



Mental health award for schools

Improve self-confidence, resilience and emotional intelligence for pupils and staff in your school

The Department for Education recognises the direct link between positive mental health and successful educational outcomes; the Mental Health Award for Schools builds on this link and provides a framework for educational institutions to evidence policies and initiatives that work towards improving emotional health and wellbeing for both staff and pupils.

The award ensures schools are using evidence-based approaches that align to professional and government guidelines. Using a developmental framework, schools will evaluate current mental health practices, identify gaps, develop and strengthen these and work towards building an emotionally healthier environment. Through this process, schools commit to making mental health a strategic priority and developing a positive culture that promotes mental wellbeing for everyone.



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What does the School Mental Health Award cover?

The award takes a whole school approach to mental health and covers eight key areas, each with a series of statements that schools will use to self-evaluate their current practice.

The eight areas are:

- Leadership and strategy
- Organisational structure and culture – staff
- Organisational structure and culture – pupils
- Support for staff
- Support for pupils
- Staff professional development and learning
- Working with parents and carers
- Working with external services

What is the process?

- An assessor will provide you with an evaluation framework which will help to create a personalised action plan for your school set against the framework criteria.
- You will develop a portfolio of evidence for your school set against the competencies within the framework.
- Once submitted, your evidence will be verified against the three levels of bronze, silver and gold. Your school will be awarded The School Mental Health Award at the certified level based on the evidence submitted.
- Our quality mark accreditation comprises:
 - A paper and e-certificate
 - A plaque to be displayed in your school
 - An e-logo to display on your website and school stationery.
 - Your school will gain profile by appearing on our 'School Mental Health Award Hall of Fame' on the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools website.

Why attain the award?

- Improves pupil and staff self-confidence, resilience and mental health.
- Improves pupil outcomes.
- Creates a culture of awareness of mental health, tolerance and acceptance, helping to reduce behavioural problems and promotes positive mental health strategies.
- Increases staff retention rates and attracts high calibre staff.
- Demonstrates commitment to adhere to professional and government guidance.

How much does the award cost and how long is it valid for?

The award costs £350 including VAT and lasts for three years, after which you can apply for re-assessment to maintain your level or strive for higher quality standards.

For more information:

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