



Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS)

Verification Report

School name:	Tow Law Millennium Primary School
School address and postcode:	Wear Street, Attlee Estate, Tow Law, Bishop Auckland, County Durham, DL13 4LF
School telephone:	01388730283
School website:	www.towlaw.durham.sch.uk
Award verifier:	Andy Taylor
Award adviser (if applicable):	Andy Taylor
Date of verification:	03 December 2021

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 school has a very clear view about the current strengths and areas to develop. In terms of the actions taken to further embed developments associated with the wellbeing of the whole school community, actions are firmly based on a broad evidence base.
- All relevant stakeholders have been kept well informed about the Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS).
- The evidence within the portfolio shows how developments associated with wellbeing are embedded within the school systems. Over time, wellbeing has been, and continues to be, an integral part of the school improvement process and without doubt, the school will continue to strengthen its provision.
- There is a broad range of training available to the staff which provides them with specific skills to support both pupils and colleagues.

- As part of the school's communication, wellbeing is prioritised: there are many references to wellbeing within the school's newsletters.
- There are established links made with a range of agencies.



Strengths identified during verification:

Leadership and management

- The wellbeing of all is one of the central principles of the school and there is a commitment to support wellbeing across the whole school community.
- Leaders have a very clear and ambitious vision of how they want to further develop the work related to wellbeing. Supported by other key staff, they are determined to provide the school community with a tight network of support.
- Leaders have developed a culture throughout the whole school which is supportive both of staff, pupils and their wider family.
- The school learning environment, both internally and externally, has been developed to support and promote the wellbeing of all: there is a very warm and nurturing atmosphere.

Staff

- Staff are well supported and very much valued by the head teacher and other senior leaders. They feel that the leadership within the school is transparent, where all staff are working towards a common goal.
- Within the school team, there is a real energy and determination to provide pupils with a safe and warm environment in which to thrive. The staff work together effectively and support each other.
- Staff help developed the pupils' life skills through both the rich curriculum and whole school events. In addition, staff are provided with a wealth of CPD opportunities which equip them with the skills and confidence to support pupils.

Pupils

- Pupil voice within school is well developed. Pupils eagerly talked about various aspects of the school including the numerous opportunities to support each other, including a well-embedded buddy system.
- Strong relationships exist between the staff and pupils. Should they have any worries, anxieties or concerns, pupils know that staff will support them.
- Pupils talked about the different strategies they have used to help them keep healthy which included talking about their feelings and the importance of sleep.
- The pupils were very proud of their school and were fantastic ambassadors.

Parents

- During the pandemic, the school has continued to provide excellent support for both pupils and the wider family.
- Parents recognise the work of the school in supporting both the pupils and also the wider family. They value the approachability of all staff and appreciate staff are there to talk to on a daily basis. Moreover, they know that any issues will be addressed swiftly. One parent stated, "...the staff are amazing with the kids."

Impact:

- The Wellbeing Award (WAS) co-ordinator has ensured all developments have been effective and had a positive impact, the evidence of which was clearly evident in the portfolio. Because of her

excellent leadership and management skills, staff feel both involved and well informed about developments towards the award.

- A culture of mutual respect has resulted in a team whose morale is high and a staff who are proud of their school.
- The school has a wide range of interventions to support pupils' emotional wellbeing and mental health. Systems in the school, to both record and share information, are extremely efficient and effective. Consequently, pupils are well looked after and supported.
- The school has invested substantially to ensure all staff receive high quality professional development opportunities. As a result, the staff feel more confident in supporting pupils in relation to emotional 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.
- There is a true partnership between the parent body and the school. Moreover, parents feel the school is an integral and important part of the community.
- 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 love of learning.

Areas for development:

- Due to an evolving staff team, to continue to embed wellbeing strategies within the school's systems.
- To further develop the role of pupils as Wellbeing Champions.

Verifier recommendation:

- Tow Law Millennium Primary School to be awarded the Wellbeing Award for Schools for a period of three years.