

Healthy Schools Award: Assessor Feedback Report

School: Alderman Jacobs School

Date of Verification: November 2025

Overall Assessment

Alderman Jacobs School has submitted a thoughtful and comprehensive review that clearly demonstrates its strong commitment to the health, wellbeing and resilience of all students and staff. The school has taken a whole community approach, ensuring that students, parents, staff and governors all play an active role in shaping a positive and inclusive culture. There is clear evidence that health and wellbeing are woven into daily school life and reinforced through focused initiatives, supportive leadership and established systems of student voice.

The range of opportunities provided across all award strands reflects a genuine commitment to embedding healthy, sustainable and inclusive practices. The school has fully met the criteria for the Healthy Schools Award.

Key Strengths

Student Leadership and Voice:

The school offers a variety of opportunities for students to take responsibility and lead, from class ambassadors, sports ambassadors and play leaders to tuck shop managers and librarians. These roles give students a real voice and opportunity to make decisions and encourage teamwork, empathy and independence. Systems such as Think, Pair, Share and Cold Calling help ensure that every child is heard, no matter their confidence level. The culture of student consultation is embedded and consistently used to inform school policies and practice.

Health and Wellbeing Curriculum:

Alderman Jacobs has developed a rich and progressive PSHE curriculum that supports physical health, emotional wellbeing and personal development. Students are encouraged to explore healthy friendships, diversity, emotional regulation and resilience through lessons, assemblies and whole school events. This learning is reinforced by a strong emphasis on respect, equality and inclusion, supported by staff training and visible displays celebrating diversity across the school.

Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing:

The school's commitment to supporting mental health is clear. Designated staff, including a trained Mental Health Lead and ELSA practitioners, ensure that students have access to trusted adults and safe spaces when they need support. Mindfulness kits, chill out areas and visible wellbeing resources help normalise conversations around emotional health. Links with the Mental Health Support Team, attendance in webinar forums and the use of the Blueprint toolkit demonstrate a proactive and reflective approach to mental health and wellbeing.

Physical Activity and Active Lifestyles:

Alderman Jacobs offers a broad range of opportunities for physical activity both within and beyond the curriculum. Playtime equipment, play leaders and structured games help make break and lunchtimes active and inclusive. Clubs, residential trips and initiatives such as Active Maths ensure that children enjoy being active in a variety of ways. The school continues to sustain active travel via the Bronze Award, promoting this initiative year on year.

Food and Nutrition:

Healthy eating is promoted consistently across the school day. ABM Catering Solutions provides balanced meals in line with school food standards, and the student led tuck shop is an excellent example of student ownership in promoting healthier choices. Whole school events such as Healthy Lifestyles Day and participation in national schemes like Eat Them to Defeat Them create meaningful opportunities for students and parents to engage with positive messages around food.

Community and Parental Engagement:

Communication with parents and carers at Alderman Jacobs School is proactive and inclusive. Information about healthy lifestyles is shared through newsletters, social media, email and face to face conversations on the playground. The website provides clear links to reputable wellbeing and mental health services. Events such as Healthy Lifestyles Day and cultural celebrations engage families and broaden awareness of physical activity, nutrition and emotional health. Parents' feedback is valued and has shaped the creation of dedicated wellbeing resources online.

Staff Wellbeing and Development:

The school demonstrates a strong awareness of the importance of staff wellbeing. Initiatives such as the annual wellbeing week, open door leadership and access to a trust wellbeing advice line all help ensure that staff feel supported. Staff input into policies and practices is actively encouraged, and feedback gathered through surveys informs ongoing improvements.

Equality, Inclusion and Diversity:

Alderman Jacobs has shown clear intent to ensure equality and inclusion are central to its ethos. Staff training on unconscious bias, discrimination and diversity has strengthened confidence across the team. The curriculum celebrates a range of cultures and identities, and students are supported to develop understanding and respect for difference through assemblies, RE and PSHE. The school environment reinforces these values through displays, cultural events and inclusive representation.

Areas for Further Development

Measuring Impact:

Alderman Jacobs could now focus on collecting and analysing data that demonstrates the outcomes of their health and wellbeing work. Evidence such as student and parent surveys before and after initiatives would help capture the impact of the work being done.

Oral Health:

Although oral health is covered in Year 4, building in opportunities to revisit this learning across other year groups would strengthen students understanding and reinforce consistent messages.

Parental Guidance:

Alderman Jacobs have listened to parental feedback around ideas and resources on how to be healthy being sent to their email or via the school's website. In addition to this, offering workshops, family activities or take home resources could further strengthen the already positive support and engagement with families.

Conclusion

Alderman Jacobs School is a vibrant, inclusive and forward thinking school where health, wellbeing and resilience are genuinely prioritised. Alderman Jacobs has embedded its values through meaningful practice ensuring students develop the confidence and life skills needed for the future. The school's collaborative approach between students, staff, parents and governors is commendable.

The Healthy Schools Award is fully achieved. The school is encouraged to continue celebrating its success and to build upon its already strong foundations by measuring and showcasing the positive impact of its ongoing work.

