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Birch Copse Primary School celebrates NACE Challenge Award third accreditation

The **National Association for Able Children in Education (NACE)** has named **Birch Copse Primary School** the 22nd school to be accredited for the third time with the **NACE Challenge Award**. The award is given in recognition of school-wide commitment to high-quality provision for more able learners, within the context of challenge for all.

NACE CEO Rob Lightfoot said: *“Birch Copse Primary School has worked hard to attain reaccreditation through the NACE Challenge Award. It has shown itself to be committed to developing an environment in which all learners are challenged and supported to be the best they can be.”*

The award is based on the NACE Challenge Framework, which sets out criteria for high-quality provision for more able learners within a wider ethos of challenge for all. The framework is available as part of the NACE Challenge Development Programme – a suite of resources developed by NACE to help schools evaluate and improve their provision for more able learners.

NACE’s assessor reported: *“Teaching is very strong across the curriculum. Knowledge is prominent in lessons and highly valued. HPL pupils (High Potential Learners) embrace this and seek to learn more and share their knowledge.”*

“High achievement is expected, valued and celebrated throughout the school and the staff have very high expectations of all children.”

“One of the school values is ‘challenge ourselves’ and the pupils clearly do this as well as putting a very high priority on kindness... Pupils are proud of their school and recognise how all learners are supported.”

Improving provision for the more able remains a priority for many schools and has been highlighted by Ofsted and the DfE as a key focus. The experience and evidence gathered by Challenge Award-accredited schools also shows that effective strategies to improve provision for the more able are likely to have a positive impact on the achievement of a much wider group of learners.

To attain the Challenge Award, schools must complete a detailed self-evaluation using the NACE Challenge Framework, submit a portfolio of supporting evidence, and undertake assessment by a NACE associate. The assessment process includes examination of school data and key documents; lesson observations; and interviews with school leaders, learners, parents and governors.

CEO Rob Lightfoot said, *“The award is presented in recognition of whole-school commitment to and achievement in providing effective challenge and support for all – spanning school leadership, curriculum, teaching and learning, processes for identification and tracking, extracurricular opportunities, strong communication and partnerships, and ongoing evaluation.”*

Birch Copse Primary School will continue to play an important role within our international community of Challenge Award-accredited schools, displaying a commitment to meeting the needs of more able learners and sharing their expertise for the wider benefit of the education community.

Find out more: www.nace.co.uk/challenge

Notes for editors

The National Association for Able Children in Education (NACE) is the UK’s leading charity dedicated to supporting schools and teachers across every aspect of provision for more able learners, in the context of challenge for all. Drawing on almost 40 years’ experience in the field, NACE is at the forefront of thought leadership and evidence-based policy for the more able, with NACE member schools leading the way in implementing best practice.

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