



# Wombwell Park Street Primary School

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**Chief Executive Officer of the ECM Trust:** Mrs G Foster-Wilson

**Headteacher:** Mrs C Lawson

**Deputy Headteacher:** Mrs L Longden

**Assistant Headteacher(s):** Miss C McGinnes and Mr A Fidment

**School Business Manager:** Mrs C Turner

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Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

## Parental Questionnaires MAY 2023

I am writing to thank the 63 parents who took part in our most recent biannual questionnaire to parents in May 2023.

As previously mentioned, we really value parental feedback at WPSPS as it helps us to make informed generalisations about what we do well as a school and of course the areas for improvement. It also helps us to celebrate specific families and how they feel about us, as well as focus on the families which might need more support or further discussions.

**I am sure you all know that we care deeply about the children of Park Street and we are always striving to be the best we can be for our children!**

Well done to **Team CB** parents this time, where **9 children's parents** answered the questionnaire – thank you!

Please find the headlines below:

- ✓ **97% of parents agree their child is happy in school; 72% of these strongly agree**  
(Vs 100% of parents agreed their child is happy at school, 70% of these strongly agreed October 2022)
- ✓ **100% of parents agree their child feels safe at school; 78% of these strongly agree**  
(Vs 100% of parents agreed their child feels safe at school, 73% of these strongly agreed October 2022)
- ✓ **97% of parents agree that staff encourage children to behave well; 72% of these strongly agree**  
(Vs 100% of parents agreed that staff encourage children to behave well, 66% of these strongly agreed October 2022)
- ✓ **83% of parents agree that the school deals with behaviour well; 54% of these strongly agree and 10% do not know which suggests they have no experience of this)**  
(Vs 83% of parents agreed that school deals with behaviour well, 57% of these strongly agreed (14% do not know which suggests they have no experience of this) October 2022)
- ✓ **97% of parents agree that school makes parents aware of what their children are learning during the year; 54% of these strongly agree**

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*(Vs 94% of parents agreed that school makes parents aware of what their children are learning during the year, 57% of these strongly agreed October 2022)*

- ✓ **95% of parents agree that there is a good range of subjects available (e.g., a broad and balanced curriculum); 65% of these strongly agree (3% of parents did not know)**  
*(Vs 94% of parents agreed there is a good range of subjects available (e.g., a broad and balanced curriculum), 58% of these strongly agreed October 2022)*
- ✓ **94% of parents agree school has high expectations of their child; 63% of these strongly agree (3% of parents did not know)**  
*(Vs 99% of parents agreed school has high expectations of their child, 62% of these strongly agreed October 2022)*
- ✓ **97% of parents agree school lets parents know how their child is doing; 52% of these strongly agree**  
*(Vs 96% of parents agreed school lets parents know how their child is doing, 53% of these strongly agreed October 2022)*
- ✓ **86% of parents agree that school provides good opportunities to learn from visits and visitors; 62% of these strongly agree (8% of parents did not know)**  
*(Vs 74% of parents agreed that school provides good opportunities to learn from visits and visitors, 30% of these strongly agreed October 2022)*
- ✓ **98% of parents agree their child's needs are met and supported well; 54% of these strongly agree (2% of parents did not know)**  
*(Vs 96% of parents agreed their child's needs are met and supported well, 53% of these strongly agreed October 2022)*
- ✓ **90% of parents agree that staff deal with issues quickly and effectively; 56% of these strongly agree (6% of parents did not know)**  
*(Vs 90% of parents agreed that staff deal with issues quickly and effectively, 61% of these strongly agreed October 2022)*
- ✓ **100% of parents agree that school places a high emphasis on attendance and punctuality; 70% of these strongly agree**  
*(Vs 99% of parents agreed that school places a high emphasis on attendance and punctuality, 69% of these strongly agreed October 2022)*
- ✓ **97% of parents would recommend this school to other parents!**  
*(Vs 100% of parents would recommend this school to other parents October 2022)*

Of the 3% of parents who would not recommend the school, neither of the 2 parents left details as to who their child is or what class they are in, making it impossible to follow this up. Equally no one has asked for a meeting to discuss moving their child due to disappointment. If you feel disappointed with any aspect, we have an open door policy to discuss matters at any stage of your child's learning journey.

It was incredibly warming to hear some of the wonderful, positive feedback which was given about our school and staff team. We have thoroughly enjoyed reading some of the kind, considerate and thankful messages. Such comments really do help staff morale and wellbeing, which I am sure you will agree, it is vital for this to be strong for any school to be able to move forward.

