Parent Questionnaire results

# November 2018

I am extremely pleased to be able to share this year’s Parent Questionnaire results with you all. I received 81 completed questionnaires, of which only a few contained any issues which I have tried to address below. I have shared the results with the staff and governors who were equally delighted to see that the hard work that is going on in the school is reflected in your thoughts about what we do.

I have only changed comments to anonymise any that mentioned specific staff or if children could be identified by something that was mentioned. All of the questionnaires are kept for governors to look at any time to check for accuracy. I have tried to let you know below how we plan to work on the issues we need to address and have also included the comments praising the work that is done here.

Issues raised

“Feel like communication from the school could be a lot better. Also heard from other parents that have reported a lot of different things that could be dealt with better i.e. bullying.”

Communication is a real challenge as we try to keep you as informed as possible about school issues through the fortnightly newsletter, Facebook and Twitter posts, Meet the Teacher meeting at the beginning of September, parents’ evenings, reports, emails, texts and letters about specific events as and when they occur. We can check who has opened the emails and texts we send out through eschools and know that they are not always viewed. The best way to receive these is via the eschools app with notifications turned on and Karen or Anna in the office can help you set this up if you would like to do this. This term we sent out many reminders about parents’ evenings specifically to parents who had not booked appointments so that this opportunity was not missed but we can’t do that with every message we send out as there simply isn’t time. We also have a school calendar for sale with key dates for the year identified and these are also published on every newsletter. If anyone has further ideas about how we can communicate better please let me know via the school email address widewell.office@horizonmat.com, I would really welcome your thoughts.

Bullying is an issue every school has to deal with from time to time and I believe we have worked hard over the past few years to improve this at Widewell. As there is only one comment about bullying I feel the majority of parents recognise this. The breakdown of results were: strongly agree 39; agree 14; neither agree not disagree 15; disagree 2; strongly disagree 1 and 6 were left blank. Many parents who ticked the neither agree/disagree or left this blank stated they have no experience of bullying to judge. When bullying is reported to us we work with both the victim and the bully to resolve the situation. We also contact parents to encourage their support and when this happens the situation is usually resolved swiftly and successfully. I am not aware of any current bullying issues but if you have any concerns please speak to your child’s class teacher or contact me to make an appointment.

“I feel the achievement report is too soon to complete after only 7 weeks of knowing a child.”

“I don’t believe there is any need for an additional report so early in the school year. This just adds additional work on teachers who could spend their time elsewhere.”

We have felt this for a while but the school was criticised in the past for not providing parents with enough information about their children. I think a meeting about how the children have settled and what their current targets are is appropriate for this first parents’ evening with a mini report produced for the meeting in February and the final report produced for July. Rather than just assume all parents agree I will set up an online survey in the next few weeks so you can let us know what you think. Please look out for this hopefully on the next newsletter.

Not everyone in the school has been welcoming. (This is a summary of what was said so those concerned cannot be identified.)

We try to be as welcoming as possible to new families but this has clearly not been the case for this parent and I apologise on behalf of the staff involved. There are always times of pressure in any work environment and, as much as we try not to let it affect us at work, unfortunately it sometimes happens.

“I wish children were rewarded for completing additional homework, especially when they are mostly the only one who completes every week.”

I am led to believe that children are rewarded with housepoints for completing additional homework activities. We set a minimum standard for homework to cover 5 home reads every week for all children and spellings and maths activities for the juniors. There are lots of activities on all of the homework cards to help you know how to support your children with their English and maths that week and topic activities for those who would like to complete them and have the time to do so as not everyone does.

“In light of publication of the Rochford Report, what does the school hope to change to deliver an improved and more supportive / appropriate curriculum individualised for pupil needs? If you do not plan to make any changes please explain your reasons for not.”

The Rochford Review has made recommendations to the government for the statutory assessment of pupils working below the standard of national curriculum tests at the end of key stages 1 and 2. The vast majority of children in our school do not fall into this category, however there are instances where some do. When this is the case these children are given as individualised a provision as possible within the constraints of our resources, which includes the budget and staff available. Many of our children currently experience an individual provision at some time during the week with: nurture support, small group work, individual intervention work, Individual Education Plan support etc. This support enables almost all of our children to work within the current curriculum. Where a child has specific special needs and parents have chosen to send their child to our mainstream school, we provide activities and support that promotes the seven aspects of cognition and learning: responsiveness, curiosity, discovery, anticipation, persistence, initiation and investigation, however the number of children who require this is very small and currently only makes up 1% of our pupil population. We are always looking for ways to enhance the curriculum we provide for our pupils and have recently completed an audit in order to formulate our action plans for the next school improvement cycle. If you have any further questions about this please contact me.

Comments

My child has settled well and I feel she has already received more support and encouragement this year than any other. I’m confident this year will see a positive improvement.

My child is really enjoying school this year.

My child joined Widewell last year and loves the school. I wish you could see the difference in her from before. She is happy, loves coming to school and her confidence is growing every week. I can’t recommend Widewell enough. Thank you.

We are really pleased with how our child has settled into school. His teacher has been very understanding and always keeps us in the loop. He loves going to school, I think that’s down to the atmosphere, which is always friendly and positive.

My child has had a fantastic start this year. Her teacher has been very supportive with her and our family.

A lovely, well run school. It has catered excellently for both of my children.

Very happy with both of my girls parents’ evening. Lovely school for them to be part of.

Very happy with my child’s progress.

My child loves her teachers. She’s coming along really well and hope it stays that way. She always enjoys school days.

Although our daughter has been here for a short time she loves the school and we are extremely happy.

Excellent school. Over the last 3 years our child has really enjoyed all aspects of the school and as her parents we feel supported and all levels of communication are given at a high standard. Well done to all the staff who have supported our child and helped her to develop.

I would like to say thank you to all of Widewell. This school has been amazing and has given both my children amazing opportunities.

Nothing to add except to say what a wonderful job all the staff are doing and how pleased we are to have children at Widewell.

I hope I have addressed the issues that were raised from the questionnaires and would like to thank all parents who took the time to complete them. It is lovely to read all of the positive comments but it is also important we are challenged when things are seen not to be as good as we hope, so we can strive to improve even more.

Kind regards



C.Prynne

Headteacher