

Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS)

Verification Report

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| School name: | Knowsley Central School |
| School address and postcode: | Mossbrow Road, Huyton, Liverpool, L36 7SY |
| School telephone: | 0151 477 8450 |
| School website: | www.knowsleycentral.co.uk |
| Head teacher: | Daryl McConnell |
| Head teacher's email: | Daryl.mcconnell@knowsleycentral.co.uk |
| WAS coordinator: | Vicky Brown |
| WAS coordinator's email: | Vicky.brown@knowsleycentral.co.uk |
| Award verifier: | Andy Taylor |
| Award adviser (if applicable): | School-led approach |
| Date of verification: | 10 July 2020 |

Commentary on the evidence provided:

- The key performance indicators of all the objectives have been evidenced and therefore meet the requirements of the award.
- The portfolio evidences a range of comprehensive and extremely well-organised documentation reflecting a school which strongly believes in the vital role it has in supporting the emotional wellbeing and mental health of all.
- The change team is representative of the school community and members bring a range of skills to support development towards the award.
- Stakeholder evaluations have provided the school with a firm evidence base from which to compile an action plan, identifying relevant steps to be taken.
- Progress towards the award has been closely monitored over time.
- All relevant stakeholders have been kept well informed about the WAS award.
- Positive mental health and wellbeing is an intrinsic part of the school's vision statement.

- There are a wide range of ways by which pupils, parents and staff are supported. These include a “sensory” barber who comes to the school, access to a range of professional clinics and staff identified as “half term heroes.” This aspect of the school’s practice is particularly strong.
- The school has developed a long-term wellbeing action plan which contains specific success measures, the analysis of which will enable leaders to ascertain the effectiveness of actions taken.
- Wellbeing is an integral part of the way staff manage pupils’ behaviour. Overtime, there has been a dramatic reduction (83%) in the use of physical interventions.
- Pupil voice is used effectively to support the school’s development.
- There are a range of therapeutic interventions used to support pupils’ wellbeing and mental health.
- A focus on wellbeing is part of the school’s appraisal system which supports the ethos of the school where this is so important.
- The school has developed systems to support the wellbeing of staff and pupils. During the discussion with school leaders, examples were cited where action had been taken to support staff. This was a direct result of the analysis of information gathered.
- The school works with a wide range of other schools, networks and agencies to both share and develop practice.

Strengths identified during verification:

- The WAS award has been used as a diagnostic tool. As a result, leaders and staff have a clear view of their effective practice and how they wish to develop this even further.
- Staff are determined to address potential barriers for any stakeholders. Because of this, there is a real drive and purpose as the school builds on its current practices.
- Leaders have developed effective strategies to ensure they support and promote staffs’ mental health and wellbeing.
- Governors are well informed about the progress towards the WAS Award. A member of the governing body was part of the change team.
- Effective professional development relating to wellbeing and supporting mental health has ensured the staff have the skills to help pupils when the need arises.
- Staff feel highly valued and have real ownership of all the improvements that have been made. Investing in staffs’ professional development has ensured these developments are sustainable.
- The school is a very welcoming, nurturing school. It is an organised and effective learning environment.
- Staff feel valued for their important role of teaching and supporting pupils. The staff work together effectively and support each other. They feel valued by the school leaders.
- Strong relationships exist between the staff and pupils. Should they have any worries, anxieties or concerns, pupils know that staff will support them.
- Systems in the school, to both record and share information, are in place. Consequently, pupils are well looked after and supported.
- Pupils talked about the different strategies they have used to help them keep healthy which included talking about their feelings. Pupils know that they can turn to both adults in school but also their friends.

Impact:

- The Wellbeing Award (WAS) co-ordinator has been highly effective in her role. The detailed portfolio is just one document which evidences the thoroughness of her approach and attention to detail. Because of this effective management, staff feel both involved and well informed about developments towards the award.
- The school has invested substantially to ensure all staff receive high quality professional development opportunities. As a result, the use of support staff has become more effective within the classrooms. Furthermore, teaching assistants now led and manage interventions.
- The effective support network provided for families has resulted in parents who are more confident and feel at ease to contact members of staff should they have any questions or concerns. One parent stated that the school, "...goes above and beyond. They are so compassionate."

Areas for development:

During the final verification, there were no specific areas in which the school needed to improve. The following were identified by leaders in their drive to strengthen their provision:

- To continue to provide staff with high quality continued professional development opportunities to enable them to support both colleagues and pupils.
- To further develop the effective partnership with parents.

Verifier recommendation:

- Knowsley Central School to be awarded the Wellbeing Award for Schools for a period of three years.

Head teacher comments:

We are delighted to have been accredited with the Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS). At Knowsley Central School we are committed to creating a school environment where wellbeing is to forefront of all we do.

The WAS accreditation is a great reward for our school community's continued commitment to championing wellbeing in our school.