



Chalkwell Hall Infant School, Leigh-on-Sea, Southend, has achieved the prestigious National NACE Challenge Award for excellence in provision for able, gifted and talented pupils.

‘The shared aspiration for every child to achieve his or her potential shines through at Chalkwell Infant School, leading to really good academic, sporting and artistic outcomes.

There are high expectations in every lesson with pupils rising confidently to the challenges set. They talk confidently about their work knowing what they have done well whilst understanding that success involves effort in order to overcome difficulties, saying, for example, “I try my best every day...”

There is a broad, rich curriculum here, full of exciting things to do and a wide range of extra curricular opportunities that has led to particularly good development in art, physical education and writing.

‘Able Support Plans’ specify how the needs of able learners are being met. Parents say these have helped the self-confidence of their children. Parents also said, “Its good to know that your child is being stretched when they are good at something. The gifted and talented programme is managed so well.’

Extract from Challenge Award Assessment Report March 2008

Chalkwell Hall Infant School is the third infant school in Southend and the thirteenth infant school in the UK to achieve the prestigious Challenge Award for Able, Gifted and Talented Pupils. This Award is given for high quality work by the whole school, teachers and governors, in challenging all pupils, including those with high abilities, to achieve their best.

The Award is given by NACE: the National Association for Able Children in Education, a leading national education organisation and registered charity established for 25 years. The Association exists to help the daily work of teachers providing for pupils with high abilities whilst enabling all pupils to flourish. It provides advice, training and resources for teachers, including The Challenge Award Self-Evaluation Framework which Chalkwell Hall Infant School has used to audit and plan what it provides for able, gifted and talented pupils. Many thousands of primary and secondary schools are using The Challenge Award Framework to develop their work.

Assessors, who spent a day in the school, were impressed by the school’s secure auditing, thorough reviews of progress and strategies to ensure that any underachievement of pupils is noted and redressed.

Assessors judged the quality of the school’s work by observing lessons, interviewing the pupils, teachers, parents and governors and by looking at the pupils’ work. The Award is given when schools demonstrate that they meet the criteria of the Award and are committed to continuing high-quality provision for able, gifted and talented pupils.

April 2008 Julie Fitzpatrick. Chief Executive

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