

# Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS)

## Verification Report

<b>School name:</b>	Ysgol Maes Y Felin
<b>School address and postcode:</b>	Pen Y Maes Road Holywell Flintshire CH8 7EN
<b>School telephone:</b>	01352 711 366
<b>School website:</b>	<a href="http://ysgolmaesyfelin.co.uk/">http://ysgolmaesyfelin.co.uk/</a>
<b>Date of verification:</b>	27.04.2023

### Commentary on the evidence provided:

- A comprehensive and well organised portfolio of evidence was provided on the day of the visit to the school. The evidence was supplemented and corroborated throughout the day through conversations with key stakeholders. The visit included: a presentation from the Award Co-ordinator, the Headteacher and the Deputy Headteacher; a tour of the school; and discussions with individual staff, parents, governors, and pupils.
- The evidence was of good quality, particularly the oral evidence from the stakeholders which brought to life the just how much the emotional wellbeing and mental health of pupils, staff and parents informs the day-to-day work of the school. It was clear that the school had already been taking positive action to promote emotional wellbeing and mental health prior to starting the award and that the award process had provided a focus for further development.
- All stakeholders were overwhelmingly positive about wellbeing in the school.
- Staff, parents and pupils are clearly proud of their school and feel well supported in their wellbeing, giving personal accounts of how this had helped them or their child.

### Strengths identified during verification:

- The headteacher, senior leadership and governors are committed to the wellbeing of the school and actively support the Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS). Emotional wellbeing and mental health are being given status across the whole school community. The school improvement plan includes emotional wellbeing and mental health as one of its five priorities.
- The wellbeing award co-ordinator has provided effective leadership for the WAS and has been supported by the change team. Staff at school have contributed to the development of a Wellbeing policy and strategy (currently in draft form) which will demonstrate the school's commitment to improving emotional wellbeing and mental health.
- The school has responded to issues raised in the stakeholder evaluations. For example by improving communication for emotional wellbeing and mental health with parents through newsletters (online and printed for those who do not have access to IT), school calendars and social media (See-saw).

- The school makes an ongoing financial investment to emotional wellbeing and mental health through its provision of training and development; development and staffing of a 'Nurture' room and non-teaching additional needs co-ordinator / family liaison officer; whole school wellbeing weeks; a 'frustration station'; and a sensory room.
- The school is well served with outdoor spaces and it recognises the benefits of being outdoors to the wellbeing of staff and pupils. Areas have been designated to offer a range of activities within directed and non-directed time such as areas for Eco-learning, outdoor education, planting/growing and play.

#### Impact:

- Members of the school community feel that emotional wellbeing and mental health has been given greater prominence over the last couple of years and through working for this award. This is leading to positive change in school.
- Pupils feel well supported, they know how to ask or help if they need it and are able to talk positively about their wellbeing. They value the wide range of after-school clubs; the use of golden time; and access to the nurture room provision. Pupil voice is contributing to developments for emotional wellbeing and mental health such as the 'frustration station'.
- A wide range of wellbeing strategies are embedded within the everyday practice of the school for example: staff question boxes; wellbeing boards in all classrooms; PHSE curriculum; emotional wellbeing and mental health interventions for individuals; training and development.
- Staff feel well supported and can ask for help from each other or from management when they are in need. Staff appreciate that provision has been made to support their wellbeing through various aspects such as; PPA from home (fortnightly); a new marking policy which reduces workload; annual wellbeing day; birthday wishes wall; and wellbeing wall etc.

#### Areas for development:

The school should continue to build on its provision for wellbeing within the school community. The school is recommended to consider:

- Increasing the opportunities for school governors to actively support emotional wellbeing and mental health of the school community, for example, by including wellbeing as a meeting agenda item or by inviting governors to take part in and support wellbeing development in school.
- How emotional wellbeing and mental health are reflected within wider school policies to ensure that support for wellbeing is evident in both policy and practice
- How emotional wellbeing and mental health development could be led within the school in the future to ensure that there is collective responsibility and a distribution of leadership through the wellbeing change team.

#### Verifier recommendation:

I recommend that Ysgol Maes Y Felin Primary School be awarded the Wellbeing Award for Schools for a period of three years.