We are particularly pleased to read of how:

- you strongly feel that your child feels safe in school and you feel strongly that we try to have high expectations in terms of behaviours
- you feel we tenacious in our approach to managing attendance and punctuality
- you feel we have improved our communication and have kept you better informed about your child's learning
- you feel we are continually trying to plan in more opportunities for learning beyond the classroom!

Many more 'what we do well' comments can be found below – please take a look!

### What does the school do well?

Makes my child feel happy and safe; Positive, warm atmosphere

The curriculum is well planned and my children often come home and tell me all about what they have learnt. The school offers wider opportunities and this is great for the children who aren't as academic as others

School solves issues quickly; any issues regarding my child, I find out within the day; issues are dealt with quickly

This school is just amazing, my daughter loves it and would stay there all day if she could

Lots of support for my daughter who needs more help to concentrate and focus. All staff are caring and patient with my daughter and helping me to support her additional needs

Support children and accommodates everyone's needs

Communication with parents is good; They keep parents up to date with what children are doing in school and with what events are happening; Communication is amazing with all teachers and the Head

As a parent who is a working parent, I like how we get a list of dates in advance so I can sort it with work

Teaching the children how to be kind and to think about others and their feelings

Approachable and caring staff; Staff build strong, encouraging, and supportive relationships with the children throughout the whole school, not just within the classroom; As a parent I always feel listened to

We feel like we are part of a family; I feel that teachers really care about the children and would go an extra mile for the kids' wellbeing; Sense of community and belonging; Lots of care - super warm atmosphere

The Teachers and Teaching Assistants connected to my children are second to none! They have a wonderful nature and obviously care about the children they teach; The staff care about the children and put them at the heart of what they do

I do feel that all the staff are great and very supportive. My boy has a great time at school and seems to be doing well, however struggles to go into school. All The teachers in his class are amazing, supportive and non-judgmental. They are all a credit to the school and this shows with how quickly he settles and goes on to have a great day!

The school works hard at being present and making themselves available for parents (come rain or shine) to speak to them at the start and finish times. I have always found the teaching staff very approachable and understanding towards my son's SEN needs. Mrs Hitchens is a great support to parents and children alike

My child loves this school - he gets the support he needs and has great teachers, couldn't ask for better!

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My daughter is happy and is happy to come to school every day. She is enjoying learning with Mr Davidson.

Celebration of learning achievements

Feel Good Friday

The school provides lot of events at Christmas, Easter, Summer such as fayres/coffee mornings feel good Friday and involves the children in all charity and celebratory events e.g. Red nose, King's Coronation to name a few. After school clubs e.g., Art club, national events e.g., World Book Day

The after-school club options are well thought out and the children struggle to choose because they like all the choices

After school club is amazing - the staff are very approachable and friendly; Big shout out to Miss Hodgson - she really cares about the children and even though my children are not in her class any more she still checks in!; There is provision for various clubs and out of school provision which is really flexible

The school gives all the children the opportunity to achieve their individual potential

High expectations

The office staff are always fantastic and speak to adults in a considerate caring manner

Absolutely everything

I've never had any complaints. I think they do well with everything!

The areas which were identified as areas for us to focus on moving forward were as follows:

### Even better if...

More school trips allowing all children in the same year group to experience

More ranges of after school clubs maybe chess, science; After School clubs that do not cost money

More info about what my child is learning in school – could staff email?

Communication is always welcomed, especially if costumes are needed! Space out sharing information - 5 emails in one day!!

Offer 30 hours funding in Nursery

MAC opened at 7.45am

More outdoor resources in the bigger playground/field; more varied lunch menu

More regular updates for SEND parents; Keep in mind the impact of children with SEND needs on the rest of the class especially in relation to outbursts and the other children feeling safe in class

Make it easier to park

More sporty opportunities to build sportsmanship and team work attitudes

Focus less on academic achievements as should all schools, particularly maths and literacy

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In response to some of the above suggestions and comments:

