

Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS)

Verification Report

School name:	St Mary's C of E Primary School
School address and postcode:	Station Road, Hinckley
School telephone:	01455637477
School website:	https://www.stmarys.leics.sch.uk/
Head teacher:	Rachel Ayres
Head teacher's email:	
WAS coordinator:	Jeff Bond
WAS coordinator's email:	office@stmarys.leics.sch.uk
Award verifier:	Therese Hoyle
Award adviser (if applicable):	
Date of verification:	29.11.19

Commentary on the evidence provided:

Jeff Bond, the Headteacher and change team worked very hard to review and prepare the evidence. The presentation by Jeff, at the beginning of the day was outstanding and showcased the wonderful work being done at St Mary's C of E Primary School.

The school was able to provide a range of evidence where they have very positive wellbeing practices in place. The evidence was of a high quality, very thorough, accessible, with all KPI's having been met.

Strengths identified during verification:

The school offers a supportive and nurturing environment to the children, staff, parents and the whole school community and needs to be praised for the work it has done in embedding positive structures and developing strong relationships that support mental health and wellbeing and enables children to learn and flourish.

A strength of the schools is its whole school ethos and values culture which the Headteacher and stakeholders across the school have worked hard to develop.

Parents, staff and children endorsed the positive environment that has been created.

The parents for example praised the school for being caring and nurturing; staffs ability to meet the needs of their children, bring out the best in every child, support them in developing strategies and a toolkit of ideas to manage their emotion; help them grow in confidence, be resilient and give them a happy and safe place to learn.

They commented that staff are extremely supportive and approachable; communication is excellent, and they feel very listened to and valued. Reference was made many times to the 'St Mary's family,' the strong values the children hold, the good behaviour and how happy the children are. Parents also loved the cross curricular approach with Mindfulness, Yoga and Outdoor activities. They particularly praised the staff and leadership for how caring they had been through lockdown and the covid19 pandemic and the creativity and ability to think outside the box by staff members with the 'virtual challenges,' which they said their children love. They praised the wellbeing area on the website which offers excellent information and signposting to parents.

Parents and the community also appreciate the work of Janette Peden - The family support worker, who is of 'great assistance to families.'

The governors are extremely supportive and commented on the strong ethos of support and care where everyone works together. They said, 'this is a lovely school to work in and wellbeing is at the forefront of everyone's minds.'

A significant strength of the school is the work they have done to improve staff wellbeing and mental health and prioritise professional learning and staff development.

Since starting the award staff say they understand the emotional, mental health and behaviour needs of pupils and they now have additional tools to support pupil wellbeing. They commented that 'children see St Mary's as a happy and safe place to be.'

The staff team, work in an environment with extensive support, both formally and informally, relationships are strong and they all clearly flourish. Staff know they can always speak with Jeff or Rachel if they have any problems or concerns.

A testament to the work that has been done with regards to staff wellbeing is that no member of staff has had any time off since September. This is remarkable given the very stressful time we are in and the many challenges that schools currently face with Covid19.

The children thrive in this school with so many positive wellbeing practices – values displayed throughout the school, feelings charts, pupil voice, play therapist, school counsellor, mindful meditation, yoga, positive lunchtime practices, nurture support for vulnerable children at lunchtimes, routes to resilience programme, PHSE curriculum and wellbeing lessons.

The many wellbeing practices have had an enormous impact on children's behaviours, safety, feeling of security, ability to manage their own emotions and self-regulate.

As a result of the development of positive relationship throughout the school community, behaviour is excellent. Regular assessments are conducted in this area to ensure the wellbeing of all is maintained.

Emotional literacy, attitudes and values have been developed to promote and protect emotional wellbeing and are used extensively by adults and children day to day. This has been the foundation that the award process has built on. Understanding this achievement would be a useful contribution to current national debates.

All have clearly worked hard on the award programme and the positive leadership behaviours need

to be celebrated. The role and impact of Rachel Ayres, the head, the leadership team, the change team, the staff and parents at St Mary's, together with support of governors has been critical in the excellent results achieved.

Impact:

- The Wellbeing Award (WAS) co-ordinator has been highly efficient and effective in role. Because of this effective management, staff feel both involved and well informed about the development of effective pastoral support for the pupils.
- The school has a wide range of interventions to support pupils' emotional wellbeing and mental health.
- Credit needs to be given to all at St Mary's Primary School for the work that has been done to achieve the wellbeing award and its ongoing impact on children's learning, self-esteem and all their achievements.

Areas for development:

This is a school which shows excellent practice and has created an environment and ethos across the whole school effectively promoting good mental health and wellbeing. The first area to consider is sustainability. While there were very few red flags, we need to expect turbulence and change, and we would suggest the leadership considers where problems could arise and plan ahead.

The school has been pro-active in building links and relationships with other schools and key decision makers. We would encourage the leadership to continue to build this future focus. Securing supports locally will ensure achievements can be maintained.

The school has strong links and relationships with parents, carers and the community and we would encourage you to maintain and develop this further.

Verifier recommendation:

I am delighted to award St Mary's C of E Primary School the Wellbeing Award for Schools.

This reflects the impact that the school, staff, students and parents' commitments to emotional wellbeing and good mental health has achieved across the school. I saw a wide range of good practice and would encourage the school to capture their experience in a case study, to share with colleagues and Optimus Education.

Head teacher comments:

I would like to thank Mr Bond and his team for their hard work in achieving this great award and to the hardworking staff, pupils and parents who make up our wonderful and special school.