



# Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS)

## Verification Report

School name:	Active Support Education Centre
School address and postcode:	Unit 1 & 3, Leagrave Road, Luton LU3 1RJ
School telephone:	01582 256040
School website:	<a href="https://www.activesupportededucation.co.uk">https://www.activesupportededucation.co.uk</a>
Head teacher:	Matt Ford/Shahed Koyes
Head teacher's email:	
WAS coordinator:	Linda Ford
WAS coordinator's email:	lyn@activesupportededucation.co.uk
Award verifier:	Judith Nelson
Award adviser (if applicable):	Malcolm Goddard
Date of verification:	10 March 2020

### Commentary on the evidence provided:

All the outstanding evidence at the interim visit was available to verify.

The tour of the school and discussions with stakeholders added a further dimension to the evidence demonstrating the positive impact that leaders' commitment to promoting wellbeing and positive mental health is having on all parts of the school community.

### Strengths identified during verification:

- Effective leadership has secured whole school responsibility and ownership of wellbeing and mental health. The WAS framework has been used to provide a coherent approach to evaluating and strengthening practice. Strong leadership and shared values have secured consistency in expectations and practice across all units.
- This is a school that does everything possible to create an environment that allows all learners to feel valued and flourish. There is a calm and purposeful atmosphere and the physical spaces are designed to promote inclusion, belonging and wellbeing. The curriculum pathways are designed to meet the needs of the individual. A high importance is placed on positive relationships and creating trust between all parts of the school community.
- Staff know the learners exceptionally well and all learners have an adult to talk to about their wellbeing and mental health.
- Wellbeing and mental health is at the centre of the school's vision and this is clearly communicated by the displays throughout the school, in every unit.
- To secure the school's vision and strategy, leaders use opportunities in the local area, including networks with other schools, to share practice and influence provision beyond the school. For example, the planned Mental Health First Aid training, contributing to and shaping the local Trailblazer project and the highly valued outreach work across the local authority.



- There is strong governing body support for wellbeing.
- The learners' Wellbeing Team play a vital role in school and are proud to be part of the school's development in promoting and protecting emotional wellbeing and mental health.
- Staff are part of supportive, trusting and collaborative teams. Staff appreciate the debrief session at the end of the day which impacts positively on their wellbeing and family life.
- Communication with parents is a strength, they are contacted frequently by the school and feel listened to. Parents are supported by the school and the relationship is continued after the child has left Active Support.

#### Impact:

The school began at a very strong starting point as wellbeing is fundamental to its ethos.

- The evaluative approach of the award process has created consistency in practice across all units.
- Stakeholders comment on the raised profile and greater awareness of the importance of promoting and protecting emotional wellbeing and mental health.
- Staff social events have brought the whole school together building relationships that offer and provide support across all the units.
- The leadership and personal skills developed by learners in the Wellbeing Team have helped with successful reintegration to mainstream.

#### Areas for development:

- Develop and regularly update the wellbeing and mental health pages of the website.
- Continue to develop a strategic approach to seek, listen and respond to learner, parent and staff views on wellbeing and mental health.
- Given the success of the learner Wellbeing Team positions and mainstream reintegration, consider how to make this role sustainable.

#### Verifier recommendation:

Active Support Education Centre should receive the Wellbeing Award for Schools for a period of three years.

#### Head teacher comments:

The process of applying for the "WAS" has highlighted the value of looking after everyone's mental health and wellbeing and shown that it is everyone's responsibility to look out for one another. We have always been a team; The "WAS" has made us realise we are a corporate family.

Matt Ford - Headteacher

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