

Dear parent / carer,

### The Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS)

I would like to take this opportunity to share information about The Vale Academy working towards achieving the Wellbeing Award for Schools.

This is an award developed in partnership with the National Children's Bureau (NCB); the Wellbeing Award for Schools is intended to help schools prepare and equip themselves to promote emotional wellbeing and positive mental health across the whole-school community. My vision is an education system where good emotional wellbeing and mental health are at the heart of the culture and ethos of our academy, so that the children, with the support of us, can build confidence and flourish. Evidence shows us that wellbeing is of central importance to learning and attainment, with high levels of wellbeing associated with improved academic outcomes. Conversely, children who have mental health problems are more likely to have academic difficulties at school and experience social disadvantage later in adult life.

To achieve this vision, we plan to use a 'whole-school approach' where all aspects of our academy experience are harnessed to promote the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and staff. It is an approach where emotional wellbeing and mental health is everybody's business.

In order to make sure that we improve the support we offer, we want to understand how well we are currently supporting the emotional wellbeing of our pupils. For this reason, we are inviting children to complete an anonymous survey.

The following information is important since it will explain about both the survey process and how the information gathered will be used.

#### Why we are writing to parents/carers

We are asking for your permission to invite your child to complete the survey. If you are happy for your child to do this then you do not have to do anything. However, if you do not want your child to complete the questionnaire then please let us know by **31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 via email to [j.ratcliffe@thesharedlearningtrust.org.uk](mailto:j.ratcliffe@thesharedlearningtrust.org.uk)**

If we do not hear from you, we will assume you are happy for your child to be invited. Please be reassured that by deciding against you or your child taking part in the survey will not disadvantage you or your child in any way.

If you are unsure about whether you would like your child to take part and you have some questions about the survey, you are welcome to contact Mrs Ratcliffe.

#### Why has my child been asked to take part and what will they do?

The survey has been specially designed for pupils. It is a survey which should take about 15 minutes to complete. The answers your child gives to the questionnaire will not be seen by their friends or teachers - unless your child chooses an adult to help them complete the questions.

#### What will happen with the information that your child gives us?

The information from the survey will help our school to improve its work in providing better provision for emotional wellbeing and mental health. All information collected is anonymous and will be kept confidential.

#### What we need parents/carers to do

We hope that you have found this information useful and that you will be happy for your child to be invited to take part in this survey. As noted, if you **do not** want your child to participate in this survey, you need to contact the school by **31<sup>st</sup> January 2018**.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Hooft  
Head of School

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