

# Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS)

## Verification Report

<b>School name:</b>	West View Primary School
<b>School address and postcode:</b>	Davison Drive, Hartlepool, TS24 9BP
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<b>School website:</b>	<a href="http://www.westview.adastraschools.org">www.westview.adastraschools.org</a>
<b>Head teacher:</b>	Lauren Furness
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<b>WAS coordinator:</b>	Michelle Clarke
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<b>Award verifier:</b>	Angela Charlton
<b>Award adviser (if applicable):</b>	School Led
<b>Date of verification:</b>	26/03/2024

### Commentary on the evidence provided:

Walking through the main entrance of West View Primary School, you are greeted with an overwhelming sense that wellbeing is at the heart of everything they do. Following the added pressure of the pandemic and the impact it has had on mental health, the school has worked tirelessly to ensure that wellbeing is embedded across the whole school community.

The WAS coordinator – Michelle Clarke - is fully supported by the Headteacher – Lauren Furness, who has a clear overview of the current strengths of the school and areas to develop in terms of wellbeing. Together, they have created 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.

Evidence presented throughout the day, showcased the commitment the school has towards this award and the wellbeing and mental health of its whole community.

Clear communication throughout the process, has ensured that all relevant stakeholders have been kept well informed about the Wellbeing Award.

The evidence within the portfolio was presented clearly and in great depth, with all performance indicators of all objectives evidenced and therefore met the requirements of the award.

## Strengths identified during verification:

### Leadership

West View Primary School is a school within the Ad Astra Academy Trust. The Trust has developed a 'Staff Wellbeing Charter' in order to demonstrate the commitment and dedication to support, improve and enhance the wellbeing of all employees through policies and procedures. They believe that employees are the Trust's greatest asset. The Trust Board recognise that for individuals to achieve their best, the wellbeing of all employers should be protected, promoted and enhanced. West View Primary School is led passionately by the Headteacher, Lauren Furness. She clearly understands that in order to realise their vision of 'Dream Big. Aim High. Shine Bright' their pupils need to be first and foremost, physically, emotionally and mentally well. She has created a real energy and determination to keep wellbeing and mental health at the heart of everything they do in school to support children, parents, staff and the wider community; creating a setting which allows all children to thrive in a beautifully crafted environment where everyone feels safe and heard. The WAS has been effectively led by Michelle Clarke (WAS coordinator) and well supported by the Headteacher. West View Primary School has shown that it is committed to promoting positive mental health for all pupils and their families, by being proactive, implementing a curriculum which helps pupils understand and regulate their emotions. In addition to this, they aim to recognise and respond to mental ill health – providing targeted support in a timely manner. Governors fully support the school in developing wellbeing and mental health across school and within the whole school community.

### Staff

Throughout this process, all staff have been well supported and very much valued by the WAS coordinator. They are treated with respect and believe that they are listened to. Together, they work effectively as a team and support each other well. They believe that the culture that has been developed across school where their wellbeing is high on the agenda, impacts positively on all children and families.

An effective programme of CPD, led by in house experts and outside agencies, support staff in delivering wellbeing and mental health across the curriculum and beyond.

ABC Therapeutic Service further support staff, pupils and families with a bespoke service in school – a one stop shop of high quality, highly skilled provision.

### Pupils

Walking around school it was clear that children felt secure within their setting. Positive relationships were observed across the whole school between adults and pupils. Classrooms reflected the clear vision of the Headteacher, promoting wellbeing and positive mental health with the Curiosity Approach weaving throughout the school like a golden thread. Behaviour was exemplary throughout – pupils were clearly very proud of their school.

I met with the 'Happiness Heroes' who spoke enthusiastically about their school and how happy and safe they felt. They were able to articulate clearly what impact the WAS Award has had on their school and them as individuals. They said they were chosen to be Happiness Heroes because they were able to make everyone happy!

The spoke excitedly about 'myHappyMind' and how different characters helped them in certain situations.

One child said, "I like myHappyMind because I have learned to calm down when I feel mad or angry. Another child said, "I have been sharing more with people. I know its nice to share and it makes them feel nice and me too when I do something kind."

And another child said, "It has helped me use the happy breathing when my brother makes me feel angry, which can be a lot, but it is getting much better now I know how to breathe."

### Parents

Parents and carers recognise the work the school is doing in supporting both pupils and the wider family and are extremely grateful. They value the approachability of all staff and the visibility of the leadership team around school, especially at the start and end of day. This was visibly observed during the final assessment day – relationships have genuinely been established. One parent commented that Michelle (WAS coordinator) was a force of nature and had worked tirelessly to ensure that everyone is supported and has a voice.

They say that communication is excellent, and support is well signposted through a number of useful platforms including individual meetings, coffee morning/drop ins, emails, text messages, school website, and social media to ensure they know what is going on.

### Impact:

The Wellbeing Award coordinator – Michelle Clarke - has ensured that all developments have been effective and have had a positive impact.

Because of the clear vision from the Headteacher and excellent support from the WAS coordinator, the whole school community feel both involved and well informed about the developments towards the award.

A culture of mutual respect is firmly embedded across the whole school, where wellbeing and positive mental health is seen as a key priority of the school.

The school has a wide range of interventions to support pupils' emotional wellbeing and mental health which are clearly having a positive impact across the whole school community.

Pupils have a voice and are clearly listened to.

The school has invested substantially to ensure that all staff receive high quality professional development opportunities and resources to enable them to deliver high quality support. As a result, staff feel confident and well equipped in supporting pupils and families in relation to positive wellbeing and mental health.

Communication is a strength and because of this, parents are well informed about all aspects of the school's development and its provision. Wellbeing and personal development have been woven into the school's curriculum and its wider offer. Because of the rich provision provided, pupils develop a real confidence and feel safe – where everyone is able to 'Dream Big, Aim High and Shine Bright'.

### Areas for development:

On completion of this award, West View Primary School have developed a detailed Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategic Plan – Thinking Ahead, showing their continued commitment to this award.

The key areas for development from the plan include:

Further training for additional member of SLT to access Senior Mental Health Lead training.

Further develop Safe Space into a sensory provision.

Engage further with myHappyMind accreditation programme in order to drive the programme forward.

Engage with Therapy Ponies for Schools in order to further enhance provision provided by school.

**Verifier recommendation:**

I am delighted to say that West View Primary School is to be awarded the **Wellbeing Award for School** for the next three years.

**Head teacher comments:**

I am truly delighted that we have been awarded the Wellbeing Award for Schools in recognition of what I know is an excellent offer in school to support the mental health and wellbeing of our whole school community.

As a school, we are fortunate to have a dedicated and passionate Inclusion Manager in Ms Clarke who is also our Senior Mental Health Lead. Her unwavering support and commitment to mental health and wellbeing across the school is exceptional and I am proud to see that her hard work in respect of this award process, including the detailed and thorough portfolio, has been recognised and can be celebrated widely.

Mental health and wellbeing remains our number one priority – we absolutely cannot realise our vision for pupils to ‘Dream Big. Aim High. Shine Bright’ if they are not first and foremost mentally healthy and well.

This award has enabled us to celebrate the fantastic work that was already happening at West View, whilst at the same time, allowing us to reflect, fine tune and drive forward further improvements. We have clear plans in place to continue our work as well take our new ideas forward to strengthen our provision further.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire West View community for their ongoing support of all that we do at school. This award would not have been achieved within the input and genuine commitment of all stakeholders.

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