



National SMSC Quality Mark Verification Report

Name of School: The Belsteads School

Headteacher: Erica Barnett

SMSC Lead: Richard Clark

Verification visit: Friday 14th July 2023

Dear Erica

I am delighted to inform you, that as a result of your recent verification visit, The Belsteads School has been awarded Silver 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 the staff, parents, governor, and pupils for the very warm welcome I received throughout my visit. Thank you to the pupils I met, they were proud to be part of The Belsteads School and were so enthusiastic to share and explain how much they enjoy their wonderful school. They were able to tell me about all the fantastic opportunities available at Belsteads, including trips and visitors, *"I like the way the teachers teach me and look after me here!"* Another pupil was keen to tell me about his individual targets and how this has helped him in all areas of school and home life, *"I used to do things on my own but now I know people can help me."* Pupils spoke passionately about their school reward system, using dojos to save up and buy a reward of choice; many have been discussed and selected by the School Council. It was lovely to meet a pupil, who arrives early to school every day to help look after the school grounds, *"I water plants every morning because after Year 11, I want to do an apprenticeship here."*

The governor and parents all spoke about Belsteads with such pride, always matched with huge smiles. They were able to discuss why SMSC is important to the development of children, the continuous support from all school staff and how the happiness of the children is always at the forefront, *'Belsteads environment stands out. The relationships are supportive and inclusive to all. Whenever I visit, I see the impact of this.'* The parent I met with spoke passionately about the sense of belonging and safety. *'It is inclusive for all; we are one big family. Pupils feel safe to talk to adults and they know they will try and understand.'*

I would like to congratulate Richard for his ongoing passion and enthusiasm for SMSC, which is mirrored throughout the Belsteads family.

I was taken on a tour of the school, in which Richard pointed out many SMSC and personal development opportunities. I particularly enjoyed watching the drama day being delivered by The Globe Theatre, Duke of Edinburgh boards, meeting Elmo, the therapy dog, individual curriculums and the Eco Garden; what wonderful and enriching opportunities you are providing for all pupils. Under great leadership, it is clear to see that SMSC really is at the heart of the school and all staff that I was lucky enough to speak with gave a clear insight and voiced the school's vision, answering all questions with professionalism and confidence.



I congratulate The Belstead School on the Silver standard of SMSC development that is offered to their pupils.

Strengths of the school's SMSC development:

Through your self-evaluation and our discussions, it is evident that there are numerous SMSC related strengths at Gold, the following are a few key examples:

- Thank you for sharing your wonderful learning environment with me, it is immersive, celebratory and gives all pupils the tools to succeed. The year 11 classroom was set up to support the transition to college with different areas and workspaces available.
- The opportunities you provide for pupils, both in and out of school are extensive. All pupils have access to a range of trips available to them. Pupils are encouraged to visit the local community and develop a range of life skills, for example using the park and ride, reading a bus timetable and a shopping list. You recently had a DJ in, working with all pupils to mix their own songs, these will be played at their end of year prom.
- Strong links with a local care home. Residents are invited into school for events, for example the coronation celebrations and prom. Students help look after the residents and enjoy sharing what they are doing at school and playing games.

Areas for development:

- Use the self-review tool as a working document to continue to embed and build on SMSC at The Belsteads School. Keep sharing with staff and looking for new opportunities.
- Develop diversity within the school. This could be through a greater range of diversity within the curriculum, CPD for staff, resources and books across the school and you have also recently selected a member of staff to lead of this from September.
- Continue to deliver your assemblies linked to Votes for School. Promoting cultural awareness and ensuring, when appropriate it is followed up and discussed during the week. You also have a range of cultural events/ awareness days planned in for next year, which will further enhance this. These can also be shared in your parent newsletter and on your school Instagram page.

Thank you once again for welcoming me into your school, I found the school truly inspiring.

Verifier: Abbie Underwood

SMSC Quality Mark Manager: Victoria Quijada

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