



# Parent Questionnaire Summary 2016

Thank you to all those parents/carers who completed our survey in the summer. There were 183 replies in total, spread quite evenly across the year groups. It is always helpful for us to have feedback from a good cross section of the school in order for us to effectively evaluate our provision. Below is a summary of the responses to the multiple-choice questions. The figures in brackets are from last years' survey for comparison:

Question	Overall positive responses	Strongly agree %	Agree %	Disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't Know
1. My child is happy at this school	98% (99)	66 (71)	32 (28)	2 (1)	<1 (0)	0 (0)
2. My child feels safe at this school	99% (98)	67 (73)	32 (25)	0 (2)	<1 (0)	0 (0)
3. My child makes good progress at this school	94% (96)	55 (58)	39 (38)	4 (1)	<1 (1)	1 (2)
4. My child is well looked after at this school	98% (98)	63 (66)	35 (32)	1 (<1)	<1 (<1)	2 (1)
5. My child is taught well at this school	96% (98)	62 (65)	34 (33)	4 (1)	<1 (0)	0 (<1)
6. My child receives appropriate homework for their age	91% (88)	41 (47)	50 (42)	5 (7)	2 (1)	2 (3)
7. This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	94% (88)	46 (50)	48 (38)	3 (9)	<1 (0)	3 (3)
8. I trust that the school deals effectively with any bullying reported	81% (76)	39 (35)	42 (41)	7 (5)	1 (2)	11 (16)
9. This school is well led and managed	99% (97)	63 (58)	36 (39)	0 (1)	<1 (0)	<1 (2)
10. This school responds well to any concerns I raise	91% (88)	48 (53)	43 (35)	1 (2)	<1 (1)	8 (9)
11. I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	90% (88)	47 (49)	43 (39)	9 (11)	<1 (<1)	1 (<1)
12. I am confident in the approach the school has taken to assessment following the removal of levels.	87% N/A	44	43	1	<1	12
13. I feel that I have been given enough information about the changes to the national curriculum	92% N/A	46	46	4	<1	4

We are delighted to see that positive responses are once again very high for children feeling happy and safe in school, and that the vast majority of parents feel that their child is looked after, taught well and making good progress. We acknowledge that for some individuals, particular circumstances or incidents will affect how you as parents feel about the school and we would always encourage you to

make contact with us should you have any concerns. We will always try our best to resolve issues that occur, and work with families to move forward. Less than 2% of respondents were unhappy with the way the school responds to concerns, and whilst we would always aim for 100%, we are pleased that so many of you feel confident in our approach. (We assume that those who answered 'don't know' have never brought forward concerns for us to deal with!)

We are pleased to see that of the five areas where positive responses were below 90% last year, 4 of these now have positive responses over 90%:

#### **Q.6 – Homework**

The positive responses rose to 91% this year which is very pleasing as this is an area where there are often very conflicting views amongst parents. We will be re-sending out our homework policy leaflet this term to remind all parents about the strategy we have adopted for homework since our detailed homework survey in 2014. We would remind parents that the priority homework for all year groups is regular reading, plus any on-going phonics/mental maths practice that is recommended. At KS1, all other tasks are optional. At KS2, we ask parents to let us know if they do not wish their child to have other homework set for their child. If you ever have concerns regarding homework, please do talk to your child's class teacher.

This year, there were fewer specific comments about homework. A few wanted more specific challenges for their child, or were unhappy with 'worksheet' type homework, but we are hopeful from the general positive response that our current approach is about right for the majority of families. Thank you for your on-going support for this.

#### **Q. 7 – Behaviour**

We are particularly pleased to see a 6% increase in positive responses in this area overall, with two year groups receiving 100% positive responses. Other year groups had no more than 1 or 2 negative responses, although there was an 11% 'don't know' response from YR parents. This may be because parents don't yet feel that they have enough information to make a judgement, and we hope that in time they will feel confident in making a positive response to this question.

#### **Q.8 – Bullying**

Whilst this question had the lowest positive response rate at 81%, this is once again due to a high number of 'don't know' responses, although we are pleased to have reduced the proportion of these responses this year - we hope that you would trust us to deal with incidents appropriately, even if your child hasn't had issues regarding bullying. The negative responses remain similar to last year at 8%. As a reminder, all incidents of reported bullying are investigated, recorded and followed up by the headteacher (or Mrs Gibbons – my deputy). This includes going back to check on pupils after incidents have been dealt with days, weeks and in some cases even months later, to ensure that there have been no reoccurrences. In the vast majority of cases reported and investigated last year, where bullying was mentioned by a parent or pupil, incidents that were dealt with by the leadership team were resolved swiftly.

#### **Q.10 – Responding to concerns.**

It's great to see the positive responses tipping over 90% this year, and so few negative responses, as we do try and respond swiftly and appropriately to parental concerns.

#### **Q.11 – Feedback on progress**

At 90%, positive responses were higher than last year, with individual year group positive responses ranging from 100% in Y2 to 80% in Y5 (this figure partly due to an 8% 'don't know' response). As you know, we introduced new assessment and tracking systems last year for Y1-Y6, and as a result revamped our report and provided a mid-year overview of our assessments for parents of pupils in these year groups. We hope that this helped to pinpoint for parents more effectively the areas where

their child has particular strengths and weaknesses. Reading the comments from parents, some concerns were expressed where they discovered that their child was not on track to meet the new age related expectations, and some expressed a wish to have known sooner that this was the case. We have taken this on board, and now that we are more confident with the new curriculum expectations and assessments, we plan to share the assessment overview for Y1-Y6 at the November parents' meetings and will also be endeavouring to let parents know as early as possible if there are specific areas of knowledge which their child needs to address in order to be on track. Year groups are also trying to share more general information with parents regarding the expectations for their year groups – for example, spelling and times table expectations – so that parents know what is expected of their child's age group by the end of the year.

