

2015/16 (June/July 2016)

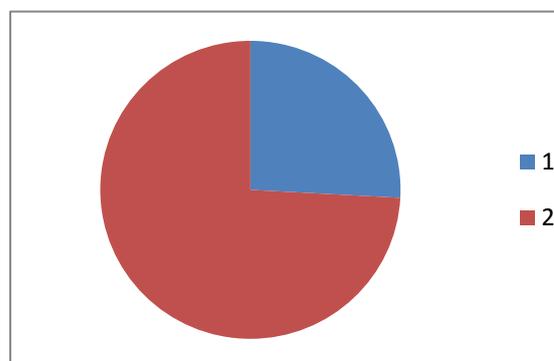
Questionnaire for Parents and Carers Feedback

Once again thanks for all of you who completed the Parents' Questions at the very end of term 6 which was enclosed with the Annual Pupil Reports.

Although they do take some time to complete, many thanks to those parents who took the time and effort to do so, which we are grateful for. They are a valuable source of information for the school to base its future plans on and to help us plan ways in which we can improve our current service. So many thanks to everyone who found the time. Alas, because these are anonymous questionnaires we are unable to speak directly to any parent who felt strongly about an issue.

Attached are the results which I do hope that you will find both informative and pleasing. As you will read staff have made comments and responses where there were concerns. I hope that these responses are helpful to you all.

In total we received **53 (1)** completed questionnaires **152** did not respond (**2**) out of the **205** children within the school. This means that **25%** of parents responded.



In almost cases there were overwhelming positive (90%+) responses to the statements with a significant amount of responses (agree or strongly agree) agreeing to all the statements.

In total **100%** of the responses stated that their child/ren enjoyed school, question1, felt safe, question 2, and **100%** of parent's responses stated that they were happy with their child/ren experiences at St. George's.

It was also pleasing to see how we have increased to **99%** positive response regarding information about children's progress. This does reflect times in education where there has been an emphasis on raised expectation of pupil's academic progress but having a broad, balanced education taught with putting the child first so they feel safe, happy and enjoying their education is getting the ethos for learning right.

A number of parents mentioned the very positive feel to the school including:

- 'I am absolutely and completely thrilled with my child's progress and confidence levels. You all do an amazing job!' (Yr. 5)
- 'A very caring school, lovely that the children of different ages are encouraged to mix and socialise; really like the buddy system of Y6 and reception and the transition days.' (Yr. R and 2)
- 'Headteacher exceptionally enthusiastic!' (Yr. 4 & 6)
- 'An amazing year. So much work has gone into planning to make every day full of fun, challenges and exciting topics!' (Yr. 1)

- 'I must say how much my child has come on in the past year. He is improving all of the time. This is because of all the help and support he has been given by the teachers and teaching assistants.' (Yr. 2)
- 'We are thrilled with our child's progress this year and his recent SATs results. His maths ability has grown enormously along with his confidence!' (Yr. 2)
- 'We really couldn't be happier with our son's progress this year. We feel he has been stretched in areas where he may struggle but this has led to fantastic progress' (Yr.4)
- 'I think the ethos of the school is excellent and the inclusion of Forest Schools and swimming is extremely welcome. Most importantly, the teachers and TAs understand what makes my child 'tick' and you cannot ask for more than that.' (Yr. R)
- 'We couldn't wish for a better schooling experience for our son thus far!' (Yr. 2)
- 'It's a pleasure to see a school where everyone – teachers and parents – get involved in activities and day to day school life.'

There were many more very positive comments which I believe that the vast majority of the school community would support even if there a few aspects which need addressing.

Not resting on our achievements however there were a number of concerns and suggestions (which although not statistically significant – 5% the greatest total) we have read and will attempt to improve where we can. We have discussed with school staff and will discuss with the Governors at a future Governors Meeting.

Many thanks for those parents who were specific with their comments. These included:

- Dealing effectively with unacceptable behaviour (5% disagree).
Steps have been taken to remove pupils from class where necessary for the safety of themselves and others. Sanctions are in place for those pupils within the withdrawal time. We also look at the bigger picture and want to work with our parents in supporting all of our pupils in developing positive behaviour and learning. Every child is different and we look at a range of ways to support the child and their family and engage them in education. Our doors are always open through Key Stage Line Managers, our Deputy Head and myself, the Headteacher, for you to express individual concerns.
- There is a good range of activities, including trips or visits, for my child/ren to take part in (3% disagree)
We definitely promote a broad range of opportunities for our children. In times where the cost of coaches has increased dramatically for local visits we often have to rely on the support of you as parents for transport to make costs manageable for educational visits. Teachers are also aware of this and have promoted a lot of in school activities where outside companies come into us instead. We are lucky enough to have beautiful and spacious school grounds to use too and know teachers are already planning educational visits through the year, both in and out of school, as well Forest Schools, swimming and our annual residential to Swattenden for Yr. 3 & 4 and Farms For City Children Yr 5 & 6.

