



# Parent Questionnaire Summary 2019

Thank you to all those parents/carers who completed our survey in the summer. There were 210 replies in total. Many thanks to those who took the time to provide feedback. Nearly half of parents in Y1 and Y2 responded, around a third from YR and Y5, around a quarter from Y3 and Y4, but only 12% of Y6 parents! It's obviously best if we can have a good cross-section of views represented – please bear this in mind when we issue our next survey! 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	99% (99)	70 (67)	29 (32)	1 (<1)	0 (<1)	<1 (<1)
2. My child feels safe at this school	99% (99)	69 (69)	30 (30)	1 (<1)	0 (<1)	0 (<1)
3. My child makes good progress at this school	94% (96)	50 (60)	43 (36)	6 (4)	0 (<1)	1 (0)
4. My child receives appropriate homework for their age	93% (92)	38 (49)	53 (43)	7 (6)	0 (1)	2 (1)
5. This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	95% (96)	43 (43)	49 (46)	4 (3)	1 (1)	3 (7)
6. I trust that the school deals effectively with any bullying reported	92% (94)	33 (34)	42 (37)	5 (3)	1 (1)	19 (25)
7. This school is well led and managed	98% (98)	54 (57)	44 (38)	1 (<1)	0 (<1)	<1 (3)
8. This school responds well to any concerns I raise	95% (93)	43 (47)	42 (35)	4 (5)	<1 (1)	10 (12)
9. I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	92% (93)	50 (50)	40 (43)	8 (5)	<1 (<1)	2 (1)
10. I receive valuable information about the school's curriculum ( <i>new question 2019</i> )	92%	43	48	8	0	2
11. The school has a broad, balanced curriculum ( <i>new question 2019</i> )	96%	45	44	3	0	7

Please note that due to high number of parents indicating that they were unable to respond to some questions due to lack of knowledge of the situation, rather than a strong opinion, we have removed the 'don't know' responses from the calculation for 'overall positive responses'.

We are delighted that in the vast majority of cases, parents remain extremely satisfied with the provision which we are offering at Whiteley Primary School. Almost all children continue to feel safe and happy at our school, and responses are consistently positive. Thank you for your on-going support for the leadership team of the school, and for the way in which we respond to concerns. The comments seem to show that when concerns are brought forward to the leadership team, parents appreciate the speed and manner in which these are dealt with.

When looking through the individual comments from parents, it is clear that there are some issues for parents which have caused concern over the year which have not been brought forward to the leadership team prior to the questionnaire. Where parents have not provided the context or their name, it is now difficult for us to address these concerns. If you have concerns, or even on-going 'niggles' about an issue during the year, we ask that you do let us know so that we can either look to resolve these, or explain the reasons behind a decision or situation occurring. There is a parent suggestion box in the entrance hall for general suggestions/concerns, you can email via the school admin office or pop in to chat informally to the head or deputy.

This year, there were fewer common areas identified through parental comments as the vast majority of areas for improvement were quite individual. Phase leaders have looked in detail at the comments to help them review their provision. However, below is a summary of the areas where there were a number of similar comments.

#### **Q.4 - Homework**

Homework is always an area where it is difficult to please as there are such conflicting views. It was therefore particularly pleasing that in Y3 and Y6, all parents agreed that homework was appropriate for their child's age. However, there were a number of responses from KS1 parents who commented on their child having too much homework and reading. We would remind all parents that the weekly homework is optional for KS1 – we really do understand that sometimes it is difficult to motivate your child, or to find the time, and we would much prefer that you focussed on the ongoing fluency activities if this is the case – reading and mental maths facts. We do ask that reading is prioritised as this skill is so important and practice at home really does make the difference, supporting children in becoming more fluent and confident with their reading.

In Y4, there were a few parents who felt that the homework was too easy for their child. Our approach to homework in KS2 is to provide either 'share it' tasks, where the children can demonstrate something they have learnt to you, or a 'practise it' tasks where they are consolidating new knowledge or skills they have been learning in class. The aim is that these tasks can be carried out independently whenever possible, and therefore they will often be of a repetitive 'exercise' type to ensure that the children can understand what to do without mediation. We appreciate that some children may complete these more quickly than others, but we hope that the process will help them to get into routines of completing homework themselves. We do not ask teachers provide

lots of different differentiated tasks for homework as we want them to focus their planning and marking time on their in class teaching. However, the Y4 team have taken on board the feedback, and are going to look at incorporating some optional ‘challenge’ options to the homework over the year. We would like to reassure parents that challenge is an important part of lessons in school, with work or approach differentiated to meet children’s needs, even if homework is generic for the year group.

### **Q.9 – Receiving valuable information about children’s progress**

The breakdown of responses from year groups show that from Y2 onwards, almost all parents are happy with the information they receive about their child’s progress. This would suggest that the detailed assessment overviews in reading, writing and maths provided to parents 3 x a year help parents to feel informed.

In YR, there were more negative responses to this question than in other year groups. We have looked at why this might be. From looking at comments, it is clear that some parents find it difficult going from the more individual and daily contact with a key worker that is possible at nurseries/child minders/ pre-schools where there are higher adult ratios. We also reflect that there is quite a long gap between the two formal YR parents’ meetings as we have an earlier meeting than other year groups in the Autumn term to discuss how children have settled into school. This year, the Year R team will re-send the information given out in the first parents’ meetings about the Early learning Goals as the start of the Spring term so that parents are reminded about the expectations for assessment in Year R. They also encourage parents to speak to teachers if they have any questions or concerns about their child’s progress. If parents are unable to get into school, they can make use of the reading logs and weekly learning sheets for communication if necessary.

### **Q10&11 – Curriculum**

As we are in the process of evaluating and updating our school curriculum, two additional questions were included this year to gauge parental views about our the breadth of our curriculum and whether parents felt informed about what the children study. We were delighted that the vast majority of parents already feel that our curriculum is broad and balanced. It was particularly pleasing that all Y6 parents who responded agreed with this statement as we know that many schools find it difficult to balance the wider curriculum with the demands of Y6 and the need to adequately prepare children for the end of KS2 assessments (SATs).

This year, we are aiming to make clearer for parents what we are covering in school by sharing the ‘learning journey overviews’ which you should already have started receiving. We hope these will ensure that there is consistency in the way information is shared across the school, and also that parents will be more aware of how the different subjects of the national curriculum are covered across the school. We are hoping that next year, there won’t be any ‘don’t know’ responses to these two questions!



*We would like to thank parents for the time taken to provide individual feedback – it is always a pleasure to share the individual comments made about particular staff which show your appreciation of what they do. Please do remember that if you have comments, questions or concerns, you do not need to wait until the end of year questionnaire. Please do make contact via the adminoffice email, via the website, pop in to speak to myself or Mrs Gibbons, or put a note in the suggestion box in the entrance hall. If you have specific concerns about your child, please speak to their class teacher as the first port of call, or make an appointment to speak to one of the leadership team.*

*Lesley Pennington – Headteacher*