



PSQM Press Release September 2022

Four Oaks Primary School Awarded Primary Science Quality Mark

Over 400 Primary Science Quality Marks have been awarded to infant, junior, primary, middle and special schools this month to celebrate their commitment to excellence in science teaching and learning. So far, since its national launch in 2010, over 5000 schools across the UK have achieved a prestigious Primary Science Quality Mark.

Primary Science Quality Mark is a one-year school improvement programme for primary science, which provides professional development for new and experienced subject leaders each year. PSQM enables confident, knowledgeable, reflective leadership which results in an improvement in the way in which science is planned and taught across the whole school.

The Primary Science Quality Mark is led by the University of Hertfordshire in collaboration with the Primary Science Teaching Trust.

Associate Professor Jane Turner, PSQM National Director said: *"There was never a more important time for primary children to have a high-quality science education. The coronavirus pandemic and climate change crisis have made everyone aware of the importance of science in our world. Primary schools have an important role to ensure that children understand how science works and keeps us and our planet healthy and safe. Schools that have achieved a Primary Science Quality Mark have demonstrated a significant commitment to science teaching and learning. The profile and quality of science in each awarded school is very high. Children are engaging with great science both in and outside the classroom, developing positive attitudes towards science as well as secure scientific understanding and skills. Science subject leaders, their colleagues, head teachers, children, parents and governors should be very proud."*



The reviewers' summing up comments encapsulate how well Four Oaks has done:

This is an excellent submission and, as a consequence, I have found it difficult on occasions to suggest next steps. Science is obviously valued at Four Oaks and this submission was built on very strong foundations. Huge congratulations for moving on the science learning experiences for your children.

Alex Sinclair

[Mrs Harrison and Ms Steffan] have clearly worked incredibly hard this year to develop the quality of science teaching and learning at Four Oaks Primary School. It is clear that significant progress has been made against each one of the PSQM criteria – well done.

Congratulations to all at the school – you should be very proud of all that has been accomplished.

Helen Spring, PSQM Hub Leader and Reviewer

Four Oaks Governors were delighted:

Congratulations Four Oaks on gaining this award.

Mrs Harrison gave a presentation to the governors which was most impressive and demonstrated the hard work that had been done to make science classes so interesting.
A well deserved award.

Mrs Richards, Governor

Notes to Editor

Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) is the only national award scheme to develop and celebrate the quality of science teaching and learning in primary schools. Schools achieve a PSQM through a year-long process of initial audit, followed by action and evidenced-based reflection. For more information please visit: www.psqm.org.uk

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The Primary Science Teaching Trust (formerly the AstraZeneca Science Teaching Trust) was created by Trust Deed in April 1997, to provide financial assistance to help improve the learning and teaching of science in the UK. Our objective is to help improve the education of children and young people in science. For more information, please visit: <https://pstt.org.uk/>