- The school sets appropriate homework or my child (1% disagree)
Areas of concern stem around inconsistency across the school, not enough challenge to too hard! It is never easy to get the balance quite right! However as a staff the teachers would like consistency throughout the school so I believe the KS1 and KS2 Leaders are looking at a consistent approach for English/Themed Learning Homework, and a new approach with the introduction of Mathematics to support your child's maths at home so watch out for these changes. We still promote the importance of daily reading and learning spellings and times tables.
- Communication – specific comments:
 - (a) Reporting assessment to parents:
This has been an ever changing experience for us all and we feel we are getting to grips with it. Now a full year of the new SATs tests has been experienced we have reflected on this and how we will use this experience to go forward not just in terms of year 2 and 6 but in the important non-statutory reported years of 1, 3, 4 and 5. Confidence comes with experience. There will be increased internal moderations to address this next year. We have several parent consultations throughout the year but every member of teaching staff is available to speak to outside of these times. Arrangements to find a mutually convenient time can be made with the staff member themselves or through the school office. Some of our staff, including the SENCO, work part-time so this needs to be considered when booking time with specific staff members. However, there will always endeavour to find an appropriate other staff member to help you with any queries, concerns etc
 - (b) Key events dates being given:
This was raised previously at Parent Forum and as far as we can we provided an overview of key dates for the upcoming academic year. We will re-send this at the start of the academic year. Please be aware that sometimes a change of date is out of our control.
 - (c) Transition days have happened but as full time working parents we do not know who our children's teachers are:
We did hold a celebration evening at the end of the year where there is opportunity to move through the school and meet with the new teacher. We also hold a 'Meet The Teacher' evening early in September (dates were on key dates information letter) where we also ask parents to come forward to volunteer for the year as the Class Rep. The school website will also give this information as well as lots more important information on your child's class and wider school information!
- The Traditional Year 1 wedding – has it lost its Christian teaching?
As part of the teaching of Christianity the year 1 learn about marriage. Children, we now, enjoy learning through role play however some concern has been raised whether the Christian element has been lost. The Year 1 teacher and Key Stage 1 team will be reflecting on this and making appropriate amendments to its teaching in future.

Response:

Overall, we are delighted that the overall reaction to the survey was so positive and that the children enjoy coming to school of which a response of 100% perhaps shows that the pupils who arrive at St. George's find school inspiring and we do, as a school community, get most aspects right.

We spend a lot of time focusing the ethos of the school and building strong relationships. As a result of this nurturing philosophy adults in school take time with children and want them to feel supported, safe and cared for whilst also encouraging them to develop their skills for life. It is these foundations which we establish in Early Years and Key Stage One which then enables all our children to make outstanding progress in KS2.

As staff we pride ourselves on our attitude to learning. Learning is for life and all staff are keen to take up opportunities to improve their own practice in order to improve what we can offer the children. Our biggest resource is our human resource and we redeployed our teaching assistants on a needs led basis for pupils. We review our provision every year and plan for pupils' personalised learning needs. Every child does matter at St. George's School. Children's work is differentiated to provide challenge at different levels suitable to the children's needs. If you want to know more about what your child is learning this year please come to the 'Meet The Teacher' evening. Also if have any questions or concerns about your child's progress please make an appointment with your class teacher and do not wait until the termly Parents Consultation Evenings.

Across the school, there are high expectations both in terms of academic achievement and of behaviour which need to be sustained across St. George's with Year 6 offering models of behaviour that are most appropriate and that our younger children can learn from. As buddies they have the opportunity to informally mentor our younger children and help them to understand good choices and how to learn from mistakes. This year indications from Teacher Assessment looks as though the annual end of Key Stage Two SATs results will be again very high and favour well when compared to other schools nationally.

Finally, as Headteacher I would like to thank all the parents that took the time to complete this survey. It is a very busy world and there are always so many things on our "to do" lists so I appreciate that you have offered time to share both positive and constructive comments.

We strive to do the best for all of our children in school. We believe in the value of people and of relationships and we teach our children to form positive interactions with the people they come into contact with. Our partnership with you as parents/carers/grandparents helps us to move the school forward. We could not do it without you!

In conclusion, thank you for helping all our events, attending our social events – Christmas Fayre, Talent Shows, Big Fun Run, Arts Festival, and for coming into school to walk with us to Church, for supporting reading to our classes, for coming in as a regular volunteer to help in class, for supporting our sporting teams, for driving children to fixtures, for practising their tables and spellings with them on a regular basis, for helping the children learn lines to a play, steps for a dance or words to a song and ultimately for keeping them healthy and happy.

D. Jones
Headteacher