



National SMSC Quality Mark Verification Report

Name of School: St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs. H Francis

SMSC Leads: Mrs. H Francis/ Mr. P Smith

Verification visit: 27/4/22

Dear Mrs Francis

I am delighted to inform you that as a result of the recent successful virtual verification, St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School has been awarded gold level of the National SMSC Quality Mark, and this has been confirmed by the Quality Assurance Panel.

I was very impressed with the evidence provided to support your submission and in the way that you and Mr. Smith conducted the verification process, especially as it was virtual and not face-to-face. I particularly appreciated the superbly put together virtual tour that helped me to capture the essence of SMSC and life at St. Joseph's. I felt very welcome and connected with your school during the virtual visit, which is clearly due to the emphasis that you place upon SMSC and your vision and values across school. Thank you for all your hard work in bringing the self-verification tool and accompanying evidence together.

It is obvious that your school takes its role as a 'hub' within the local community very seriously, and this is testimony to the hard work and commitment of all staff, pupils, parents, and Governors. Congratulations to you all!

Please again thank all of your super pupils who talked to me so enthusiastically about all of the wonderful SMSC-related opportunities provided for them within the curriculum and across school. I particularly enjoyed hearing about the many different ways they have to be engaged in the life of the school, such as the teaching and Learning Committee, Sports Council, the Roving Reporters and your School Council. Some of the words they used to describe St. Joseph's (extraordinary, together, family, fun) were perfect ways to epitomise how they feel about attending their school!

I'd also like to thank the group of parents that I spoke to, who so clearly value all that the school does for their children, both academically and in the much wider context of their development. They enthused about their children's positive experiences in school, and I must also mention the excellent Parent Voice committees which you have facilitated in order to give parents a strong voice in the life of the school – what a great concept!

The conversation I had with your SMSC link Governor was also really helpful in understanding how SMSC permeates through school. She made it clear that SMSC is high on the strategic agenda to ensure that the culture, values, and ethos of St Joseph's provides the best possible experience for your school community.

Once again, very warm congratulations to St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School on achieving the gold standard of SMSC development that is afforded to their pupils and school community.

Strengths of the school's SMSC development:

There are many positive and creative initiatives at St. Joseph's, with an array of opportunities and activities that enrich SMSC. The following are a just a few key examples:

- Communication with your school community – across a range of themes and on a regular basis, engaging with your community via social media, newsletters, various committees, and groups. Parents and pupils feel that their views are valued and actively sought in a planned and effective manner
- Outdoor environment and spaces – your pupils enthused about the Forest School area and school grounds, which you utilise well to provide wider enrichment and valuable learning experiences
- Relationships between school members – with your school values at the core, relationships between pupils, staff and parents are hugely positive and characterised by compassion, kindness, and mutual respect

Suggested areas for development:

Please continue with the great work you are currently undertaking around SMSC. The challenge is, as always, to maintain your efforts in the breadth of areas SMSC encompasses; pastorally, through the curriculum and the extra-curricular offer. You could consider some of the following areas for even further development in practice:

- Further develop the direct links between Governors and School Council to extend their work and contributions to wider school improvement
- Consider signing up to the DfE's 'Education Staff Wellbeing Charter' to further enhance and formalise the good work you do around staff wellbeing
- Consider publishing your SMSC policy and your SMSC action plan on your school website to further demonstrate and celebrate your SMSC provision

Verifier: Russell Stanley

SMSC Quality Mark Manager: Victoria Quijada

Please note that this award is recognised for 3 years, and that re-verification should be sought by April 2025.