

# Hillingdon's Empathy, Attachment, Relationships and Trauma-Responsiveness Award

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# What is the **HEART** Award?

- Created by Hillingdon Virtual School to promote and recognise **attachment-aware** and **trauma-responsive** practice across Hillingdon's schools.
- Offers a **structured pathway** for education settings
  - Commitment → audit → school development plan
- Focuses on both **understanding** and **implementing** trauma-informed approaches.
- Schools receive dedicated support and example strategies.
- **Three award levels**: Bronze, Silver, and Gold recognising progress and existing good practice.

# Why was the HEART Award Developed?

- To **support children and young people** under Hillingdon Virtual School's remit, including those **in care, adopted, in kinship care, or with a social worker**.
- To address the **educational barriers** these vulnerable groups face, such as absence, exclusions, and disengagement.
- To promote **high aspirations** and ensure **an equitable education offer** that improves outcomes and reduces attainment gaps.
- To **embed relational and inclusive practices** across all Hillingdon schools, benefiting all pupils.

## What Does the HEART Award Include?

- Registration with the **Attachment Research Community** 
  - Audit Tool
  - School Development Plan
- Training Delivered by Hillingdon Virtual School for whole school staff teams
  - At Bronze and Silver levels
- Dedicated Support from a HEART Ambassador

## **HEART Award Pilot Launch**

- The HEART Award will be **piloted during the 2025/26 academic year**, with a full launch planned for 2026/27
- **Five schools** will be selected to take part in the initial pilot and begin their HEART Award journey
- Additional schools expressing interest will be registered with the Attachment Research Community to begin their audit and development planning
- The Virtual School team will begin delivering training for additional schools in **Autumn 2026**