

Results of parental questionnaire

Autumn Term 2016/17

129 questionnaires were returned from parents of pupils at statutory school age with 15 more from Nursery parents. Where more than 5% disagree or don't know these are commented on below. Some parents indicated that as their child is in nursery they were unable to comment on some questions as they didn't know the answers yet.

Environment

Positive comments

All parent responses felt that school has a happy atmosphere and they feel welcome when they come into school. Comments included 'Lovely school' and 'Both of my children are very happy coming to school' Parents respond that their children are happy at school. Parents feel that the school is sufficiently safe, secure and is well maintained. They also feel that school encourages parents to play an active part in school life. Comments include 'Open mornings are fantastic' and 'Lovely open mornings – we really enjoy seeing what our child is learning'

Areas for consideration and actions taken

You said:

- *Pathways to Nursery and Reception need improvement*
 - o *We have had quotes for this which are in the region of £6,500, however currently as the path is fit for purpose, the school budget would not be used for this at the level of cost for the improvements, however we will continue to review this. We did tarmac the area to the side of Year 1 to try and alleviate congestion in the area of the gates as a partial move to improving this area further.*
- *The KS2 yard floods.*
 - o *The yard sometimes floods when the drains become blocked by leaves. We have purchased a leaf blower in order to try and alleviate this, however if this does arise, any flooding would be cleared within 48 hours once an external company came out to clear the drains.*
- *Open mornings and workshops can be difficult for working parents to attend and are always in the mornings. It would be good if some parent workshops were at the end of the day and not always on a Friday.*
 - o *We appreciate that it can be difficult for working parents to get the time off for open mornings, once per term or once per half term in early years. We try and keep them to the same day of the week (Friday morning) In order to enable a more consistent approach in school and limit disruption in school with changing them from day to day and week to week. We are now sending out the dates for the open mornings for the full year so hopefully this will support parents in being able to arrange time or alternatively send another family member or friend to support the children in school.*
- *Playground equipment*

- *Following the annual inspection some playground equipment was found to be in need of replacement and so was cordoned off in the short term. The work has now been completed and all equipment is again usable during school hours.*

Curriculum

Positive comments

97% of parents reported that they get enough information about their child's learning in school and that school has sufficiently high expectations of their child and enabled their child to achieve a high standard of work with just 1% disagreeing. 98% of parents understood the homework expectations of their child. Most parents agreed that school trips are worthwhile experiences, with less than 1% disagreeing. Comments to support this include, 'the trips in Year 5 and 6 are very worthwhile'

Areas for consideration and actions taken in this area

- Emails don't always get through so it is hard to keep up with a lot of things sometimes
 - Sometimes email providers change their filtering and consequently some parents were finding that emails from school were being referred to their junk box. Once we found this was the case we sent a text to parents to inform them. We also sent a text out to inform parents that the newsletter had been sent and if they had not received it by email to please let us know and we would look into it further. The school newsletter is also always on the school website for viewing.
- We would prefer paper newsletters.
 - If parents would prefer paper newsletters please come and let us know as this can be arranged.
- 1 parent stated that expectations of spellings are too high and the amount of homework set is too much.
 - In accordance with guidelines we set weekly homework for children which usually incorporates a weekly spelling list and grammar exercise in line with the year group expectations (where appropriate, pupils with special educational needs will be given alternative lists) plus an additional piece of either Maths or English each week. Homework is given on a Friday to be returned by the following Wednesday (to allow for marking). If you feel that homework is an issue for your child please come in and see your child's class teacher.
- 1 parent stated that all year groups need a fun trip as well as an educational trip.
 - We try and arrange all of our trips to ensure that they are fun as well as educational and we do have a planned programme of visits which supports the children's learning across school and ensures that all children receive the same experiences at St Paul's (rather than trips being a teacher's choice year by year). i.e Every year all Year 4 pupils will have the opportunity to sing at the Young Voices concert at Manchester Arena. Every year Year 5 have a residential trip to Robinwood and Year 6 to Lledr Hall. We also have half termly behaviour rewards that pupils themselves have an input into choosing every half term as well as visitors into school for a variety of fun activities.

Communication

Positive comments:

All parents agreed that members of staff are accessible and approachable. Comments such as 'I feel my child is well supported and allowed to be myself' support this. All parents were happy with the consultation meetings. 99% of parents agreed that the newsletter gives them regular information they need about school. Comments included 'the newsletter has really grown and developed and 'the newsletter is easier to find in an email'. 98% said they know what social and fundraising events are being arranged in school. All parents said that they would find it easy to approach school with questions or concerns regarding their children with all responses saying that their enquiries were dealt with quickly and effectively. Comments included 'staff are very good and they listen' and 'I have always found staff very helpful'

98% use our school website for information, with one parent commenting that the school website and newsletters are 'a lot better now'.

