



Latest News

Marden Bridge Middle School has been awarded the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools 'School Mental Health Award' – Silver Status in partnership with North East Combined Authority.

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Marden Bridge Middle School has been awarded 'Silver Status' for its excellent whole-school approach to the mental health and wellbeing of its pupils, staff and wider community. Only 25% of schools nationally achieve silver status on the first endeavour at gaining the award.



The Mental Health in School Award was established in 2017 by the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools – part of Leeds Beckett University – and social enterprise Minds Ahead.

The Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools aims to strengthen pupils' mental health by supporting schools to make a positive change at all levels of the UK's education system, improving students' outcomes and life chances.

Schools are assessed against eight key criteria, with inspectors looking for examples of evidence-based approaches that align to the latest professional guidance surrounding mental health.

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

Schools must demonstrate that they not only have the proper structures, strategy and support in place to care for the mental health and wellbeing of their own community, but that they are also sharing knowledge, resources and best practice nationally, and internationally, with other schools and external agencies.

The school was assessed as 'excelling in several of the School Mental Health Award competencies'. This was due to the robust systems in place to support pupil and staff mental health as well as noting staff had undertaken extensive professional development to support pupils' wellbeing in the last 18 months.

"Mental Health and Wellbeing has never been more important and as a school we made it a priority in recent years to prioritise our Mental Health and Wellbeing provision. This has been reflected in our immediate elevation to Silver Status by the Carnegie Centre of Excellence. I am extremely proud of the dedication that our community has shown in supporting both staff and students proactively with their mental health, especially during what has been a particularly challenging period for all.

Having this accreditation will stand as a constant reminder and motivation in ensuring we continue to have a positive impact and promote good mental health and wellbeing throughout the school."

Mr J. Newport, Headteacher

