



## Mersey Park Parent Partnership Spring 2 Newsletter



This half term some of the Mersey Park Parent Partnership Group met with Ofsted to discuss their views of the school. As a group we were 'overwhelmingly supportive of the school', Ofsted March 2019, and Ofsted saw that the opinions of the parents are valued by the school. To read the full report please follow the on the home page of our school website.

As one of the Parent Partners, and having worked in education for nearly 10 years, Miss Ashman has developed a keen interest in children's mental health. She recently enrolled on a CACHE level 2 Understand Children and Young Peoples' Mental Health course. Inspired by the work she was doing on this course she decided it would be interesting to carry out a questionnaire with staff at Mersey Park to find out their thoughts and opinions. Here are some of the things she found.

Over the years there has been a significant change's in the expected level children are entering school. Their level of language, understanding, social and communication skills, behavioural and development delays some children now experience at an early age which then impacts on reaching a good level of development. My questionnaire was completed by a mixture of teachers, teaching assistants, office staff, mid-day supervisors, cleaners, kitchen staff and volunteers. 89% of staff said they have experienced mental health issues either personally or professionally. 78% of staff agreed it was difficult to diagnose mental health issues with children and that 74% agree there isn't enough support for children and families to access. Many factors can impact children and young people's mental health and it's important they receive the appropriate level of support. Mental health still carries some stigmas but with greater awareness through children being taught about understanding there our mind, how to gain information and where to seek support. The media are also beginning to portray mental ill health in a positive way and 46% of people agreed, although this has not always been the case. Children are taught how to build resilience and face adversity is changing people's perceptions and attitudes. As a member of staff and also a parent at Mersey Park I can honestly vouch that everything is done for our pupils to maintain their health and well-being.

Mersey Park Primary School are committed to supporting and developing awareness of children's mental health. As a result the school have been working towards the School Mental Health Award and have recently received Silver Level in the award process. This was a huge achievement for the school with very few other primary schools in the area receiving this award.



At the next Mersey Park Parent Partnership Group we will be discussing children's mental health needs so if you have any questions or would like any support please mention this to your year group Parent Partner representative and they will raise this at the next meeting. We will also be discussing curriculum coverage and development. As ever, if you want any more information about our group please speak to Mrs Eccles or Mrs Hardy.