

Media Release: Two Swindon schools aiming to be top of the class in national awards

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Two Swindon schools aiming to be top of the class in national awards

Two Swindon primary schools will be vying to take the crown of 'Primary School of the Year' in education's own version of the Oscars.

East Wichel Primary School and Nursery, together with Rodbourne Cheney Primary School, have been shortlisted for the coveted title in this year's Tes School Awards.

The awards recognise the very best teachers and schools from UK state and independent schools, across early years settings, primary and secondary.

An expert panel of judges comprised of leaders in education selected a shortlist for 22 categories and both East Wichel and Rodbourne Cheney are up against six other primary schools from across the country.

East Wichel Primary School and Nursery has also been shortlisted in the Early Years Foundation Stage Setting of the Year.

Meanwhile, Swindon-based Multi-Academy Trust, The White Horse Federation, is in the running for 'Inclusive Trust of the year'.

Winners will be announced on 20 June at a glittering gala at the Grosvenor Hotel, Park Lane, London.

Councillor Adorabelle Amaral-Shaikh, Swindon Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Education, said: "I'm really proud to see two of our Outstanding primary schools flying the flag for Swindon's schools in these prestigious awards.

"To be shortlisted against schools from across the country is testament to the hard work and dedication demonstrated by staff, students and everyone associated with the schools. It's also fantastic to see one of our MATs in the White Horse Federation shortlisted by the judges for the work it does to promote inclusivity.

"I will be keeping my fingers crossed until June 20 but, regardless of the outcome, they have done amazingly well."

Paula Phillips, Headteacher at East Wichel Primary School and Nursery, said: “We’re absolutely thrilled and humbled to be shortlisted for both Primary School of the Year and Early Years Setting of the Year. This recognition reflects the love, aspiration, and integrity at the heart of our school community, from our kind, hardworking children and dedicated staff to our supportive families.”

Lisa Davies, Headteacher at Rodbourne Cheney Primary School, said: “We’re absolutely thrilled that Rodbourne Cheney Primary School has been shortlisted for Primary School of the Year at the TES Awards.

“This recognition is a true testament to our remarkable children, dedicated staff, supportive parents, and our wider school community. We’re incredibly proud of our school, a place where every child feels a strong sense of belonging and pride.”

Tim James, Director of Inclusion at The White Horse Federation (TWHF), said: “This recognition highlights the transformative work of the TWHF Inclusion Team, whose innovative approach to Internal Alternative Provision along with the Trust’s new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Framework has redefined how support is delivered to vulnerable students, blending targeted academic intervention with tailored pastoral care. The model ensures all learners, regardless of background or need, can access high-quality education in a nurturing, supportive environment.”

The full shortlist for the awards is available on the [Tes website](#).

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

Media Contact: Anna Clulow, Communications Executive, AClulow@swindon.gov.uk

Images:

- 1: East Wichel Community Primary School - Year 4 pupils
- 2: East Wichel Community Primary School - Early Years
- 3: Rodbourne Cheney Primary School pupils and teacher





Swindon Borough Council
Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon
United Kingdom

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