There were some concerns expressed about the new assessment system, as children are unable to reach 'age related expectations' if they are weaker in just one area of a subject which some felt to be unfair. This aspect of our assessment system is a consequence of the new curriculum which has been set by the government, and therefore it is outside of our control to change.

In YR, it remains statutory to report to parents at the end of the year against the expectations of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. However, we have been discussing ways to help parents see progress across the year. This includes the introduction of a folder for YR children which will collate key pieces of work that they carry out in class over the year.

#### **Q. 12 & 13 – New Assessment Systems and New Curriculum**

These two questions were added in 2016 due to the considerable changes that took place following the removal of the national 'levels' system for assessment and the introduction of the new curriculum. As a school, these were key areas for us to focus on last year, and we wanted to gauge whether we had been effective in providing adequate information for parents in order for you to feel trust in our approach.

At 87%, the positive responses for the assessment question weren't as high as we would like – however, there were actually less than 2% of respondents who disagreed with our approach as the rest of the responses were 'don't know'. In hindsight, we realise that this question wasn't really relevant for parents of children only in YR as the YR assessment did not change and so they were not invited to attend the assessment meetings or made aware of these changes through parents meetings – this explains the 37% 'don't know' responses from YR parents!

You may have noticed on the diary dates that there are specific parent information meetings in November for current Y1 parents to explain how the national curriculum is assessed which will be similar to the content of the meetings run last year. We will also be extending this invitation to any parents of children in older year groups who missed the meetings as there were still some 'don't know' responses in older year groups. Feedback from those who accessed the meetings earlier in 2016 was very positive and we hope to reach all parents to help develop an understanding of how the new curriculum is assessed over this next academic year.

The National Curriculum question had less than 5% negative responses, and so we are pleased that the fact sheets that we have been sending out, alongside the meetings mentioned above, seem to have provided adequate information for parents. We have plans for further fact sheets this year to provide more specific information about some subjects and how the new curriculum has affected the way in which we teach, as well as the content. This will include specific information meetings organised by Mrs Gibbons about the teaching of maths which we hope parents will find useful. If you do have any questions about the curriculum, please do contact your child's class teacher or e-mail a member of the leadership team via the school website/adminoffice email.

#### **Other comments**

Thank you to everyone who took the time to write individual comments on the questionnaire. These have been shared with phase leaders and they are considering the responses with their teams to see what lessons can be learned, as well as sharing the many positive comments that were given with year groups and individual staff members. There were a number of comments praising and thanking teachers and teaching assistants for their care and approach with the children, acknowledging the interesting and exciting experiences for the children and encouraging us to 'keep up the good work'! Below are a few of the comments/suggestions which we have already discussed:

- A YR parent asked if information about annual events could be more specific to help new parents know more about them. I have already taken this on board with the letter sent out about the shoebox appeal, and will endeavour to provide more explanation to help new parents over the year – please do ask or let us know if you have any questions during the year.
- A couple of parents have asked about whether the school could take on the 'mile a day' initiative being carried out in other schools. Our Y5 team did trial this successfully last year, with the whole year group going for a 10 minute run, jog or walk each day, and we have been looking at ways to extend this into other year groups. Y5 have been doing the daily mile this half term with their new cohort, with all other KS2 year groups using the 10 minute run for their warm up to PE lessons. Due to the numbers of children at our school, it isn't possible to involve all year groups every day for timetabling and safety reasons, but we are looking at spreading this over the year to involve a greater number of children at certain times. Each half term, the daily run will move to a different KS2 year group.
- There were a few comments from working parents about the timings and frequency of parent open sessions, with some concerned that their child feels left out if they are unable to attend a session. We do understand that not all parents can commit to these sessions (many of my teachers and I have the same difficulty attending our own children's events at other schools), but we do have to balance this with the need to provide opportunities for parents to feel more involved with what is going on in school where they are able. As a school, it is our policy to provide at least termly opportunity for parents to come in to school to watch a performance, visit the classroom or work alongside their child. When parents are unable to attend, we do group the children to help them feel involved, linking them with other children and parents, or getting them to carry out the tasks with a teaching assistant as we know that not all parents will be able to attend. If working parents do feel they need more information to help them feel involved, do contact the class teacher – they can arrange an appropriate time for a phone call or arrange for some classwork to go home to be discussed and brought back. We will endeavour to ensure that open sessions are timed at the start or towards the end of the school day to help manage these visits around their day where possible. One parent did ask if we could extend our open evening in July to later hours. As a school, we used to offer a later time for open evening, but found that the low numbers who attended during the later period didn't justify the time which we were keeping our teachers from their own family commitments, and so we currently have no plans to change the timings for this event.
- It was great to hear the positive comments from Y6 parents about how well they felt that their children were prepared for SATs and the move to secondary school, without causing anxiety for the children. This is a difficult balancing act for the teachers, particularly with the new challenging expectations for the end of KS2, and so we appreciate parents taking the time to comment on this.

We really do appreciate hearing your views and we would remind you that you don't need to wait until the end of the year to pass on any suggestions or concerns to us. There is a parent suggestion box in the entrance hall or you can email the school via the website in the 'contact us' section.

*Lesley Pennington – Headteacher*