

EBSA Horizons

81-83a Allerton Road,
Mossley Hill, Liverpool,
England, L18 2DA

Re: EBSA Horizons Implementation Supporting Ofsted Inspection Areas

Dear Ofsted Inspector,

This letter confirms that The Rowans AP Academy has successfully completed the EBSA Horizons training programme, developed by EdPsychEd in partnership with Medway Council. The programme, grounded in evidence-based practice and current educational psychology research, equips school staff to effectively support pupils experiencing Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA).

As part of our engagement with the programme, **The Rowans AP Academy** has achieved the following key milestones:

1. **A minimum of 75% of school staff** have completed Level 1 EBSA Horizons training
2. The designated EBSA School Lead has completed Level 3 advanced training

The EBSA Horizons programme addresses key areas of the Education Inspection Framework (EIF) and aligns with priorities outlined in the **School Inspection Handbook**, as set out below:

Quality of Education

Staff are now equipped with:

- Knowledge to identify pupils experiencing EBSA and potential barriers to learning
- Understanding of adaptive teaching approaches to support curriculum access for all pupils
- Strategies to help pupils re-engage with learning after periods of absence

Impact: Developing improved accessibility of the curriculum for all learners, particularly those experiencing EBSA.

Behaviour and Attitudes

The school is developing a strengthened approach to attendance through:

- Evidence-based approaches to address underlying emotional factors affecting attendance
- How to create environments that support regular attendance
- Early identification strategies for attendance concerns

Impact: A more nuanced understanding of attendance patterns and improved support for pupils at risk of persistent absence.

Personal Development

Staff capacity has been developed in:

- Supporting pupils' emotional wellbeing and resilience
- Identifying interventions to help pupils overcome barriers to attendance and engagement
- Integrating EBSA awareness into pastoral support approaches

Impact: A more comprehensive approach to supporting pupils' personal development, particularly in areas of emotional wellbeing and resilience.

Leadership and Management

School leaders have demonstrated commitment through:

- Implementing a whole-school approach to EBSA awareness and support
- Investing in evidence-based professional development for staff
- Establishing foundations for sustainable EBSA support through training and resources

Impact: This positions the school to develop a clear, evidence-informed strategy for addressing EBSA, supported by trained staff.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

The training has equipped staff with:

- Understanding of how SEND may create barriers to attendance
- Knowledge of strategies to support pupils with complex needs
- Awareness of how EBSA considerations integrate with graduated SEND approaches

Impact: More effective identification and support for pupils with SEND, related to those experiencing EBSA.

Safeguarding

Staff awareness has been developed around:

- Potential safeguarding implications of EBSA
- Skills for early identification of vulnerable pupils
- The importance of communication between pastoral and safeguarding teams

Impact: Recognising EBSA as a potential indicator of wider concerns requiring safeguarding consideration.

The EBSA Horizons programme has provided The Rowans AP Academy with a shared understanding and knowledge base for supporting pupils experiencing EBSA. The comprehensive training of 75% or over of school staff members ensures consistent, school-wide awareness, while the advanced training of the EBSA School

Lead provides the expertise needed to guide implementation and ongoing support strategies.

The Rowans AP Academy's implementation of the EBSA Horizons programme demonstrates their commitment to evidence-based practice and inclusive education. It represents an important professional development investment in addressing attendance issues and supporting vulnerable pupils, areas that align with Ofsted's current focus.

The school is now well-positioned to implement these evidence-based approaches and we anticipate this will lead to measurable improvements in their support for pupils experiencing EBSA over time.

If further information is required about the EBSA Horizons programme or its implementation at The Rowans AP Academy, please do not hesitate to contact the EBSA Horizons Psychologists or the school's leadership team.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Jerricah Holder
Specialist Educational Psychologist

Dr. Jenny Dutton
Child and Educational Psychologist

Dr. Richard Skelton
Child and Educational Psychologist

Date: 21 January 2026