

### Basic Skills Quality Mark Programme – Visit Feedback Report

School name: Woodlands Community Special School

Headteacher: Andrea Hemmens

School email: woodland.school@plymouth.gov.uk

Alliance QM Assessor: Lucinda Ross

Tel no:

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Visit date: 7.7.'16

Purpose of Visit (delete as appropriate)	Renewal EYQM, PQM & SQM
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The Assessor spoke with the following people:

Headteacher and/or Senior Leaders YES	Literacy Subject Leader YES	Numeracy Subject Leader YES	Assessment Manager NO
SENCo YES	Pupil representatives YES	Governor representative(s) YES	Parent representative(s) NO

'Learning Walk' completed? YES	Relevant evidence-base reviewed? YES
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(Assessor to delete as appropriate)	EYQM, PQM, SQM –all areas addressed as part of ongoing school improvement.
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<p><b>Suggested areas for development in preparation for the next Quality Mark visit:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following an initial discussion the school has worked towards gathering evidence for <b>Early Years, Primary and Secondary Quality Mark renewal</b> accreditation. Following the accreditation visits today, the Adviser is happy to recommend the school's Early Years, Primary and Secondary Quality Marks be renewed.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>'Good practice' identified in relation to the 10 Elements of the Quality Mark:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Woodlands Community Special School is an <i>Outstanding</i> school that is part of the Woodview Learning Community, together with a mainstream primary and secondary school. The school has 75 pupils on roll, all with complex sensory, physical and medical needs, in classes ranging from Nursery to Key Stage 5. Pupils present a wide variance in ability, from P1 to NC level 4, and make excellent progress, both in learning within core subjects, and in developing important life skills. Pupil targets are always set within the Upper Quotient range, ensuring appropriate levels of challenge and high expectations. The dual curriculum provides for sensory, experiential learning alongside the development of life skills and a focus on core subject learning. All learning is individualised and children are really stretched and challenged. The school is characterised by its caring, nurturing</li> </ul>
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ethos and staff are committed to supporting the wellbeing of every child. Key strengths in this school are the way in which personalised learning and creative planning meet the needs of every child, pupil voice and independence are prioritised and high aspirations for all ensure that every child achieves their full potential. This ethos is evident in every aspect of the work of the school, creating a warm, family atmosphere where children thrive and make good progress.

- A broad range of well-organised evidence was provided for the QM renewals, demonstrating clearly the consistent rigour and high standards maintained in all areas of the work of the school inspired by the strong leadership team. The school has clear systems in place to secure continuous school improvement, all interlinked and focused upon pupil outcomes. All evidence provided for the EYQM, PQM and SQM renewals amply covered the requirements of the 10 elements.
- An initial interview with the head teacher provided insight into what makes this a great school. The leadership vision to develop robust, confident young people, empowered to eventually manage their own lives with an entrepreneurial spirit is pursued with energy and enthusiasm by all members of the school staff. In this challenging setting staff are well supported by the SLT and empowered through a 'can do' vision.
- The tour of the school highlighted the innovative practice characteristic of Woodlands. The visit took place during Arts Week, and pupils were enjoying learning about Brazil through active, arts based learning and preparing for a Friday 'Woodfest' festival. Displays evidence active learning characterised by opportunities for the expression of pupil voice, and showing the enthusiasm and 'I can' attitude prevalent in school. Severely disabled pupils enjoy inclusion in sports, the arts and modern ICT based learning. Braille writing is integrated into mainstream phonics schemes, and sensory book bags help develop a love of reading.
- Pupils at the school are enthusiastic, positive and keen to discuss their school and their learning. They enjoy active learning in a wide range of areas including; maths, Science, Art, gardening and sports, and are aware of the way core skills are embedded in all these areas. They are confident and critically evaluative of aspects of their own learning experience; explaining how attendance at the school has opened up new opportunities for them. One pupil described a residential visit to France, which helped develop his independence and social skills, as he also gained a Sports Leader accreditation. Another described his pride as his team won county championship in Boccia. The pupils understand the importance of feeling safe and happy in order to learn effectively and describe the way in which the school nurtures them, and definitely deserves a Quality Mark! Teachers feel proud of the 'way the children blossom,' and describe the school as 'one big happy family.'
- Maths and English Subject Leaders display high levels of knowledge and understanding relating to the teaching of children with specific needs, they are passionate about their work and committed to continued professional development with impacts on outcomes for pupils. They explained clearly how strategic action planning in core subjects is responsive; informed by analytical data analysis and integral to overall SDP. Subject Leaders frequently monitor data and carry out triangulated review of teaching and learning. They work collegiately with colleagues and aim to inspire others, sharing what works well and investigating new ways of working.
- The scrutiny of evidence gathered for the QM assessment demonstrates rigorous policy and practice, aspirational target setting and purposeful planning of teaching and learning, all aimed at supporting children in achieving their full potential in both core subjects and essential life skills. Literacy, Numeracy and ICT are embedded into a rich, creative curriculum which engages young people and supports them in enjoying learning and achieving, overcoming barriers in a positive manner. Leadership in school is inspirational and staff work together to develop children who are 'ready to fly.'
- **As a result of the assessments, I strongly recommend that the Early Years, Primary and Secondary Quality Marks for Woodlands Community Special School be renewed. This is a unique and inspiring setting where staff and children work together to create an inclusive, caring atmosphere in which exciting and creative learning happens – truly worthy of celebration.**

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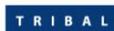
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