

Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS)

Verification Report

School name:	South Bank Primary School
School address and postcode:	South bank Primary Poplar Grove TS6 6SY
School telephone:	0164245345
School website:	Southbankprimary.co.uk
Head teacher:	Tammy Cooper
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WAS coordinator:	Marie Clarke
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Award verifier:	Angela Charlton
Award adviser (if applicable):	Angela Charlton
Date of verification:	29/11/22

Commentary on the evidence provided:

Walking through the main entrance of South Bank Primary School, you are greeted with an overwhelming sense that wellbeing is at the heart of everything they do. Despite the added pressure of the covid pandemic, the school had worked tirelessly to ensure that wellbeing is embedded across the whole school community.

Evidence was presented clearly and in great depth, with all key performance indicators of all objectives evidenced and therefore meet the requirements of the award.

Marie Clarke (WAS Lead) is fully supported by Tammy Cooper (Headteacher), together they create a school where pupils, families and staff are given as much support as possible to help them stay mentally healthy, breaking down the negative stigma that can surround mental health.

Clear communication throughout the process, has ensured that all relevant stakeholders have been kept well informed and given a voice.

Strengths identified during verification:

Leadership and Management

Leaders have a clear and ambitious vision of how they have developed the work related to wellbeing and mental health. Supported by key staff, including the SEMH team, the WAS Lead has created a real energy and determination to support the Headteacher in keeping wellbeing and mental health at the heart of everything they do in school to support children, parents, staff and the wider community.

Leaders have created indoor spaces that reflect the curriculum where wellbeing is valued across school, with dedicated safe spaces for children to have time out and talk to specialist members of staff.

The learning environment, both internally and externally provides many opportunities to promote wellbeing. Outdoor learning is highly valued, children have opportunities to thrive during outdoor activities with plans to create an outdoor safe space to enhance the indoor provision.

Beautifully presented displays and artwork enhanced the portfolio by documenting how wellbeing and mental health is woven throughout the curriculum and wider community.

Governors fully support the school in developing wellbeing and mental health across school and within the whole school community.

Staff

All staff are well supported and are very much valued and supported by the Headteacher and WAS Lead. They are treated with respect and are listened to. Together they work effectively as a team and support each other well. Initiatives including wellbeing days for all staff (paid day off), supervision for staff by mental health nurse, supportive return to work meetings, and counselling service, ensure that all staff go the extra mile as they believe they are looked after. They believe that the culture that has been developed across the school where their wellbeing is high on the agenda, impacts positively on all children and families.

An effective programme of CPD supports staff in delivering wellbeing and mental health across the curriculum and beyond.

The WAS Lead works effectively with the SEMH team to further support staff in school in embedding wellbeing and mental health across the whole school community. Their doors are always open for advice and support when needed. They are passionate in wanting to make a real difference to children's lives.

Pupils

Pupils spoke enthusiastically about their school and how happy and safe they felt. They were able to articulate clearly what impact the WAS Award had had on their school and them personally.

A number of children shared poems and posters with great pride and spoke about the impact it had had on them, with 2 of the children relating experiences of how it had helped them to speak to their own families and understand what was going on at home.

The children spoke about the supportive staff in school and how they had been given tools to support their own wellbeing during wellbeing weeks and PSHE lessons and how they could support others by spotting signs and change of behaviour.

The children said...

"All the time, my teacher always says our voices are the most important ones and they will get recognised so we can speak and say something no matter what it would be."

"Because my teacher always says, children have the right to speak up!"

"We need confidence to talk in front of a class, you just need to breathe in and breathe out."

Behaviour was exemplary throughout; children were clearly very proud of their school.

Parents

During the pandemic the school continued to provide excellent support for both pupils and the wider community, something the parents were eager to share.

School is now rebuilding community links and reintroducing activities that welcome parents back into school.

Parents say that communication is excellent with clear signposting for further support in wellbeing and mental health.

Parents said...

“Mrs Cooper and her staff are always very approachable to discuss any matter concerning parents and will signpost us in the right direction.”

“Everyone at the school supports each other if they are feeling worried or unhappy.”

“I understand that my child needs to feel happy and secure and school does well.”

“I think that South Bank Primary have a great structure in place to promote happiness and security within school and the community.”

Impact:

The WAS Lead has ensured that all developments have been effective and had a positive impact. Evidence presented far surpassed expectations, showing how committed the school is in further embedding wellbeing and mental health awareness across the whole school community and beyond.

Alongside the Headteacher and Change Team, The WAS Lead has ensured that all staff and wider community feel both involved and well informed about developments towards the verification of the WAS Award.

A culture of mutual respect has resulted in a team whose morale is high.

There is a true partnership between the parent body and school with the Leadership Team including the governing body playing a pivotal role in keeping wellbeing and mental health high on the agenda.

Wellbeing and Mental Health is woven seamlessly across the school and the wider community, giving children real confidence and love of learning in an environment where it is good to talk.

Something I know that the school will continue to build upon.

Areas for development:

Further develop outdoor provision to include an outdoor classroom/safe haven.

Further develop the role of wellbeing ambassadors.

Develop a pre school strategy to support prospective parents to include SEND and Wellbeing.

Verifier recommendation:

I am delighted to say that South Bank Primary is to be awarded the Wellbeing Award, for a period of three years.

Head teacher comments:

This has been a very supportive and informative process that has helped us to recognise all we do as a school. The stakeholder questionnaires provided us with extremely valuable feedback that we have used to improve our practises further.

May we use your comment for website/marketing purposes? **Yes**