National SMSC Quality Mark Verification Report

Name of School: Hopefields School

Head teacher & SMSC Lead: Emily Greenhalgh

Verification visit: 27th October 2023

Dear Emily,

What a wonderfully unique and inspirational school you have. I am delighted to inform you that as a result of the recent verification visit, Hopefields School has been awarded **Gold** level of the National SMSC Quality Mark, and this has been confirmed by the Quality Assurance Panel.

Thank you to Dave for the very warm welcome I received (as well as to you for the telephone assistance when I was lost in the fog!). I loved hearing about the young person for whom the pigs provided transformational therapy.

My time spent at Cross Farm learning about the use of equine facilitated learning (Montana) from Claire was really informative and as well as the other animals, I got to meet this happy creature too.



Hopefields School has SMSC at its core and is fundamental to the education provided. This is evident in your SMSC statement and intent document as well as curriculum and subject planning documentation. During my time at my Hopefields I enjoyed seeing the range of really good facilities and equipment that your young people have access to.
There is such a welcoming, relaxed and calm atmosphere which appears effortless however it is created with careful consideration alongside a great deal of staff skill and dedication stemming from your pedagogy of trauma-informed practice and 'natured heart approach'.

Please pass on my thanks to the young people who chatted with me over lunch. They are obviously proud to be part of Hopefields School and shared heartwarming thoughts and feelings such as 'when I came here, I found me'.
Thank you also to the staff. Without exception, they spoke very highly of your school with comments like 'I always feel extremely valued'.

I congratulate Hopefields 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 SRT, your website, my observations and discussions it is evident that there are numerous SMSC related strengths at Hopefields School; the following are a few key examples:

- Your twice daily 'Join ups' where everyone gets together. These are an effective and timely way to facilitate student voice.
- Your IQM Centre of Excellence status.
- The passion and dedication of staff members to support every young person's individual needs.
- The expertise and specialist curriculum provision enhanced by a range of external opportunities.

Areas for development:

- Further enhance your cultural offer through the development of the RE curriculum.
- Continue to strive to achieve the Eco School award.
- Amend your website to place your SMSC (and recent Ofsted and IQM reports) front and centre – get better at shouting about yourselves!

Verifier: Sandra Saint SMSC Quality Mark Manager: Victoria Quijada

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