

National SMSC Quality Mark Verification Report

Name of School: Meden School

Principal: Mr J. Smith

SMSC Lead: Mr. M. Sylvester and Miss. K Hickinbotham

Virtual verification visit: 7th November 2022

Dear Mr Smith,

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

Meden School is a haven of calm, high expectations and positive behaviour. Students are able to develop as individuals and learn in a supportive environment. You, supported by leaders and staff, have championed SMSC and the wellbeing and welfare of pupils and staff and this is evident through the positive comments, relationships and interactions.

The curriculum for SMSC is well developed. SMSC feeds into the school's development plan and leaders, including governors, are committed to its development as an integral aspect of the school's culture. Curriculum leaders support pupils to develop and debate their understanding about sensitive topics within SMSC, including areas such as toxic masculinity, LGBTQI, stem cell research and medical ethics, debt and sleep hygiene. On our tour, children in KS3 and 4 were discussing the impact of money and finance on mental health. Students spoken to commented that they are engaged in topics that are current and relevant to them and teachers enable them to engage in healthy debate in supportive environments.

I would like to thank Will, Megan and Mae for showing me around their school and April, Seth, Tyler, Oliver, Ella, Tyler, Victoria for also speaking with me. All students comment on the nurturing and supportive ethos of the school, as well as positive relationships with the staff with one student commenting "*At Meden we are an accepting community.*" They also speak highly of their teachers and school staff, in particular the support and feedback provided by teachers to enable their learning to develop. Students feel they are listened to and have a voice. Students also speak positively of the wide range of opportunities that they access at Meden, including trips, leadership roles and clubs. There are a wide range of enrichment opportunities for students to thrive at Meden through the aspirational curriculum, trips, visitors, lunchtime and after school clubs.

The school works hard to engage parents and carers, as well as the wider community. The school has a positive reputation within the local community and parents spoken to were proud to send their children to Meden and were highly supportive of the schools' work. The school has a wide range of engagement systems to seek the views of parents and carers. This is supported by a clear engagement strategy devised by leaders.

I would like to thank Blake Hull for speaking with me, on behalf of the governors. Governors are actively involved in SMSC, including reviewing policies as well as conducting visits with the Personal Development Lead. Safeguarding as well as personal development are given highest priority. The safeguarding governor and Personal Development Lead work closely with each other. Blake was very knowledgeable about the schools SMSC/ personal development provision and identified it is an area where further development can also be achieved.

I would also like to thank the parents that I met today, Greg and Melissa. Parents were highly supportive of the staff and the school. Parents spoke overwhelmingly about the strong sense of support that their children received and that their children were developing academically as well as personally. Parents were very positive about the openness and transparency of school communications, which kept them well informed.

The SMSC lead, Michael Sylvester and Assistant Head Kim Hickenbotham, are both strong advocates for the development of SMSC at the school. There are clear objectives for the development of SMSC which are robustly monitored, and action undertaken to further develop the schools' curriculum and culture. As Kim said "SMSC is the golden thread at Meden".

I congratulate Meden on the Gold standard of SMSC development that is afforded 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 Meden; the following are a few key examples:

- Medan school is committed to enabling all students to have 'aspiration, excellence and achieve'. This is well supported by the excellent behaviour observed and strong, positive relationships exhibited between student peers and between students and staff.
- Leaders are ambitious for the school and ensure that SMSC is at the forefront of developments to build an inclusive culture and positive school environment. The Headteacher has developed a strong ethos which challenges and inspires.
- Students feel safe, supported and listened to at Medan School. The school's inclusive ethos enables students to feel empowered and thrive both academically and personally.
- The development of oracy at Medan is a strong feature of the school. Students are encouraged, in all lessons and activities, to have a voice, be confident and to 'SHAPE' their spoken language. Students speak highly of this emphasis on developing their oracy skills as key aspects for their lives and future.
- SMSC is well led and managed by leaders at the school, who are ambitious for the school and for SMSC. There are robust plans and monitoring in place.
- The ATL 'Attitude to learning' system provides students with a clear and consistent behaviour framework, and they strive to achieve it.

Areas for development:

- It would be beneficial to ensure key vocabulary of SMSC is shared more widely and students are able to articulate with greater confidence the technical vocabulary associated with facets of SMSC such as British values.
- Continue to develop greater opportunities for students to lead assemblies, clubs and enrichment to further empower them as leaders within the school.
- Consider working towards accreditation such as LGBTQAI and Mental Health.

Verifier: K. Hill

SMSC Quality Mark Manager: Victoria Quijada

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