

WITHERSLACK HALL ACHIEVES GOLD

A North West school has become the first independent residential special school in the country to be awarded the Team-Teach Gold Standard.

Staff at Witherslack Hall School in Cumbria received the award which is one of the UK's first accredited training frameworks specifically for professionals working with young people who display challenging behaviour. The Gold Standard Award recognises best practice in terms of policy and procedure.

Tina McIntosh is headteacher at Witherslack Hall School, she said: "I am very proud of my staff who fully deserve this award and delighted that their dedication and professionalism is recognised in this way."

Robin Rhodes is deputy headteacher and the first trainer of Team-Teach at Witherslack Hall School. He said: "We have been involved with Team Teach for more than nine years and have learnt such a lot about positive interactions between staff and pupils. The training has been invaluable and will serve our staff and pupils well for the years to come."

George Matthews is director and founder of Team Teach Ltd, he said: "I was highly impressed by the staff at Witherslack Hall School and the way in which they interacted with their pupils. The school makes outstanding provision for students' health, welfare and safety."

Jim Bowers, proprietor and managing director of the Witherslack Group said: "This is the first school in the Group to be presented with the award and we hope it is the first of many. The Team-Teach approach is one which we are encouraging across our portfolio of schools and care homes."

Witherslack Hall School is a 38 week residential and day special school in Cumbria which caters for boys aged between 11 and 19 with complex learning needs and challenging behaviour. It is one of eight schools and four children's homes run by The Witherslack Group, which offers education and residential care to children with special education needs.

Notes to Editors

[The Witherslack Group](#)

The Witherslack Group (WGS), with eight schools and four children's homes, provides a diverse day, residential and 52 week system of education and care for children with special needs.

It was originally founded in 1972 in the South Cumbria/North Lancashire area and the Group has expanded into the South Lancashire/Merseyside area in the last ten years and more recently into Oxfordshire.

The Group educates and cares for up to 300 children and young people from the age of 4 to 19. At present we provide services for 65 Local Authorities from across the United Kingdom.

Team-Teach

Team Teach is a nationally accredited organisation providing training in positive handling strategies through a whole setting holistic approach, working with leadership and management, actively committed to reducing restraint and risk.

For more information visit: www.team-teach.co.uk.

PHOTO CAPTIONS



2 – (from left to right) Tony Cousins (director, Witherslack Group) George Matthews (Team Teach) Val Hayton (Team Teach Tutor in Witherslack Hall) Geoff Brady (director, the Witherslack Group) Tina McIntosh (Headteacher, Witherslack Hall) Mark Dodgson (Team Teach lead tutor in school)



4 – (from left to right) Val Hayton (Team Teach Tutor in Witherslack Hall), Robin Rhodes (deputy headteacher at Witherslack Hall), George Matthews (Team Teach), Mark Dodgson (Team Teach lead tutor in school) with teachers at Witherslack Hall School