



Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS) Verification Report

School name: Belton CE Primary School

School address and postcode: Sadlers Wells, Belton, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE129TS

School telephone: 01530222304

School website: www.belton.leics.sch.uk

Head teacher: Elizabeth De Looze

Head teacher's email: edelooze@belton.leics.sch.uk

WAS coordinator: Headteacher

WAS coordinator's email: As above

Date of verification: 14 December 2018

Award verifier: Catherine Kirk

Award advisor (if applicable): N/A

Commentary on the evidence provided in the portfolio:

- The portfolio is complete and provides evidence that meets the KPIs.

Strengths identified in the review:

Leadership and Management

- It is clear that the Wellbeing Award process has had the strong involvement and a clear lead from the Headteacher.
- The Change Team have been at the forefront of driving the Wellbeing Award. Change Team members have used their expertise to really challenge and scrutinise provision within school. They asked searching questions and ensured that the Wellbeing Award did not become simply a tick-box activity but a real opportunity to add value to existing practice.
- As a result of the work of the Change Team, mental health and emotional wellbeing work is now highlighted to parents/carers as a key element of the school's ethos
- The WAS framework has been used very effectively as a diagnostic tool.
- Belton CE Primary is a nurturing environment, this was clear from discussions with all stakeholders and a tour around the school. Everyone I spoke to felt valued and cared for.
- The Governing Body has been updated regularly on progress towards the Wellbeing Award.
- This is a school where even the wellbeing of governors is held in high regard with planned opportunities for them to socialise together and team-build.
- The Head teacher has built strong and supportive relationships with staff meaning all feel involved. Hearing the cheer from the staff room when the achievement of the Wellbeing Award

was announced was a very touching moment and showed how much mental health and wellbeing is valued in the school.

Staff

- Belton CE Primary is a small school with a staff group committed to ensuring the best for all pupils.
- During the verification visit staff felt able to share their own personal experiences and talk about how the school has supported them. This was very powerful testimony.
- The staff work together effectively and support each other. The shared values of the staff team are clearly evident.
- There are planned opportunities for staff to develop their expertise around mindfulness and a member of staff has completed the Mental Health First Aid Training.
- The school has an excellent resource in the Family and Mental Wellbeing Lead who offers support to the whole school community through counselling, 1 2 1s and training.
- Pupils told me that 'all the teachers help you' and 'the teachers are kind'.

Parents

- During the visit several parents shared their personal experiences of how the school has supported their families with one stating 'anything I've needed they've been there'. These parents talked about the strong support from the Headteacher and other staff in school.
- The school has worked hard to engage parents and carers in the Wellbeing Award through home-school communications, e.g. Website.
- In the induction parents receive information about the school's strong commitment to mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Pupils

- The pupils have been involved in the award through the school council deciding to introduce some Wellbeing Superheroes into the school.
- At the verification visit pupils talked about how safe and welcoming their school is. They mentioned a friendship bear in the playground where children can go if they are feeling lonely. They also talked about the 'reflection area' – a place to 'sit down, calm down and let the bad things flow out of you'.
- New children to the school settle in quickly with the support of staff and other pupils.

Impact:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing was an important priority for Belton CE Primary even before embarking on the Wellbeing Award. Taking part in the Award has helped the school to challenge their practice to ensure it is truly meeting the needs of pupils.
- The school already had a 'tough turtle' which supported children to think about resilience but through the Award the children have also introduced Wilma and Walter Wellbeing Superheroes. There are opportunities for children to write how they are feeling in classrooms and the hall.
- Wellbeing Champions have been identified and will continue to champion mental health and wellbeing within the school community.
- Encouraging use of mental health language is a key change in practice. The Change Team wanted to ensure that the school used the terms 'mental health and emotional wellbeing' in literature for parents so that a level of comfort and familiarity with the terms is developed.

- Pupils are now more aware of the support offered by the Family and Mental Wellbeing Lead with many choosing to self-refer to her services.
- A document has been produced showing parents what support is available for their children both within school and outside of it.
- This area of work continues to be a key priority for the school.

Areas for development:

- Continue to explore ways to engage all parents in emotional wellbeing and mental health work.
- Formalise future plans in the School Improvement Plan or similar.
- Put in place ways to evaluate support offered to parents, staff and pupils.

Verifier recommendation:

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

Head teacher comments:

Gaining our Wellbeing Award for Schools has been a worthwhile venture for us at Belton. We approached the process from a feeling of 'we do this – we are on the way to this' but it is so much more than gaining an award.

The change team has been an integral part of the process and as a small school with few staff there were times when without the skillset of the change team, the workload, in terms of collating evidence etc would have been problematic and onerous. The change team also provided fresh insights and provoked difficult conversations through challenging questions which enhanced our thinking and practice.

The award is not about ticking boxes and gaining a certificate it is about 'this is who we are and what we do and offer' and evidencing this. Wellbeing in school and a commitment to this for all has to be at the forefront of everyone's thinking – it is everyone's business in order to be meaningful and have impact. It needs to be looked at in the same way as safeguarding in schools for we are safeguarding the wellbeing and mental health of our future citizens in our pupils, staff and families.

I am proud of the school community and that we have been recognised for the award and know that this is just part of our cycle of improving and sustaining our role in mental health and wellbeing.

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