

Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS)

Verification Report

School name:	Mark Hall
School address and postcode:	Harlow Essex CM17 9LR
School telephone:	01279866280
School website:	Www.mha.attrust.org.uk
Head teacher:	J Fuller
Head teacher's email:	
WAS coordinator:	Ms V. Butler
WAS coordinator's email:	
Award verifier:	Sue Stirling
Award adviser (if applicable):	
Date of verification:	071218

Commentary on the evidence provided:

The evidence presented was good and the award co-ordinator was very helpful and a committed proponent of the work.

The quality of the work behind this verification is probably best captured in the shared process on the 'Whiteboard' offering an excellent example of how Whole School thinking adds real value.

The key role given to students as leaders for the school in the verification was exciting, useful and enhanced the task of verification.

Strengths identified during verification:

The ethos of the school is strong and there is commitment to ensure that the wellbeing of students and staff is prioritised across settings and in all areas of work. The links with the school moto, ASPIRE, ENDEAVOUR, ACHIEVE in promoting emotional wellbeing ensured that the work was well integrated and embedded.

Clearly a strength of Mark Hall is the engagement and shared leadership with students. The impact of pride and self esteem as a core value within the school community will be of great value to individuals and many different groups of students.

In describing and explaining the various systems and structures it is clear that the values and aspirations behind emotional wellbeing and mental health initiatives are translated into many elements within the school, such as work on staff wellbeing.

Engagement of parents is another area that is recognised and prioritised. There has been clear successes in building such relationships.

The strategic leadership of the school have embraced the award with a focus on how it can enhance ongoing developments. The phrase, “to be the very best version of yourself” and its use is an excellent example of Whole School thinking. This should ensure longer term sustainability in the years ahead.

There are many examples of where crafting and sharing easy to understand language and inclusive approaches has impacted far and wide in the school. The environment, behaviour and interactions show a high level of respect and positive relationships. Raise the Praise is one excellent example.

I was impressed by the range, variety and quality of the interventions, strategic targets and the analysis that has shaped and driven the award programme.

Impact:

The award has been used to bolster, support and widen what is already a core element of this school.

The award has offered a range of ideas and confidence in practice which in turn has been spread across the school.

Students and the role they have played is one of the defining features of the Mark Hall approach to wellbeing and mental health. This is to be commended and clearly informs and shapes much good practice.

In line with the emphasis on integration and embedding values and approaches there are many areas, such as health and wellbeing, that have been knitted together successfully.

It is hoped that with partner schools much of this good work will grow and build many new links and experiences.

Areas for development:

Referring back to the Whiteboard Exercise the best advice would be to continue to work on the challenging and exciting journey you have mapped. While taking care to prioritise and not overload individuals, the obvious innovation, passion and commitment will lead to more successes.

Verifier recommendation:

Mark Hall Academy has achieved the WELLBEING AWARD for SCHOOLS. This award will run over a 3 year period.

Congratulations.

Head teacher comments:

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