



**Autism Accreditation**  
The National Autistic Society  
Bristol Office  
Church House  
Church Road  
Filton  
Bristol BS34 7BD

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2018

Dear Tracy,

I am writing to inform you of the Autism Accreditation Award Committee decision agreed on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

The Award Committee consider that the school has achieved the standard required by Autism Accreditation and therefore award the status of **Accredited** to Hope School.

Accredited status is awarded to provisions where staff have a good working knowledge of methods and approaches which produce positive outcomes for autistic people. Support is largely effective and person centred, overall reaching the standard expected by Autism Accreditation. The quality of practice is reflected in the majority of feedback from autistic people and/or their families.

The committee were particularly impressed with the following areas of strength:

- The school has introduced new Curriculum Pathways which are designed to meet the needs of all students. Each Pathway has a focus on communication, Personal, Social, Emotional Development and Physical Development, which underpins the work within specific areas of learning. The Curriculum is planned around the children and young people's interests, and development needs, and lesson planning allows for staff to be responsive to the moment.
- Sensory needs appear to be very well understood by staff and the school is supported by a team of occupational therapists who work in conjunction with school based staff and wider therapy colleagues from different disciplines. The school has a robust assessment system and is well resourced to put in place individual sensory programmes. Practice in the identification and approaches to addressing sensory needs was found to be consistently good across all departments.
- The Early Years department was found to demonstrate consistently good Early Years practice for autistic pupils. The assessment team particularly noted; sound understanding of how autism impacts on young children's development, differentiated approaches, good use of objects/symbol references, structured learning environment, facilitated opportunities to develop personal independence.
- The College was found to have a positive focus on developing independence for its autistic pupils. The college provides opportunities for students to develop key skills onsite and, where appropriate, to generalise these skills further in the wider community through various local links, for example Tanfield Court (supported residency), Charity shop work experience, Canal

Trust volunteering, and shopping for supplies for the onsite Bistro.

The committee hope that the school will continue to work within the accreditation programme in order to progress to a higher status. Areas of development which committee recommend that the school particularly focus on are:

Staff should work towards achieving more consistent approaches across the whole school and college community to ensure that all departments are working equally well to employ robust practice that fosters individual tailored communication systems, as described in the autism policy. This can be achieved by ensuring:

- Consistent reference to visual schedules
- Pupils carry their individual communication systems with them at all times
- Staff are mindful to transport visual aids in to all learning environments
- Visual clutter in classrooms is reduced
- Improved use of symbol/text signage in classrooms

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:

<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/AutismAccreditationSurvey2018/>

If you wish to appeal against the committee decision, please ask for a 'Request to Appeal' form from the Bristol office.

Your certificate and a hard copy of this letter will follow, and the licence agreement is attached to the email along with guidelines on how to use the relevant logo and guidance on press releases.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Dedridge', written in a cursive style.

Stephen Dedridge  
Senior Adviser, Autism Accreditation

Tel: +44 (0) 117 974 8420

Email: [accreditation@nas.org.uk](mailto:accreditation@nas.org.uk)

[www.autism.org.uk/accreditation](http://www.autism.org.uk/accreditation)