

Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS) Verification Report

School name: Woodstock Church of England Primary School

School address and postcode: Shipton Road, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1LL

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School website: <http://www.woodstock.oxon.sch.uk/>

Head teacher: Lisa Rowe

WAS coordinator: Craig McKay

Date of verification: 18 December 2018

Award verifier: Grace Kew

Award advisor (if applicable):

Commentary on the evidence provided in the portfolio:

- Evidence presented in the form of A3 Big Books was exemplary at demonstrating the school's existing and long-standing culture of promoting the wellbeing of pupils via the Nurture Programme, and how this has merged in seamlessly with the WAS Award.
- The portfolio is a very thorough evidence base which reflects a school with a real commitment to the wellbeing of all its stakeholders.
- The evidence demonstrates the school's robust ongoing reflections and evaluations with clear action points. This is captured via the Raising Achievement Plan (RAP) and Progress Three strategy documents, and also reported via The Governor Grapevine Report.

Strengths identified in the review:

- The development of Wellbeing Award (WAS) within school was been extremely comprehensive and thorough. This is clearly reflected via the robust monitoring and evaluating systems in place - RAP and Priority Three whole school strategy documents.
- It is very clear that WAS is an integral part of the school ethos (Nurture-Believe-Discover-Achieve) and this is evident through the long existing Nurture Programme, the provision of activities and the impact on the emotional wellbeing and mental health of pupils. As one pupil put it "Sitting in the Nurture room helps to calm me down when I am angry or sad."
- Highly effective leadership and management has involved the staff from all phases resulting in a whole school community which has "ownership" of the award. One staff said, "We were involved from the beginning and were kept up to date via staff meetings."
- The WAS framework has been used very effectively as a diagnostic tool and implemented via the RAP and Priority Three strategy. As one of the governors put it "The RAP helps us to put specific targets in place and it is important that each priority is reviewed each term."
- Woodstock Primary is a school where the wellbeing of the staff, pupils and parents is paramount. Because of this, the whole school community feels highly valued and involved.

- The Governing Body is actively involved and well informed about progress towards achieving the WAS strategy. This is evident through the expectations of Link Governors to provide ongoing updates and feedback at governors' meetings.
- The governors are fully committed to the wellbeing of all. They play a very dynamic role in the strategic development of the school. This is evident in the RAP and Priority Three strategy documents.
- Comprehensive training on wellbeing and mental health has been provided to staff at all levels. Because of this they feel confident in supporting the implementation of the WAS strategy. As all staff confirmed "Formal CPD on emotional wellbeing and mental health has supported us in delivering the strategy effectively."
- Pupils have been given opportunities to develop ideas via the Children's Council. Because of this they have ownership of implementing and embedding the WAS strategy into their day-to-day school life. As one pupil put it "We get opportunities to come up with ideas and suggest activities."
- PSHE is a fundamental subject that is central to the school's ethos.

- Through focussed analysis of a range of evidence, the Governing Body is well informed about the effectiveness of the strategies employed by the school. They are confident in articulating how the strategy has successfully supported the delivery of the Wellbeing Award.
- Woodstock CE Primary School is a wonderful, very welcoming, nurturing and happy school. The learning environment (indoors and outdoors) is organised and very effective. The highest standards of the school are reflected in all areas.
- The staff work together effectively and support each other. The shared values of the staff team are clearly evident – as one staff member stated, "We look out for one another."
- Staff are well supported by the leadership team and have access to a range of professionals such as counselling services.
- Parents feel that the staff are very approachable, and the school is welcoming. Due to this, they feel secure when needing to contact school. They are grateful that any issues or concerns are dealt with quickly and efficiently. One parent stated, "We are well supported when in need help."
- Communication is a real strength across the school. Parents are well informed about all aspects of school developments. Due to this, they really feel that there is a true partnership between the parents and the school.
- PE, Sport & Physical Activity have a very high profile and the school is involved in more than 30 Partnership Sports Events. This has a positive impact on self-esteem, building positive relationships, and the emotional wellbeing and mental health of pupils, staff and parents. As all the pupils put it "Two hours of PE a week helps us to get fresh air and clear our minds."
- The school provides many opportunities for the parents to celebrate the successes of their children and also to have an opportunity to socialise with family members of other pupils.
- School works in partnership working with The Marlborough School (secondary) who supports the training of Playground Leaders (Years 5 & 6 pupils) to lead fun physical activities for younger children at lunchtimes. Because of this they learn how to empathise and build their own self-esteem, and as one pupil put it "It makes me feel warm, happy and comfortable to know that I am not on my own and always have someone to play with"

Impact:

- The wellbeing of all has been a key priority even before the school embarked upon the award. A culture of mutual respect has resulted in a team whose morale is high and a staff who are very proud of their school. The staff have helped the pupils build their self-confidence and self-belief in order that they can achieve.
- Support for mental health is now a key theme which is evident in all relevant school policies.
- The school works effectively with a range of partners agencies to provide support for the whole school community.
- Parents feel that wellbeing is a key priority for the school. In the words of one parent, "The school has made me feel empowered and special."
- The whole school community is keen to continue working towards promoting and embedding a culture where talking about emotional wellbeing and mental health is eradicated. As one governor put it "It is absolutely fantastic with what's going on and the foundation that is being prepared and made for pupils and staff to create a safe environment to talk about emotions."

Area for development:

- Consider developing a long-term strategy for sharing best practice on emotional wellbeing and mental health with the schools within your local area/nationally in your capacity as a National Teaching School.
- Consider investing in The 'Jigsaw' Curriculum for 'The Mindful Approach to PSHE as this will provide the school with a valuable resource that can be emended from Early Years through to Year 6.

Verifier recommendation:

Woodstock CE Primary School should be awarded the Wellbeing Award for Schools for a period of three years.

Head teacher comments:

Children's wellbeing is at the heart of our school – we want to see happy, confident children who believe in themselves and aspire to be as good as they can. We are delighted that this vision along with all the work we do to support the mental health and wellbeing of children, staff and families has been recognised through our achievement in gaining the Award.

The framework provided a comprehensive and useful foundation for us to improve in areas that we could develop further and take our practice forward. Taking a whole school approach has seen huge benefits for us in terms of collaboration towards a shared goal and engendering a culture where talking about issues around mental health and wellbeing is part of everyday life.

We would recommend the Award to any school who wants a clear structure to work toward to promote positive wellbeing and mental health.

May we use your comments on our website and/or publicity material? **Yes**