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Prior Weston Primary School and Children's Centre celebrates NACE Challenge Award accreditation

The **National Association for Able Children in Education (NACE)** has named **Prior Weston Primary School and Children's Centre**, London, the 479th school to be accredited 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: *“Prior Weston Primary School and Children’s Centre has worked successfully to attain the NACE Challenge Award. It has shown itself to be committed to developing an environment in which all learners are both 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: *“School leaders ... have created an ethos of high expectations and are passionate about seeking out and celebrating all children’s achievements and strengths ... As one pupil said, ‘The staff here make sure you are challenged and keep you on your toes.’”*

“The school delivers a rich and progressive, broad and balanced curriculum with a good emphasis on developing the ‘whole’ child. Identification and provision for those pupils who are exceptionally able or have multi-exceptionality is highly effective.”

“The impressive range of opportunities both within the curriculum ... and the array of clubs available helps to identify, support and celebrate pupils’ talents beyond the academic. Enrichment opportunities provide memorable learning moments [and raise] aspirations. The school is increasingly successful in taking part and winning sporting and other accolades.”

“Teachers’ subject knowledge is robust. They are reflective and enthusiastic. They increasingly use the ‘Challenge for All’ approach and ... ensure that the more able are stretched and challenged. Pupils are ambitious and aspirational. Behaviour for learning is excellent.”

Improving provision for the more able remains a priority for many schools. 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 Challenge 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.”*

Prior Weston Primary School and Children’s Centre will now be part of the international community of Challenge Award-accredited schools which have demonstrated a sustained and effective commitment to meeting the needs of more able learners, and an interest in sharing 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 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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