



## National SMSC Quality Mark Verification Report

**Name of School:** Cedar House School  
**Verification visit:** 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
**Headteacher:** Kathryn Taylor  
**SMSC Lead:** Gareth Darwen

Dear Ms Taylor

I am delighted to inform you that, as a result of the recent verification visit, Cedar House 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 Jayden, Jacob and Kieran who talked to me confidently about your school. They were able to express how much they enjoyed school and how proud they were of everyone in it. They were able to explain about how much your school had changed their experiences of school. When asked to describe Cedar House in one word thought very hard and told me that their school was; amazing, great and, my favourite, helpful.

Gareth Darwen deserves a great deal of credit for the hard work he has put in to raise the profile of SMSC and to evidence your practice. He has obvious passion and drive and is clearly respected by all members of your school community.

**I congratulate Cedar House School on the Gold standard of SMSC development that is afforded their pupils; Young Citizens will be discussing with the school which aspects of their provision be can shared with other schools.**

### **Strengths of the school's SMSC development:**

Through your self-evaluation, the wide range of evidence and discussions, it is clear that there are numerous SMSC related strengths at Cedar House; the following are a few key examples:

- SMSC is completely embedded in the life, culture and learning of the school. It features strongly in all aspects of the pupils' personal and academic development. It is evident in the way staff and pupils talk about school, treat each other and their confidence to explore ideas, which is held in high regard.
- The way the activities, learning and visits that enhance SMSC are developed and beginning to be evidenced more strongly allows everyone to see and share in the excellent practice at Cedar House School.
- The incredible art that features throughout the school shows how much your pupils are valued – it makes your school a very beautiful place.
- The deeply ingrained ethos of celebrating the individual nature of every young person in your care. The acceptance and celebration of each person- for the unique person they are and the powerful relationships and understanding that exists throughout the

school is clearly, and immediately obvious, and has a powerful impact on the development of the young people.

- The warmth and welcome of the school community made my visit a joy.

**Areas for development:**

- The promotion and development of pupil voice; there is great recognition that your young people have valuable things to say and a desire to support them in voicing this powerfully and appropriately.
- The work to develop greater links and space to include parents, carers and the local community to ensure that the external view and reputation of your school recognises the fantastic progress your pupils make.
- Celebrating more widely each young person's progress through The Witherslack Way and more routinely evidencing and raising the external profile of the excellent SMSC provision that is happening in school.

Verifier: Rachel Tomlinson

SMSC Quality Mark Manager: Victoria Quijada

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