



Press Release – For Immediate Release (10.04.14)

## HACKNEY SCHOOL WINS COMMUNICATION AWARD

Staff and pupils at Millfields Community School in Hackney, London, are celebrating after being named **Primary School of the Year** at the **2013/2014 Shine a Light Awards** for their excellent use of speech and language interventions across the school.

The Awards, held in London on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April and hosted by Broadcaster and Health Campaigner, Anne Diamond, are run by Pearson Assessment in partnership with The Communication Trust to honour individuals, teams, campaigns, communication friendly settings and communities that have excelled in their support of children and young people's communication.

The school, which has a skilled interventions team who work to ensure that every single student has access to communication resources, was unveiled the winner of the *Primary School of the Year* for its commitment to prioritising communication and parental engagement.

At Millfields School, visual timetables and Makaton signs and symbols are used across the school. Children with SLCN receive one-to-one intervention and staff members are regularly trained to equip them with the skills and knowledge to maintain interventions for children throughout the school year.

Millfields work closely with parents to support children's communication outside of school successfully encouraging parents to access local library resources to help children talk about the books they are reading. Millfields School were supported by the Hackney Speech and Language Therapy Team in their approach to tackling pupils with language and learning difficulties.

The judges were impressed with the school for developing an in-depth map that prioritises children's language and communication needs. The map depicts the multi-faceted range of speech, language and communication interventions currently running in the school.

Nino Garnier and Claire Francis, Intervention Instructors at Millfields Community School said: "We are delighted to have won the Primary School of the Year Award at the Shine a Light Awards. We have a great appreciation for our management who allow us to work on our own initiative and give us the freedom to make a difference. Our results simply wouldn't be possible without this. The children work just as hard as us. Every day is different and despite the difficulties, it's so worthwhile at the end of term when the good results are announced."

Chris Hall, Managing Director of Pearson Assessment and Shine a Light Award Judge, says: "It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Millfields Primary School for their well deserved win. Other schools can learn from the way they have embedded speech and language interventions across the school and we were deeply impressed with their innovative practice and parent engagement.

"We have been blown away by this years nominations and seen some truly inspiring examples of work being carried out to support children and young people with SLCN. With the awards now in their third year, we are excited to have helped over 90 teams shout about their work and go on to inspire others."

Hilary Berry, Headteacher at Over Hall Community School and Shine a Light Award Judge, says: "Like a true Magpie Primary Headteacher, I have shared the outstanding practice at Millfields School with colleagues in my own setting. It's such a huge privilege and a true pleasure to be part of the team of judges for the Shine a Light Awards. It has been an opportunity to learn from, to acknowledge and to celebrate the work of outstanding professionals."

For the full list of Shine a Light winners and highly commended finalists, visit [www.shinealightawards.co.uk](http://www.shinealightawards.co.uk)

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#### **For Further Information**

For more information, or to arrange an interview with representatives from Millfields School, please contact Laura Smith or Charlotte Hussey at Consilium Communications by emailing [lsmith@consiliumcommunications.co.uk](mailto:lsmith@consiliumcommunications.co.uk) / [chussey@consiliumcommunications.co.uk](mailto:chussey@consiliumcommunications.co.uk) or call 07766651366.

#### **Notes to editors**

##### **About the Shine a Light Awards**

- The Shine a Light Awards are sponsored and organised by Pearson Assessment in partnership with The Communication Trust.
- The Awards are designed to promote and celebrate good practice in speech, language and communication for individuals, groups and settings which work with children and young people, particularly those with SLCN.
- The awards form part of the legacy of the National Year of Communication (*Hello* campaign) and have become a key event in the speech, language and communication community's calendar.
- Nearly 80 applications were received with 16 winners and 13 highly commended finalists picking up coveted awards at a glittering ceremony hosted by Anne Diamond.
- 17 judges were involved in the Shine a Light Awards including Janet Cooper, Founder of Stoke Speaks Out, Peter Sutcliffe, Editor of SEN Magazine, Virginia Beardshaw, Chief Executive of I CAN, Sean Stockdale, Editor of Special Magazine, Kamini Gadhok, Chief Executive of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT), Diz Minnitt, Milton Keynes Youth Offending Team and Hilary Berry, Headteacher at Over Hall Community School.
- For further information and to view the film of the ceremony and the full list of judges, visit [www.shinealightawards.co.uk](http://www.shinealightawards.co.uk)

##### **About Pearson Assessment**

- Pearson Assessment is the world's largest commercial developer and distributor of educational assessments and psychological testing materials with over 90 years history of commitment to researching and developing products to a reliable high standard.
- Pearson Assessment is dedicated to the pursuit of professional excellence, leadership, and growth through acquisition, development, publication, and the maintenance of quality assessment tools in order to anticipate and meet the needs of its customers.
- Pearson Assessment have sponsored the Shine a Light Awards since their launch in 2011, as part of

the *Hello* campaign (National Year of Communication).

- For more information, visit [www.pearsonclinical.co.uk](http://www.pearsonclinical.co.uk) or follow @PsychCorpUK #SAL2014

**About The Communication Trust**

- The Communication Trust is a coalition of nearly 50 leading voluntary sector organisations, which raises awareness, influences policy, promotes best practice among the children's workforce and commissions work from its members.
- It has an extensive advisory group, which includes the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, Association of Educational Psychologists and the General Teaching Council.
- For more information about the Trust visit [www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk](http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk) or follow @Comm\_nTrust #SAL2014