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## NEWS RELEASE

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Subject: **Top award for quality given to **Priory Junior School** by leading education charity Achievement for All.**

**Priory Junior School** has been recognized for the work it has been doing to improve the wellbeing, resilience and self-esteem of students who are vulnerable to underachievement and disadvantaged in their learning, including those with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities. The school has been working with the Achievement for All programme, since 2011 and has just been awarded a Quality Mark. The programme works closely with parents, teachers and the individual child to secure the best outcome and attainment for their students through personalised and specific targets.

The school has seen a marked improvement in teaching and learning through the high levels of consistency across all classes in terms of assessment processes and the learning environment. The high profile given to fostering self-awareness, character and resilience evident in the classroom routines, class expectations and personal target-setting.

**Sue Curson**, Head teacher, quotes "I am very proud of everyone involved in the journey to AFA, it has been 4 years of dedication, reflection and determination by staff, parents and children. The AFA award has engaged our parents effectively and they shared the following:

'my child has made fantastic progress'  
'what a massive improvement in my son's reading'  
'she has made leaps and bounds of progress in her self confidence '  
'I'm so proud of his achievements - I never thought he could'  
'staff go above and beyond at this school'

The award recognises the excellent work being done by the school with Achievement for All to improve progress in reading, writing and maths for all pupils, regardless of their background challenge or need.

Shona Walton , Regional Lead from Achievement for All, quotes: *All involved have been significant in securing the improved outcomes for vulnerable learners and the consistent culture of aspiration you are developing. All the participants enabled us to see clearly how the school community has embraced the values of the charity to transform the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged children and their families.*

"Achievement for All believes that every child can progress, and through our programme with hope to enable every child to be the best that they can be regardless of background, challenge, or need. We are delighted to be working with **Priory Junior School** and to share in their success with this much deserved award"

### Notes to Editors

About Achievement for All 3As

- 1 The Achievement for All schools' programme, currently in almost 2,500 schools, provides a whole school improvement framework tailored to each school's needs delivered in partnership with school leaders, teachers, parents, pupils and support professionals. It has been developed in collaboration with the sector and is supported by the Department for Education.
- 2 Achievement for All is a proven approach to improving the reading, writing and maths outcomes for vulnerable and disadvantaged children, including children with SEND. The Charity's latest Impact Report demonstrates that vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils, including those identified with special educational needs and disabilities, in schools working with Achievement for All continue to make faster progress in reading, writing and maths than their counterparts in other schools. Many are making as good or better progress than the national expected levels of progress for all pupils. This builds on the findings of a two year pilot in 450 schools in England evaluated by the University of Manchester that demonstrated significant improvement in SEN pupils progress above that expected for all pupils in reading, writing, maths, behaviour and school attendance  
<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-RR1760>
- 3 Further information can be found at [www.afa3as.org.uk](http://www.afa3as.org.uk) or by contacting [enquiries@afa3as.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@afa3as.org.uk).