

20th March 2020

Dear Anne,

It is with great pleasure that I can inform you that the Autism Accreditation Award Committee have awarded Oaklands School an Advanced Accredited Award according to our expectations for specialist educational provisions.

Advanced awards are only given to schools who offer excellent personal centred support showing a high level of consistency and quality rooted in a specialist understanding of best practice in the field of autism.

At Oaklands therapists and teaching staff work collaboratively to ensure that the challenges of autistic pupils are fully understood and addressed. Effective use is made of the purpose built learning environment. Many lessons employ a multi-sensory approach and autistic pupils regularly engage in sensory activities that they find enjoyable and stimulating. Pupils are supported to self-regulate sensory input through strategies such as movement breaks and access to a wide range of sensory supports.

Pupils are provided with opportunities to interact with staff and their peers regularly throughout the day. They have personalised communication tools that specifically link to their needs and abilities. Visual supports are in consistent use and staff recognise the importance of giving processing time. There is a strong focus on teaching skills of independence and self-reliance.

The Ofsted inspectorate confirm that pupils make outstanding academic progress from different starting points. Parents who completed the Accreditation on-line survey offer overwhelmingly positive feedback, with over 66 % rating the support their child receives as always good. The school shares its expertise with other schools in the borough by providing training and offering visits.

Some areas of development were identified within the assessment report but these can be considered as building upon existing good practice and do not diminish from the considerable achievements of staff and pupils. Outcomes for pupils are excellent and they are well prepared for the transition into

adulthood.

Your feedback on the process is of great value to us, and if you have not done so already, and are able, please complete our brief feedback survey using the following link:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/AccreditationEvaluation19-20/>

Congratulations again on this achievement, the committee look forward to your continued success and development.

Yours Sincerely

Stephen Dedridge

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Head of Autism Accreditation (South)