

Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS)

Verification Report

School name:	Holmesdale Infant School
School address and postcode:	27 The Avenue, Dronfield, Derbyshire S18 2LR
School telephone:	012464 13284
School website:	https://www.holmesdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/
Head teacher:	Sarah Lockwood
Head teacher's email:	Slockwood@holmesdale.derbyshire.sch.uk
WAS coordinator:	Sarah Lockwood
WAS coordinator's email:	slockwood@holmesdale.derbyshire.sch.uk
Award verifier:	Colin Noble
Award adviser (if applicable):	Colin Noble
Date of verification:	22 nd May 2023

Commentary on the evidence provided:

The evidence consisted of a portfolio of written evidence, mainly uploaded to AwardPlace but with some additional items supplied in hard copy in school. All but 12 of the KPIs had been met at the time of the interim visit on 22nd December 2022.

On the day of verification, the Head Teacher also gave a presentation and conducted a tour of the School, both inside and outside. Meetings and discussions were also held with the Chair of Governors, four members of staff, three parents (two of them by phone) and four children.

The evidence overwhelmingly corroborated and supported the story outlined by the Head. This is a school which places wellbeing at the front and centre of all that it does, a philosophy fuelled by professional conviction and an acute observation of children's needs. What was particularly impressive is the way that the School mirrors this conviction in the manner it provides for its staff and community.

Strengths identified during verification:

There were many strengths identified, perhaps chief amongst them was the driving force of the Head and the staff of the School that wellbeing is an essential precursor to achievement, as well as being desirable in its own right.

In terms of provision, the appointment and work of the family support worker is obviously important as she straddles the needs of both pupils and parents. On arriving early for the meeting this verifier was privileged to overhear a master class in how to talk to a distressed child and coax them into wanting to go to his classroom. Her work in the Sunshine Room, with Positive Play, with parents and with staff colleagues were all reported very positively by colleagues, parents and pupils. Another major strength is the School's investment in its outstanding outside areas. Every classroom has an entrance/exit to an outdoor area. Additionally, the raised beds, the Forest Schools area, the play equipment and installations, the pond and the games/sports areas were all of very high quality. They were good evidence of the School's practical understanding of the value of outdoor learning.

Inside the School, every classroom uses zones of regulation and has a quiet corner. Pupils confirmed the value of these in understanding and regulating their emotions. Displays in the entrance lobby and around the School confirmed the School's work in developing its school council and in emotional wellbeing and mental health.

Staff confirmed that they felt professionally well developed in the field of emotional wellbeing and mental health, and that their own needs were always considered. This was manifested in the ability to take PPA time at home, the open-door policy of the Head and the team work approach to planning and problem-solving.

Impact:

The impact of work on the Award has been to:

- 1 develop the role and work of the Family Support Worker
- 2 better support parents
- 3 increase the interest and involvement of governors
- 4 raise awareness of behaviour as a function of need
- 5 help staff feel that they have someone they can approach about their own needs e.g. Head, Deputy Head or Chair of Governors.

Areas for development:

There are a few areas of development, most of them identified by the School:

- 1 more training and professional development for the staff
- 2 to make use of the possibility of government money to improve mental health in schools

- 3 maintain the high profile of emotional wellbeing and mental health in School
4. introduce more coffee mornings for parents/carers and consider the possibility of more 'stay and play' sessions
- 5 consider adopting outcomes that are both SMART and impactful i.e. not measuring the success of processes but making use of the sort of data available from analysis of the stakeholder evaluation forms.

Verifier recommendation:

I recommend that Holmesdale Infant School be awarded the Wellbeing Award for Schools for a period of three years.

Head teacher comments:

We are all thrilled to receive this award as well-being is at the heart of all we do for everyone in our school community. We will continue to strive to uphold this achievement and feel that it helps magnify the philosophy we all hold so close to our hearts.

Happy people learn and grow.....

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