

Specialist Schools celebrating diversity and promoting community cohesion

The Cultural Diversity Quality Standard (CDQS)

What is the Cultural Diversity Quality Standard?

The SSAT Cultural Diversity Quality Standard (CDQS) recognises and celebrates the excellent work done by many schools to promote cultural diversity, race equality and opportunities for achievement for all students. It was created by Head teachers from schools around the country and with representatives from a wide range of key national bodies.

The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust has been at the forefront of developing community cohesion. The Cultural Diversity Quality Standard enables schools to develop strong and positive relationships in their learning communities to give everybody a shared vision, a sense of belonging and equal life opportunities regardless of their cultural heritage.

The Cultural Diversity Quality Standard is achieved by completing an evidence file against the criteria, which is available online. This is followed by a school visit to validate and peer-assess a school's evidence file; this is completed by an SSAT school senior leader with success and experience in this field. Awards are made at 3 levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold), dependent on the breadth of a school's work and are valid for 3 years. The 'Diamond' Award celebrates a school's sustained and enhanced progress in each of the 6 Standards as well as its duty to meet community cohesion.

The SSAT Cultural Diversity Quality Standard covers 6 key standards:

- Ethos
- Achievement
- Curriculum
- Parental and Community Involvement
- Staffing and Governors
- Specific Projects and innovations.

We are proud to announce that **Robin Hood Junior and Infant School, Birmingham** is the first primary school nationally to achieve the 'Gold' Award and highly recommend the CDQS:

"Going for the CDQS has promoted cultural diversity and raised equality and opportunity for achievement for all students. It prompted a thorough audit of provision in this area, demonstrated our strengths and identified the strands that should be developed. The CDQS embraced all elements of our school which raised awareness, leading to further growth. During our recent Ofsted inspection our CDQS evidence played an important role in contributing to our success in achieving 'outstanding'. It is exciting to see our work in the area of cultural diversity continue to grow since achieving the Gold Award."

Karen Moule

For more information contact us at: cdqs@ssatrust.org.uk