- **More school trips:** staff have worked hard to reintroduce trips including some old favourites and some new and exciting ones too! Where it may seem that these events are a little more limited, this is not for want of trying. Increases in coach prices, budget constraints and limited families being able to meet raised voluntary contributions has meant that staff have had to think more creatively about their options. This is very much something that we are aware of and working really hard on throughout schools, whilst making sure we are covering our equality objectives.
- **Staffing on school trips:** staffing can be an issue on days where we have a school trip taking place but unfortunately due to legislation around safeguarding, we cannot always rely on parents to add capacity to our adult to pupil ratios. Parent helpers have been really helpful (and appreciated) in the past, especially in the younger early year's classes, but as children cannot be left alone with parents who are not DBS checked, this would potentially leave our community open to forms of safeguarding allegation, which of course would be taken seriously.
- **After School Clubs and financing:** we continue to communicate with staff regarding after school clubs and the range which can be offered – an abundance of parents have acknowledged the clubs on offer too, which is lovely to hear you agree we have been working hard. Governors decided to make all after school clubs a paid for provision, to encourage more staff to be able to be involved in delivering these. As you can appreciate, many support staff finish at 3.15pm and others, like teachers, do have many commitments after school too – staff meetings, Professional Development support sessions, Senior Leader meetings etc and so there is very little time after school for actual clubs. We try to ensure the costings are low e.g., charge on a basic rate of £2 per half an hour, which is far less than any other child care options and probably less than other clubs in the local area. This is something though that we will bear in mind and think creatively about.
- **More information and staff emails:** as previously mentioned, the Leadership team have taken the decision not to share individual staff email addresses as we are trying very carefully to manage staff mental health and wellbeing which I am sure you will agree, is massively important. Communications can be made via our school email and will be forwarded to the relevant staff member by our admin team for actioning as quickly as possible.

Many parents have recognised the improvements in communication from the school generally and so we will now focus on how each Team's bespoke information can be shared more regularly and in a timelier manner for parents.

It is not always an option to decide how many emails are sent out each day as these communications are received from different staff each day and also the impact of staff non-working days. I think 5 sent in one day for instance, is simply our effort to communicate with you in a timely way. Emails obviously can be read at your leisure if this works better for each individual. Few emails are sent needing an immediate response to them. Generally, from speaking to other parents and schools, 5 emails in one day can be the 'norm' from schools who try hard to communicate and keep parents up to date.

- **MAC opening at 7.45am:** unfortunately, our school insurance allows for pupils on site from 8am. We will always try to make sure our doors are opened promptly to support our working families!
- **30-hour funding in Nursery:** absolutely, Miss McGinnes has worked brilliantly recently, looking in to how this could work. She has visited other settings and has communicated with their staff as to how systems and policies work, to see if we can implement this at Park Street. We are really pleased to confirm that this is now something we are trialling from September 2023!
- **More varied lunch:** we will feed this back to the school's catering team, ISS.

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- **More resources on the field at lunch time:** absolutely we all agree – we have made this one of our school priorities and new resources should be received in school very soon. We will endeavour to keep on top of this equipment for children to play with at lunch times!
- **Parking:** school cannot create more parking space. We absolute try to accommodate everyone's needs and if people are parking on the yellow lines at the bottom of the school drive, this is a Council issue and not a school issue. In short, we are unable to make any further changes to the parking facilities but if we all follow the school guidance and encourage each other to follow the rules, then things *should* run smoothly. The systems are there, they just need adhering to by us as adults.
- **Sporting opportunities:** we agree, it would be wonderful for us to have additional time in the week to teach 'out of school' competition skills in addition to those taught in PE lessons. Currently, our PE lessons are taught according to Striver, our PE approved scheme of work. We will continue to look at other creative ways to support this. As children move through school, more and more opportunities will arise to take part in competitive PE competitions, inter and intra schools.
- **SEND updates:** school will explore ways in which this can be improved, but please be assured the SENDCo email address was established so as you can freely ask questions and gain updates at any time, without an appointment or indeed to book future appointments!

Just to reassure families that whilst we do have children with SEND needs, all of our children matter. We are very much aware of some of the impacts of certain behaviours on other children. The children's behaviours at WSPSPS are generally very strong and we have robust systems in place to support SEND children and any others that may at any stage struggle with their emotions. I will write an information letter regarding behaviours and how we manage these in school, so all stakeholders are clear about our stance – all children matter and we do everything in our power to support all children. We are well known within our Trust for our strong practice of managing children with SEND needs and use a fantastic programme called 'Incredible Me!' to support children who struggle emotionally, which Mr Fidment and our previous SENDCo, Mrs Vaughton, wrote for the Trust. It is important we celebrate this with parents so you have the fullest picture possible.

- **Focus less on academic achievements:** WSPSPS will always focus on academic achievement – we have to...we have a National Curriculum which has to be followed according to the Government and we have aspirational hopes and dreams for our children's futures. This said, we always try very hard to focus on the non-academic matters too and celebrate these achievements in class daily and in every weekly Golden Book Assembly. In turn, these are always celebrated with you in the weekly Golden Book Newsletter or the weekly 'Incredible Us!' Newsletter. This has always been a real strength of WSPSPS. Our school's Arts and PE Awards exemplify this stance as a school too.

As previously mentioned, thank you very much for taking the time to complete the questionnaire honestly and thank you also to those parents who have disclosed their child's names as this helps us to be able to identify parents with whom we may want to discuss matters further, to ensure optimum results for our families and children.

We will continue to endeavour to work on our 'even better if' actions!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Lawson  
Headteacher