



National SMSC Quality Mark Verification Report

Name of School: Kettering Buccleuch Academy **Verification visit:** 27th November 2017
Principal: Dino Disalvo **Headteacher (Primary):** Angela O'Neil
SMSC Lead: Abbie Underwood (Primary) & John Townell (Secondary)

Dear Dino, Angela, Abbie and John,

I am delighted to inform you that as a result of the recent verification visit, Kettering Buccleuch Academy has been awarded Gold level of the National SMSC Quality Mark, and this has subsequently been confirmed by the Quality Assurance Panel. We felt that on balance, the evidence to date matched the SMSC Self-Assessment Tool ratings and we are happy to reward an overall level of 'Gold' in recognition of the work to date.

I would like to thank you for inviting me into your school and for the very warm welcome I received from both the staff and pupils. I would like to give a special mention to the wonderful pupils who I met. Their belief in the school was unwaivering and their compliments about staff's dedication in going 'beyond the basics' as one pupil said, was truly humbling. Thank you to Abbie and John for taking me on a tour of the school, pointing out the many SMSC displays such as the individual classroom school aims, RAINBOW and pupils' work on British values, diversity and safeguarding. What a fabulously enriching environment the school provides with themed classrooms, a corridor with a European feel and even a mock up of the Globe!

Abbie and John talked with great insight and professionalism about the many and varied opportunities the school has provided for SMSC development and answered my questions with confidence and clarity. Abbie and John your dedication to ensuring the very best for your pupils and your enthusiasm was outstanding. I really enjoyed spending yesterday with you both. Witnessing first hand your energy and motivation for improving SMSC and your passionately expressed view that placing it at the heart of a school as being the only way forward to ensure an improved and caring learning environment, is obvious on the tour, in the evidence and on your self-assessment tool.

Your school achieved the 'Gold' award with flying colours; presenting evidence in abundance for each of the standards. It is clear that SMSC is at the centre of everything you do in school, supported passionately from the top down and by your SMSC team and from pupils upwards using the 'voice boxes' for instance.

I congratulate Kettering Buccleuch Academy on the excellent standard of SMSC development that you afford your pupils and staff; the Citizenship Foundation will be discussing with you which aspects of your provision may be shared with other schools.

Strengths of the school's SMSC development:

- Pupils' SMSC development is at the heart of the school, informing curriculum planning, pastoral care and engagement with families. It is embedded in all classroom work in the primary phase, woven through in a cross-curricular way in the secondary curriculum and evident in all school policies which were shared with me.
- Pupils are encouraged to take ownership of their SMSC development by leading on initiatives; they were passionate in their description of their charitable work when I met with them too.
- Pupils house identity and the vertical tutoring has given the school a family feel that everyone feels part of and celebrates. The sense of fun in the millionaire readers, the university challenge style quizzes and funfairs and the house honours badge application cards all exemplify this and provide great pupil motivation.



- The house cup and the celebratory fayre that is laid on in celebration of this win provides an enjoyable, yet competitive feel good event.
- The use of P4C in primary lessons is helping the pupils to build from where they are at and deepen their understanding with improved motivation.
- Leaders ensure that staff receive high quality training in the field of SMSC with clarity of direction.
- The most vulnerable pupils are identified by staff and using the data from the Boxhall Profile. These pupils have access to school social workers and family support workers and a strong school pastoral team. The nurture rooms are playing a part in supporting these vulnerable young people to develop the social and emotional skills they will need going forward. Breakfast clubs and staff training in protective behaviours are also clearly put to good use too in the school.
- The assembly programme is valued and actively promotes a sense of community and adds to the family feel of the school.
- The school clearly values the work of the whole staff body, uses the staff survey for good effect and recognizes their work through things such as flexi days, celebration briefings (with awards from local businesses as a thank you for staff efforts), free lunches and a funfair for the whole family with a free fish and chip supper for staff. Consequently there is a low turn over of staff as the school environment and culture rewards staff and helps to improve staff emotional health and wellbeing.
- The great work on current affairs using 'BBC Newsround' in the primary school would benefit from being extended into the secondary school too. Maybe consider using the screens around school for newsreports or building current affairs into tutor time if this isn't happening already.

Areas for development:

- Ensure that PSHE & Citizenship (secondary) remain a central feature of the new cross-curricular approach and use the three drop down days to wisely cover an gaps in coverage identified in your whole school audit. Please keep monitoring the loss of Global Learning from the curriculum to ensure that the breadth of these subjects and the sensitivity of the issues to be covered is nurtured fully in order to ensure that the secondary school keeps SMSC at the heart of its curricular provision to ensure a 'broad and balanced' curriculum that safeguards all of its pupils.
- Consider using a system such as Health Related Behaviours Questionnaire (HRBQ) across the school to compare results with local and national schools and help shape curricular developments in SMSC in all phases.
- Continue to ensure that there are 'Focus Weeks' in the primary phase that encourage the development of SMSC and build on the good practice of those delivered already and investigate the possibility of this running in the secondary phase of KBA.
- Consider providing training for staff on the work of Carol Dweck on 'mindsets' to encourage 'growth mindsets' as a language of encouragement in the school.

In concluding this report, I feel it is appropriate to leave the last words with a pupil and to say, keep up the good work to everyone! All young people need a safe, stable environment to grow, learn and succeed as fully rounded individuals and you try your very best to provide this. Thank you for welcoming me to obtain a glimpse of this journey in progress. This is a quote that encapsulates my experience during my visit and was said with pride in front of many other nodding pupils on a grey November day. I think it sums up the feelings of so many of your pupils of all ages and was reflected in the ethos I saw at every turn: 'I love this academy; it has a family atmosphere!'

Verifier: Jayne Wright

Chair of QA Panel _____

Please note that his award is recognised for 3 years and that re-verification should be sought by Nov 2020.