has a strong, inclusive and community-focused ethos that enriches pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding." Despite the challenges of the pandemic, this level of excellence has largely been maintained and is now poised to improve still further.

Much of this improvement has been based on a strong moral compass and an approach to 'marginal gains', which is shared throughout the school and with the whole community. The importance of all students achieving the best possible qualifications and that students develop inclusive, caring and positive values is evident throughout the whole school. The school's engagement with, and contribution to, the wider community is excellent and despite the restrictions of Covid, continues to develop still further. It is clear that all members of the school community are very much on board 'the yellow bus'. All of this also prepares students very well for the next stages of education, training and eventually employment, which the students and their parents recognise and appreciate.

The video tour of the school was an absolute delight and represented so many of the inclusive values which lie at the heart of your vision. Please do thank all of the staff and students who contributed to the virtual tour and all the staff and students who Mr Rees was able to meet during his virtual visit. All of the students spoke with insight, passion and enthusiasm for the inclusive curriculum and extra-curricular activities that you provide and the way that this is adapted to respond to the needs and interests of individuals. Every one of them was a credit to themselves, their families and the school.

We would especially like to congratulate Ms. Grew, who has taken on responsibility for the development of SMSC with commitment, determined professionalism and strong vision for future improvement. She has shared this strong sense of purpose with governors, middle leaders and members of staff throughout the school to very good effect, so that, as one governor reported: "This is no longer just Josie's thing, it's something that we all take responsibility for."

We congratulate you on achieving the Gold standard of SMSC development. 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, there are a range of SMSC related strengths at Portchester Community School including:

- Innumerable opportunities for groups and individual students across the school, within and beyond the curriculum, to foster their personal development and creative opportunities, such as the eight creative opportunities which are being funded by the Covid payment.
- The aims and values of the school pervade every aspect of the school community and their simplicity and the sensitive, imaginative and compassionate way that they are administered provides students with a clear sense of purpose, and staff with a workable, flexible approach which can be adapted to meet different circumstances and needs.
- Inclusivity, recognising and celebrating diversity is a hallmark of the school. The introductory video was hosted by students, and the selection of students who spoke to Mr. Rees recognised and represented the full range of the school's comprehensive intake. The inclusion of disabled students and those with SEND is very strong, as is the establishment, and complete acceptance by students and staff alike of the LGBT group. The staff are clearly passionately committed to improving the learning and life chances of all students which is recognised and appreciated by the governors and the students themselves.
- Relationships are at the heart of everything the school does. Positive, respectful, professional relationships are modelled by the staff when talking to each other, students and other adults in the school community. Students respond to this, as a matter of course, which creates a virtuous spiral of good manners and positive, enthusiastic responses to all the opportunities available to them.

Areas for development:

Despite the excellent work identified above, we know the school will not become complacent and will continue to strive for even greater excellence. Opportunities are already being discussed by staff and students to continue to enhance academic attainment and SMSC development through:

- Restoring and refining opportunities for curriculum trips, extracurricular visits and virtual engagement through strong community links both in the UK and abroad. This has the potential to increase still further opportunities for academic, sporting and creative arts, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- The continued development of 'ID 2021' which will continue to enhance the contribution to celebrating diversity and personal identity.
- Even greater curriculum/community links. There are already a number of opportunities such as the BTEC students engaging with Community provision for both childcare and support of elderly people. As the restrictions of Covid recede, even greater opportunities may be found to the benefit of all members of the school community.

Verifier:



SMSC Quality Mark Manager: Victoria Quijada

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