Areas for consideration and actions taken in this area

You said:

- Some information is on facebook and not available elsewhere.
 - o Facebook tends to be used to give some of the updates of things that have happened in school, or reminders of previously issued information.
- Calendar is hard to navigate on a phone.
 - o The calendar is a public view calendar and can be added to a google calendar app which may make it easier to see for some parents. If you would like to do this and need support please come into school and we can arrange this.
- In later years (Y5) perhaps more time for parents evenings in preparation for high school.
 - o Currently we issue slots for parents evenings in 10 minute intervals. To make these any longer would be difficult due to seeing 30 parents, however all staff in school are always willing to speak to parents individually at any time regarding their child's progress and welfare.
- Too much advance information on the newsletters – less information and more regular.
 - o We have chosen to give parents advanced information as this was a previous request from parents who liked to be able to organise time in advance.

Behaviour/Pastoral Care

Positive comments

Parents felt that any complaints were dealt with well, with only 2 parents disagreeing.

100% of parents were happy that they understood the kind of behaviour that the school expects from children and that the school has high expectations of behaviour, with no parents disagreeing with this. Over 97% of parents stated that they agreed that school deals with inappropriate behaviour effectively. Although most parents agreed the system of rewards and sanctions is

effective, 12 parents were unsure of this with 7 parents also being unsure whether the system of rewards was also effective.

All parents understood the school policy of being on time and surrounding absences from school and one parent commented that they would look on the website to find information regarding any policies. Most parents felt their child is confident that if they had a problem there was someone in school who would listen to them, with nobody disagreeing that the school's values and attitudes have a positive effective on children's behaviour. 98% of parents agreed that the school achieved high standards of good behaviour, with one parent commenting 'definitely.'

Areas for consideration and actions taken in this area

- You don't see evidence of reward systems beyond the infants and although you are aware of Dojo points, you aren't sure what they are.
 - o Following a parent consultation meeting we put information on the October Newsletter giving more information about the behaviour policy and what dojo points are. We have also now reviewed our behaviour policy to include stickers at the end of the week to let parents know in multiples of ten, how many dojo points their child has received.
- Rewards can lead to negative behaviours.
 - o Rewards systems are in place for all children and the use of dojo points are monitored by class teachers and visible to all children at all times of the day, to ensure that all pupils are achieving positively and being rewarded for appropriate behaviour.

Church and Community

Positive comments

Over 99% of parents felt that the school leadership promotes the school as a Church school and that the school's Christian Values support the ethos of the school. They feel welcome at school assemblies and church services. Only 2 parents stated that they didn't think the school made links with the wider community, however 13 parents were unsure. 99% of parents felt that the programme of extra-curricular activities supports learning and development with comments such as 'Both enjoy lots of after school clubs'. 96% of parents felt that the school organised and supported sufficient charity events.

Areas for consideration and actions taken in this area

You said:

- There is a pressure to try to get a place in extra-curricular activities. There is not always a suitable time to go on to parentpay and book a place.
 - o We do have maximum numbers on all the extra curricular activities to ensure that the group sizes are manageable and children achieve the most learning they can from the activity. We choose an evening and give advance warning of the booking so that it gives all parents the best opportunity to book a place for their child, rather than it being released as soon as a letter goes out, so that those parents who don't pick their children up and receive the letter straight away, also get the same opportunities to gain a place for their child.

- Shame about morning clubs not happening now
 - o We made the decision to cease the before school club, funded by school, in order to focus more on the after school provision. Following this decision, an external provider was approached to provide a before school club, however this did not go ahead due to lack of uptake. We also sent a questionnaire to try and establish whether it was viable to open a before and after school club, however returned responses showed that there was not enough interest for this to be the case.

General Comments

I like the school website for photos and information

Star of the week could be updated every week

- This is now on the school website updated weekly.

Would it be possible to come into school for Christmas Lunch with the children?

- We have looked into this as a consideration, however Christmas Lunch is on a single day for all children, and in order to try and give all parents the opportunity to attend we wouldn't be able to seat an additional 236 parents over the course of the lunchhour.

Four parents raised issues around emailed newsletters not getting to them and letters not getting home.

- Sometimes email providers change their filtering and consequently some parents were finding that emails from school were being referred to their junk box. Once we found this was the case we sent a text to parents to inform them. We also sent a text out to inform parents that the newsletter had been sent and if they had not received it by email to please let us know and we would look into it further. Some parents then came into school and checked email addresses and test emails were resent to resolve the situation. The school newsletter is also always on the school website for viewing.
- Following a review class systems are in place and letters get put into bags at hometime for younger pupils, rather than handed out at the door, and names on for children not in school.

Many thanks to everyone for their feedback – we really do appreciate it.