



Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA)

Reassessment Report

School name:	Elmwood School
School address and postcode:	King George Crescent, Rushall, Walsall. WS4 1EG
School telephone:	01922 721081
School website:	https://www.elmwood.walsall.sch.uk/
Head teacher:	Lee Cross
Award coordinator:	Joanne Hughes
Award verifier:	Therese Hoyle
Date of reassessment:	18.07.23

Commentary on the mini-portfolio of evidence:

Evidence on the day of verification was presented through a detailed discussion with the head teacher, Lee Cross and LPPA Coordinator, Joanne Hughes, video tour of the school, meetings and documentation from parents, pupils, staff and governors and the Award Place online portfolio of evidence.

The comprehensive mini portfolio contained a very well organised range of evidence about the school context and the LPPA long term success criteria in addition to clearly showing how the school is still meeting the Objectives and Key Performance Indicators of the LPPA. The evidence was of a high quality, very thorough, accessible, and well presented, with all KPI's met.

The portfolio, website and evidence gathered demonstrate a school which places parental partnership and engagement as a high priority.

The head teacher, Lee Cross, leads a whole school commitment to supporting parent partnership, with the LPPA coordinator leading on parental involvement, working with a team of staff supporting pupils and their families holistically.

Commentary on the tour of the school:

The school has a welcoming, nurturing, safe 'feeling' and has an attractive and bright learning environment.

The tour of the school evidenced a very calm and well organised learning environment, which meets the educational and emotional needs of the students.

Displays are colourful and engaging in classrooms and corridors, celebrating children's work and promoting the school ethos.

The reception provides a pleasing, secure welcoming environment. It was good to see the School Ambassadors showcased and celebrated.

The Signage, displays and murals are bright and informative.

Very good use is made of the outside environment, with attractive parent meeting spaces where they can gather before and after school.

There is an open-door policy here for parent/carers.

There is no doubt that all work hard to meet the needs of students and parents.

Commentary on discussions with stakeholders:

Governors

Governors are very supportive of parents and support the award.

Parents

Parents are extremely positive about the school and the way it works with them, they say 'any concerns we have we can speak to the school.' They value that all staff including the head teacher are approachable and know all families and children well. Parents express confidence in the school and that their children are happy and thriving. The communication with and from school is particularly valued with the Marvelous Me app and they are appreciative being offered tools that support them with their children.

Staff

The staff work together with a whole school approach meeting the needs of families, they commented that 'this is a family orientated school.' They talked about their different roles and how each one supports parental involvement and engagement in different ways. For example, one teacher plans for events involving parents and carers and ensures that parents are welcomed into school, with meet and greet for school events.

Another teacher supports the delivery of curriculum activities, and this includes the BTEC home cooking group 'that enables parents to spend time in school to see what amazing things the young people do within the school.'

Teachers value the communication they have with parents and how all benefit from a shared approach.

The school staff are Champions for the families they work with, truly underpinning and evidencing partnership work.

Pupils

The students were polite, had a sound knowledge of how parents and families are involved in school life and appeared to really enjoy school. They liked their parents' attending events, that they can pop in and that teachers can get to know their parents well. They also commented that 'in lockdown the staff went the extra mile to ensure all students were safe and happy, visiting them in their homes.'

Strengths identified during reassessment:

The head teacher, Lee Cross, leads a whole school commitment to supporting parent partnership, with the LPPA coordinator leading on parental involvement, working with a team of staff supporting pupils and their families holistically.

Elmwood very much shares its vision with parents, which encompasses the schools drive 'to re-imagine the potential of your child (and the staff who work with them) to make them active and positive contributions beyond the gates of Elmwood School.'

'The Elmwood Way identifies the core values of Care for Self, Care for Others and Care for the Environment being at the heart of what they do, aligned to these values are observable behaviours that are demonstrable by all who are involved with Elmwood's Learning Community.

Communication with parents is excellent and has been enhanced through an informative website, that is regularly updated, along with high quality regular home-school communications with the 'Marvellous Me APP,' newsletters, e mails, phone calls home, texts home, face to face meetings, medical support and an open-door policy etc.

The school has regular events and activities where parents can meet such as regular coffee mornings, school's fayres, sports day, parent education workshops, guest speakers, parent and student activities, such as BTEC home cooking skills. This provides parents with support, an insight into their child's life at school and helps them support their child's learning and wellbeing.

There are some lovely student affirmation systems in place to improve attendance, punctuality, progress and positive participation in schools, such as the golden ticket, which pupils get for positive behaviours and the Marvellous Me memory book, which is accumulative and provides the student with a log of all they have achieved with regards to attendance, behaviour and their educational journey throughout their time at Elmwood. Parents also get praised with a 'super parent badge' for consistently getting students to school.

The school has an ongoing programme of activities for parents to provide information and activities to support their child's learning and for parents to support the school.

The staff at Elmwood go above and beyond in supporting the students and families. They have close ties with medical services and can help with student medical reviews and CAMHS additionally with the students social and emotional wellbeing with programmes such as Emotional Coaching, Trauma informed practises and conflict resolution. These practises are also modelled and shared with parents.

School policies are additionally available in audio and video format so that they can be accessed by all parents.



All have clearly worked hard on the award programme and the positive leadership behaviours need to be celebrated. The role and impact of Lee and Joanne, and their team, has been critical in the excellent results achieved.

Impact:
The Reassessment process has:
Provided an opportunity to celebrate strong relationships with parent's and the good practice within the school.

Areas for development:
The following areas were agreed between the Verifier and the LPPA Coordinator:

PTFA: developing a strong PTFA. This is something that was previously in place 'Friends of Elmwood,' and the leadership team are keen to re-launching and aligning it to the strategic direction of the school.

To continue to enhance the excellent home-school partnership at Elmwood.

Verifier recommendation:
That Elmwood is re-awarded the Leading Parent Partnership Award for a further period of three years.

Head teacher comments:

May we use your comment for website/marketing purposes? **Yes / No** (please delete)