

# Mental Health Champion Accreditation Process



Before beginning to consider the MHC, a school/college must have its GHLL Accreditation. But the key difference between the two awards is that the MHC is about the whole school/college ethos and about practice that is embedded across the school/college; children, staff, parents, governors, curriculum and leadership team. And whereas the GHLL Accreditation can be achieved when a school/college has several areas which they are aware need developing in terms of EHWP in their school/college, the MHC is a 'Gold Standard' award; all areas of EHWP need to be fully in place in the school/college, with pupils and staff clear and confident in relation to their understanding of wellbeing. Therefore, **before submitting your MHC application**, please consider the following process:

## Are you ready to go for the MHC Award?

- Do you currently hold the GHLL Healthy School Accreditation?
- Will at least two terms (one full 'old term') have passed since your most recent Healthy School Re-accreditation by the time you submit for your MHC award? And will you have at least six months left before your Healthy School Award expires?
- Do you have a Mental Health Lead in your school/college who has undergone the DfE training?
- Does your school's/college's senior leadership team actively promote emotional wellbeing and positive mental health for the whole school/college community?
- Is emotional health and wellbeing (EHWP) a priority within your school/college, e.g. a part of your SDP or similar documentation N.B. this should not be a Performance Management target for an individual member of staff
- Do you have a nominated school/college governor responsible for EHWP?
- Has a significant number of your staff undergone Mental Health First Aid Training?
- Does your curriculum reflect the EHWP needs of your school/college community? Is it bespoke to your setting?

If you have answered **yes** to the above, **then you are ready for the next steps...**

### Step 1

Contact your GHLL Lead Teacher to let them know that you are engaging in the process.

Update your Review; **all** the MH questions must be 'in place' and all other sections must be 'mostly in place' or 'in place'. Ensure the commentary in the evidence box makes explicit the link between the work carried out in school/college and pupil/staff wellbeing.

Identify/continue to work on a minimum of two MH Interventions, one of which should be a significant number for your school/college (and different to the interventions you submitted for your GHLL Healthy School Accreditation).

When you feel you are ready to submit, **this is the process that needs to be followed...**

### Step 2

Meet with your Lead Teacher to let them know that you are ready to submit.

Your Lead Teacher will check your Review and Interventions and identify any changes which need to be made.

**Step 3**

Finalise your portfolio of evidence to support your application, e.g., photographs, samples of pupils' work, supporting documents (policies, etc).

**Step 4**

Your Lead Teacher will talk you through the Learning Walk process.

**Step 5**

Submit for the Mental Health Champion Award.

**Step 6**

Communicate with your Lead Teacher to organise a date for your Learning Walk.

The Learning Walk will include:

- \*meeting with the following personnel: Head Teacher, pupils (e.g. school/college councillors), members of staff (and possibly governor)
- \*tour of the school/college (usually conducted by students)
- \*portfolio of evidence
- \*anything else the school/college wishes to showcase

**Having followed the above steps:**

Your Lead Teacher will write a statement to support your application which will go forward to the Quality Assurance Group (QAG).

The QAG will meet to review your submission and, if there are no queries, will grant the award.

