



## National SMSC Quality Mark Verification Report

**Name of School: Childer Thornton Primary School**  
**SMSC Lead: Sally Belding**

**Head of School: Hannah Yarranton**  
**Verification visit: 12/07/2023**

Dear Hannah,

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

The school provides a happy, safe, and stimulating environment in which staff and children can thrive. Positive relationships are evident throughout the school. I know you are, quite rightly, proud of all that the school offers its pupils and the wider community. When we discussed staff wellbeing, you were able to share the results of a recent staff survey where 34/38 staff had responded that they 'strongly agree' that they are well supported.

The enthusiasm of Adam, Bella and Isobel from Year 6 who gave me a guided tour of their school, was overwhelming. They are so proud of their school, and they will be building on enriching experiences and very happy memories as they start secondary school in September. They showed me the new library with its Enchanted Forest, where interesting artefacts promote discussion and the shelving is tactile. There is even a tree trunk 'growing' up the wall!

A further representative group of children described many exciting learning opportunities: Erin told me about 'Mugging staff'; an opportunity to vote for a member of staff who has done something extra special. The staff are presented with a mug of treats. Freddie said, 'We have freedom to express our own thoughts and beliefs. In Year 3 we stayed over in the school hall, and I have learned about the illegal Wildlife Trade during the Chester Zoo Project.' Grace described a Fairtrade activity which, 'Made us feel empathy for those farming cocoa beans.' Noah loved launching space rockets during a science lesson. Leo mentioned a Fun Run Day raising money for Sports equipment and Food technology. Ishani in Reception loved, 'Colouring in a chameleon. It is camouflaged. I learned that we are all different.' Ishani was supported in a very caring way by Erin and Grace. Max remembered the fun of coming to school on Pyjama Day. Gabriel mentioned how helpful he finds Feeling Great and Feeling Safe Days; he also told me about Odd Socks Day. Sahar loves Heartsmart, and Teddy enjoys No Outsiders.

I really enjoyed speaking with a group of six parents including Emma, Jan, Dionne and Gemma who recognise that staff go 'Above and beyond' and that they are 'very lucky' to have such a fantastic school. One parent described how the learning experiences, '...hook the children in; there is a high level of engagement'. I was told that parents' skills/faiths/careers are utilised by the school; parents are regularly invited to speak with the children, and 'Parent Voice is welcomed and heard.' The parents also appreciate Childer Fest, a fundraising annual BBQ with live music which is in addition to the Summer Fete, and Christmas Jumper swap.

Belen, a parent governor, spoke confidently and informatively about her role in ensuring that standards of SMSC provision are monitored and challenged.

I appreciate the time and effort that Sally has invested in ensuring the quality of SMSC provision, the efficient organisation of my visit, and the excellent leadership of this crucial area of learning.

I congratulate Childer Thornton Primary 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 self-evaluation and our discussions, it is evident that there are numerous SMSC related strengths at Childer Thornton Primary School; the following are a few key examples:

- SMSC is a clear thread that underpins Childer Thornton's shared vision and values.
- SMSC is incorporated into all aspects of the school's rich curriculum.
- The importance of SMSC is understood by all stakeholders.

**Areas for development:**

- Introduce a system for visitor feedback.
- Consider introducing peer mediators so that children are able to resolve any minor disputes during break times.
- Embed entrepreneurship opportunities and social action projects.

**Verifier:** Meg Marshall

**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.