

## Dagenham primary school wins award for its focus on student's mental wellbeing

Hunters Hall Primary School, based in Dagenham has been named as a Thrive ambassador school for the role it plays in supporting its pupils

8 October 2020

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By **InYourArea Community**

The Thrive team at Hunters Hall: L-R Michael Kaitell, Jo Meyers, Lisa Cooper, Tracy Cooney, Gwen Baker, Det Bevis, Nicola Gough, Mairead Ryan and Jenni Wade

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**Submitted by LIZ TUNES**

Hunters Hall Primary School, based in Dagenham, London has been named as a Thrive ambassador school for the role it plays in supporting the mental wellbeing of its pupils.

Hunters Hall has been named as an Ambassador School with Excellence in the Environment by Thrive®, which trains teachers and other education professionals to support the emotional and social development of all children. The award recognises those schools making a positive impact on their pupils and on the wider community by having a focus on emotional wellbeing and creating an environment in which children thrive.

Nicola Gough, learning mentor and family Thrive trainer at Hunters Hall Primary School said: "We were elated when we found out we were a Thrive ambassador school. From day one, we have all worked really hard to embed the Thrive approach® across the school and I'm so proud of everyone for what they have put into this. We think it's really important for children to understand their own emotions so that they are ready to learn and achieve their highest potential."

Thrive's ambassador schools scheme has been launched as a way of recognising excellence in member schools. There are five areas in which schools can evidence how they use the approach to promote children's wellbeing and prevent mental health issues at a later date, with a special Ambassador School of Excellence Award for schools that achieve the highest standard across all five categories.

As well as submitting an in-depth application form, the school was visited by Thrive staff, before the Covid-19 lockdown, to observe and assess the way that teachers and other staff implement the Thrive Approach to help build the emotional resilience of children, so that they can better manage the ups and downs of life and be more open to learning.

Alistair Dewar, Thrive relationship manager for London said: "Hunters Hall has done a fantastic job in embedding the Thrive Approach across the whole school. All staff have a good understanding and are able to play their part in bringing it into lessons across the school day. There have been some amazing success stories as a result and the school really deserves to be recognised in this way.

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