



Wombwell Park Street Primary School

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School Business Manager: Mrs C Turner

Thursday 20th April 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Parental Questionnaires October 2022 (with some recent updates of actions and impact)

I am writing to thank the 89 parents who took part in our last biannual questionnaire to parents in 2022. We really value parental feedback at Park Street as it helps us to make informed generalisations about what we do well as a school and of course the areas for improvement, as well as focus on individual families.

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!

It has certainly been no easy task working in schools over the past three academic years, managing COVID-19 situations and then ensuring old and improved systems are back in place and well embedded as we continue on our road to school improvement. So, thank you for taking the time to help us! It is greatly appreciated. Well done to Team AF parents, where 12 children's parents answered the questionnaire – thank you!

It was lovely to see a mix of parents throughout school who took the time to complete the questionnaire but we are hoping for even more parents to get involved in completing the questionnaires next time round. We will shortly be due to send out questionnaires and the results will enable us to look at the progress we have made at the beginning of this summer term! It would be lovely to get more parents contributing so we know we have an accurate picture as possible. Please find the headlines below:

- ✓ 100% of parents agree their child is happy at school, 70% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 100% of parents agree their child feels safe at school, 73% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 100% of parents agree that staff encourage children to behave well, 66% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 83% of parents agree that school deals with behaviour well, 57% of these strongly agree (14% do not know which suggests they have no experience of this)
- ✓ 94% of parents agree that school makes parents aware of what their children are learning during the year, 57% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 94% of parents agree there is a good range of subjects available (e.g., a broad and balanced curriculum), 58% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 99% of parents agree school has high expectations of their child, 62% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 96% of parents agree school lets parents know how their child is doing, 53% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 74% of parents agree that school provides good opportunities to learn from visits and visitors, 30% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 96% of parents agree their child's needs are met and supported well, 53% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 90% of parents agree that staff deal with issues quickly and effectively, 61% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 99% of parents agree that school places a high emphasis on attendance and punctuality, 69% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 100% of parents would recommend this school to other parents!

Wombwell Park Street Primary School is proud to be part of the



Every Child Matters Academy Trust
Children at the heart

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. Many of these comments can be found below – please take a look!

What does the school do well?

Communication with parents through the School Gateway; School is always informative

Keeping parents in the loop and engaging well with children

Good range of topics and promote important events; support learning well

Encourages wellbeing and learning – my child always comes home happy!; Strong relationships

Meets each child's needs accordingly and makes each one happy to be part of park street school.

High expectations

The school does really well with dealing with any issues that may occur during the year. They also take time out to help individual children to ensure that they are reaching goals and achieving learning standards

The school goes over and beyond and shows a real interest in my daughter's hobbies outside of school. We feel highly supported especially for her professional opportunities

The encouragement staff give to promote reading is outstanding!

Teacher / child relationships; staff are wonderful; Mrs Hitchens and her support for children

The teachers, head teacher and all staff members are always friendly and approachable and willing to help whenever needed

All of the teachers I have had contact with thus far into my child's education have been fantastic! They are a true credit to the school!

Listens to parents – a great open-door policy! My child seems to know all the teachers whether they are in his class or not so this shows me they must take their time to get to know the children too which is fantastic!

After school clubs are amazing; Feel Good Friday is a great idea!

Caring atmosphere in and around school – staff are helpful and children feel welcomed and motivated

Strong support for individual children including 1:1 support to develop confidence and support medical needs

School value pupils and parents, cannot fault this school at all and would highly recommend to others

Parental Evenings so as we know what our child has covered and how they are doing.

