

Dear Peter,

Association of Character Education Kitemark

Following an evaluative visit to the school on Monday 9th July 2018 by Dr Tom Harrison, School of Education, Birmingham University and Mr Gary Lewis, Executive Headteacher and Chair of the Association of Character Education, the Association can confirm that your school has met the standards required to be awarded the **"Character Education Kitemark"**.

Congratulations to you, your pupils, staff and governors as this award clearly recognises the quality of learning and values-driven personal development programme enjoyed by all members of your school community. In particular, the awarding body wishes to commend you on the following:

- Although only opened in September 2016, the Academy has made considerable and sustained progress over the past 2 years. Leaders at all levels have invested considerable effort, research and careful thought in developing a set of inspiring and easily understood values which underpin all aspects of the school's work and activity. We spoke to students both formally and informally and they were all able to speak with passion and knowledge about the impact these values had on both their academic and personal progress. They were able to link these values with complex problem solving situations both in and outside of the classroom and it was very refreshing to note the clear pride they took in their school and all that it stood for.
 - Teachers were enthusiastic and committed to the school's clear cultural foundations and had a uniform understanding of the impact their modelled behaviour had on the wider community of pupils. It was also clear that leaders had dedicated considerable time and effort in training and supporting the staff so that they had an unwavering belief and commitment to the school's value system. This has resulted in an impressive consistency of behaviours and language when they interact with pupils, both formally and informally.
 - As a relatively new Academy with only two year groups present, it is difficult to ascertain how the character programme might impact on student outcomes. However, a "learning walk of the school" together with evidence gleaned from interviews and other observations created a uniform view of a school where nearly all students were focused, hard-working and determined to succeed. However, this ambition was tempered with a very well-developed appreciation of the impact of individual behaviours and actions on others. This has resulted in a school culture where pupils show genuine care and empathy for each other and where they are able to extrapolate their taught character and value systems as to how they impact on the well-being of other students, of all backgrounds and aptitudes.
 - It is not surprising that the school has significant evidence of the positive feedback received from the general public following trips, cultural excursions and charitable activities. The opportunities for students to accept leadership responsibilities in a variety of areas has provided them with ample opportunity to "put into practice what they have been taught" and the Academy is rightly proud of the strong reputation being rapidly developed in the local and wider community. A regular and comprehensive newsletter maintains excellent communications with all stakeholders, providing a platform for the school to promote its often repeated values and for the Head of School to consistently reinforce the school's objectives.
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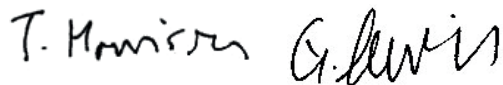
In summary, the evaluators observed a school which was calm and ordered, where children felt safe and secure and where they were making outstanding progress both in and outside of the classroom. Even though it would be fair to say that the school has a particular and assertive system for reinforcing positive behaviours, there is little doubt that the promoted values permeated virtually all aspects of the school's work and provision and pupils were developing "strong character" as a direct consequence of their experiences.

We feel the school is close to attaining the Kitemark Plus award and with extended work in engaging parents and the wider community with the school's character programme, would be close to meeting all of the "Plus" requirements.

The Schools of Character Kitemark is awarded initially for three years, effective from September 2018, and subject to a simple licence agreement which will provide the following benefits:

- Evaluation report to help you continue to strengthen character education in your organisation
- School of Character Kitemark status logo for use as you see fit
- School of Character Kitemark plaque
- School of Character press release template to help you promote your achievement and support the organisation of a local presentation
- Public recognition through the Association of Character Education (ACE).

Regards



Dr Tom Harrison and Mr Gary Lewis (on behalf of the Association of Character Education)

Gary Lewis (Chair), Dr Tom Harrison (Secretary), Professor James Arthur, Linda Sanders, Geoff Smith

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