



### **Attachment and Trauma Sensitive Schools Award (ATSSA)**

*A framework of support and understanding for schools and other educational establishments within which children and young people who have experienced adversity, can heal, thrive, play, and learn.*

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30<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Lauren and Lisa,

Thank you for registering for the Attachment and Trauma Sensitive Schools Award (ATSSA) at Gold Level, and for providing comprehensive evidence in support of your application.

Thanks also for inviting me to conduct the verification visit for the Award. I should like to extend my thanks particularly to you, and also to other staff, for making the virtual visit so purposeful and enjoyable. It was a real delight to hear about your continuing journey.

I should like to warmly congratulate you and your staff on achieving the Award, which is an external sign of recognition of your commitment to the steps you have taken at Newark Primary School to develop a culture of compassion and nurture, and to become a truly attachment- and trauma-responsive setting. The Award is valid for two years and will run from September 2025 to September 2027, at which point you will be invited to renew your accreditation.

The key principles of a trauma-informed approach: safety; trustworthiness; choice; collaboration; empowerment; and cultural consideration are demonstrated in the evidence submitted for each of the Gold Standards, and these were powerfully revealed through the interviews today.

You have maintained very high levels of strategy and practice at both Bronze and Silver Levels. All nine Gold criteria have been evidenced to an exceptional level. The evidence you