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

Even better if...
Offer breakfast at MAC
Make sure doors open on time in a morning
Expense of special days – not everyone can afford these
More trips out of school – what about the parents who can afford to send their children on trips?
Improved communication via the use of Seesaw
Better parking on site
The school could spend more time on children who do not have SENDB needs
Further parent workshops to support parents
Sporting clubs might have more success if there is additional time to practice

In response to some of the above suggestions and comments:

- **Breakfast at MAC:** we are not in a position to offer this as the MAC is based in the hall, due to child numbers and the activities on offer. The MAC also only lasts 30 minutes and there is not enough time to make breakfast for 20+ children in this time, plus we are not insured to have children on site before 8am. If we were to access the Community Room kitchen for food preparation (which is currently used for pre-school interventions), this would need further staffing and food which would put the price of the provision up further. This latter point is something that we are very keen to not do!
- **Doors opening on time:** absolutely they should be open on time, we will ensure we keep reminding staff!
- **More trips:** absolutely, we agree with this! Staff have made good efforts to begin these again e.g., sporting trips have been back to normal for some time now and go out each half term at least once or twice; Team CH and JF have visited Bolsover Castle; Team AC and CB have visited Murton Park; Year 5 go swimming each week; Y6 have been on a residential, Crucial Crew and Egyptian Art / History Museum visits etc; Eco-Reps have done Litter Picks etc and Team CW and CH have had a number of visits from St Mary's Church in Wombwell. This summer term, Reception – Year 5 children will be visiting the local Library for their Incredible Us! time on a Friday afternoon. We will continue to work hard to ensure all Teams have at least one substantial trip each year, in addition to visitors in school.

As you will see from above, it is hard to please all. For example, some parents have requested less expense and some have requested more trips. We are working hard to find an appropriate balance and ensure trips are booked with enough time for payment plans to be established. The fact of the matter is, the coach and visit prices have gone up substantially and fewer coach companies have made it through the Pandemic and so there is less availability than previously.

Staff continue to work hard in enriching events in school too e.g., visiting dance workshops; multi-cultural faith visits etc.

- **Communication and response times:** we always endeavour for communication to be good and quick and can only apologise if your experience has not been as positive as the many parents who commented on communication being a positive of the school. Only 1.1% of parents wanted

communication to be improved, which is the best I have ever known and a credit to staff. On occasions, parents and children suggest ideas and if they are worthwhile and do not impact too much on what you as parents have to do, then we go for it!

Seesaw was originally purchased for home learning during the Pandemic, but staff (and parents) do appreciate it still for communication and homework etc, as well as sharing news and thanks. It is not stipulated how much this should be used by staff – more so that the website Blogs *should* have information uploaded and be regularly updated. If you feel this is not happening – please discuss this with your child's class teacher and if there are no improvements, speak to a member of the SLT or Computing Lead in school.

The Leadership team have taken the decision at present to not share individual staff email addresses as we are trying very carefully to look after the staff's mental health and wellbeing too, as I am sure you will agree, this is massively important. Communications can be made to our school email and will be forwarded to the relevant staff member by our admin team.

- **More information for parents:** this is something our school is working really hard on, as I am sure you have seen in newsletters etc. We have held lots of workshops for parents this year, both out of school and during school time. We also have successfully completed the 'Webster Stratton' positive parenting programme and 'Thinking Differently' for SEND children's parents. We really are working hard on this but as always, if you have any ideas or suggestions, please don't hesitate to suggest them!
- **Parking:** as a Team we work really hard on the school's parking situation and have done for over ten years! We have a robust system for issuing parking permits for some parents/carers to park on school site and this is monitored rigorously and on the whole works very well. Staff are on the school site at drop off and collection times to monitor the situation and challenge parents where necessary. Despite enquiries and liaison with the local authority, 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.
- **Sporting clubs:** in an ideal world 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, but at this stage, we are limited as 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.
- **The school could spend more time on non-SEND children:** if anyone was to spend a minute in our Park Street building, you would be able to see how our staff team spends time with all children. We very much believe: EVERY child matters! We have very much moved away from distributing stickers as a reward - stickers are not what our Park Street children work hard for! They work hard for the positive, happy, commendable, meaningful conversations and time spent with trusted adults, which they get CONSTANTLY as a reward for doing the right thing!

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 your families.

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

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Lawson
Headteacher