



4th April 2019



## Wellbeing Award for Schools

Dear Parents,

In November we wrote to you about the Wellbeing Award for Schools. I would like to update you on our progress so far. The first stage was to evaluate our current provision by asking pupils, staff and children to complete an anonymous survey. These are essential for us to get a full picture of what is working well and areas we need to develop. We are working with an advisor who is supporting us to use the feedback to help formulate key policies as we move forward. 82 parents responded with valuable feedback, but we would really appreciate the views of a greater number of parents. If you didn't manage to complete the survey, please follow the link below. The survey has been provided for us by the Wellbeing Award for Schools.

<https://app.awardplace.co.uk/stakeholder-evaluations/user-survey/5ca4d3139d828>

**Evaluation submissions are valid between: 03/04/2019 - 29/04/2019. Your submission will not be accepted outside of these dates.**

So far we have:

- completed our self-evaluation
- undertaken pupil, parent and staff surveys
- appointed a 'Change Team', which is a committee of staff and parents who meet half termly to support the award process. We have had two meetings.
- Started to work with Place2Be, a team of professionals who are here 2 ½ days a week to offer support with pupil and staff wellbeing.
- Had our first visit from our Advisor and drafted an action plan.

Next steps:

- Gather more evaluations from the parents
- Appoint a team of pupil representatives to be 'Wellbeing Ambassadors', who will be consulted on matters that affect pupils and disseminate information to classes.
- In the summer term we will hold a meeting to share our action plan with parents.

Please see below for more detailed information about the award.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to gaining a fuller picture of parent views on the promotion of Wellbeing.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Rachel Coulson  
Assistant Head  
Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

Mr Bill Mitchell  
Chair of Governors

**The following information is taken from the WAS website and explains what the award is all about.**

*Developed in partnership with the National Children's Bureau (NCB), the Wellbeing Award for Schools is intended to help schools prepare and equip themselves to promote emotional wellbeing and positive mental health across the whole-school community. NCB's vision is an education system where good emotional wellbeing and mental health are at the heart of the culture and ethos of all schools, so that pupils, with the support of their teachers, can build confidence and flourish. Evidence shows us that wellbeing is of central importance to learning and attainment, with high levels of wellbeing associated with improved academic outcomes. Conversely, pupils who have mental health problems are more likely to have academic difficulties at school and experience social disadvantage later in adult life.*

*To achieve this vision, NCB advocates the use of a 'whole-school approach' where all aspects of the school experience are harnessed to promote the emotional wellbeing and mental health of pupils and staff. It is an approach where emotional wellbeing and mental health is everybody's business.*

*The Wellbeing Award for Schools is a welcome opportunity to recognise the work that schools do in this area. The key features of a whole-school approach form the basis of the award, and it provides schools with a benchmark of best practice against which to test itself. We believe that this celebration of success will encourage more schools to adopt an approach that puts emotional wellbeing and mental health at the heart of what they do.*

**Why have we chosen to go through this process?**

Firstly and foremost; we aim to be a caring school community where happy children and adults work together to achieve the highest standards of learning.

The support offered by the award provider will give us a structure to audit our current provision and work on the areas that need further development.

**The award process**

There are five stages in the WAS process and the school will be supported throughout in order to evidence best practice and to achieve the award:

1. School self-evaluation
  2. Preparation of an Action Plan
  3. Implementation of actions and collecting evidence into a portfolio
  4. Interim assessment of progress
  5. Verification of achievement of the award
- This should take 12-15 months.

**The Award Objectives (Information taken from the WAS website)**

The WAS has eight objectives which focus on areas of evaluation, development and celebration of the work of schools in promoting and protecting emotional wellbeing and positive mental health. Each of these areas is further broken down into Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):

Objective 1: The school is committed to promoting and protecting positive emotional wellbeing and mental health by achieving the Wellbeing Award for Schools.

Objective 2: The school has a clear vision and strategy for promoting and protecting emotional wellbeing and mental health, which is communicated to all involved with the school.

Objective 3: The school has a positive culture which regards emotional wellbeing and mental health as the responsibility of all.

Objective 4: The school actively promotes staff emotional wellbeing and mental health.

Objective 5: The school prioritizes professional learning and staff development on emotional wellbeing and mental health.

Objective 6: The school understands the different types of emotional and mental health needs across the whole-school community and has systems in place to respond appropriately.

Objective 7: The school actively seeks the ongoing participation of the whole-school community in its approach to emotional wellbeing and mental health.

Objective 8: The school works in partnerships with other schools, agencies and available specialist services to support emotional wellbeing and mental health.