

# Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS)

## Verification Report

<b>School name:</b>	East Park Academy
<b>School address and postcode:</b>	Hollington Road, Wolverhampton,
<b>School telephone:</b>	01902 558899
<b>School website:</b>	<a href="http://www.eastparkacademy.com">www.eastparkacademy.com</a>
<b>Head teacher:</b>	Ms Hayley Guest
<b>Head teacher's email:</b>	hguest@eastparkprimary.co.uk
<b>WAS coordinator:</b>	Janine Sargent
<b>WAS coordinator's email:</b>	Jsargent@eastparkacademy.com
<b>Award verifier:</b>	Janice Graham
<b>Award adviser (if applicable):</b>	Grace Kew
<b>Date of verification:</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2018

### Commentary on the evidence provided:

Evidence is extremely thorough and well-organised, clearly demonstrating the school's commitment to the Wellbeing Award for Schools.

A range of supportive evidence was also provided illustrating the many ways in which the school caters for the individual needs of both pupils and staff.

### Strengths identified during verification:

- The school has a welcoming, friendly ethos with a real 'family feel' and positive culture.
- The Headteacher and her team have a clear vision and strategy that puts emotional wellbeing and mental health at the heart of planning.

- Interactions across the school are very positive within an atmosphere of mutual respect. Staff clearly know the children very well and do their utmost to ensure that the children feel safe and happy.
- Change has been built on consultation with all stakeholders, who have been kept fully informed throughout the process.
- There is a shared understanding that good emotional wellbeing and mental health are crucial to learning. This is reflected in the School Improvement Plan, which has the key elements of the wellbeing award running as a thread through it.
- All stakeholders interviewed articulated high levels of satisfaction with the school and the positive changes over the last two years. A parent stated that she 'couldn't ask for anything better from the school'.
- Communication with all stakeholders is excellent and they have been kept fully informed about the wellbeing award through newsletters, website and social media.
- A tour of the school, led by members of the Junior Leadership Team, showed a bright, stimulating environment. High quality displays provided enrichment for learning, and many of the displays were related to wellbeing. Worry boxes are available for the children, together with 'fairy plaques' to help worries turn from red to green when a child places their hand on them!
- Staff wellbeing is given a high priority. Staff interviewed said they felt very well-supported and described a range of initiatives to support their wellbeing.
- One member of staff very movingly described how the school had supported her after a nervous breakdown and helped to re-ignite her love of teaching.
- Staff feel that their wellbeing is invested in and they consequently work very hard for the school.
- There is a strong coaching culture at all levels. This impacts positively on emotional wellbeing and mental health by encouraging reflective practice and creating an atmosphere of mutual trust, where staff feel able to ask for support.
- Pupil voice plays an important part in the life of the school. Videos of pupils filmed at the start and end of the journey show very powerfully how pupils' confidence and voice has grown.
- Pupils interviewed were confident, articulate and enthusiastic about their school.
- There are opportunities for pupils to be trained as members of the junior coaching team, and younger pupils are able to make appointments to talk with them if they have any concerns or issues.
- Evaluation has been robust throughout the award and demonstrates impact.

### Impact:

Discussion on impact highlighted the following areas:

- A change in ethos from insecurity to a sense of belonging.
- Staff stakeholder evaluations indicate that there has been a marked increase in Staff wellbeing. Staff now feel much more confident to support each other, pupils and parents and promote positive emotional wellbeing and mental health.
- The award has supported the development of supportive, reflective practice, underpinned by the strong coaching culture.
- All results in 2018 exceeded National Expectations. In 2016 they were all below!

#### Areas for development:

- Continue the excellent practice to further embed and develop the whole school involvement in positively promoting emotional wellbeing and mental health.
- Continue to explore innovative ways to engage parents and carers more fully in the award. This could be done by considering ways that parents and carers could be trained to support each other using the school's coaching approach.
- Continue to build in opportunities and training to address pupils' mental health.
- Capitalise on the emerging links with external partners to ensure a voice in local commissioning and service provision.

#### Verifier recommendation:

I am delighted to award East Park Academy the Wellbeing Award for Schools for a period of 3 years.

#### Head teacher comments:

We are very proud of our school and all of our families, children and staff work hard to ensure everyone gets what they need, when they need it. We believe that everyone should be happy at East Park whether it's for learning, working or visiting. Receiving the Wellbeing Award confirms that an independent body recognises this. We have been fully supported in this process by Grace and Janice from Optimus Education and we thank you.

Hayley Guest and Janine Sargent

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