



Whitby Heath Primary School

Parent Survey Autumn 2023

Thank you very much to parents and carers for completing the questionnaire and for your comments and responses about our school. We had 132 responses and have compiled the results to present them to you. The results have been discussed and shared with governors and staff so that we can make our school an even better place to be for pupils and parents. Parents' suggestions are gratefully received and will be considered as we set our school development priorities for the future.

** Figures rounded to nearest whole number*

Survey Questions	Strongly Agree/Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
My child is happy at this school	97%	3%	n/a
My child feels safe at this school	97%	3%	n/a
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	89%	5%	6%
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	19%	5%	76% stated their child has never been bullied
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	88%	5%	7%
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly	74%	5%	21% have not raised any concerns
My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed	67% (12 out of 18 responses)	22% (4 out of 18 responses)	11% (2 out of 18 responses)
The school has high expectations for my child	83%	7%	10%
The school lets me know how my child is doing	86%	11%	3%
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	90%	4%	6%
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school	86%	9%	5%
The school supports my child's wider personal	80%	5%	15%

development			
I would recommend this school to another parent	96%	4%	n/a

Thank You! Our staff team were overwhelmed with some of the wonderful comments from the survey. Thank you for taking the time to respond, it means a lot. Here are just a handful as an example:

- ✓ 'My child has absolutely loved being a pupil at Whitby Heath. She has been offered lots of opportunities and has been nurtured and encouraged throughout her journey.'
- ✓ 'The team in reception has been incredible in helping to support my child in starting reception. He has found it a difficult transition and is slowly beginning to settle and goes in with a smile.'
- ✓ 'Wonderful staff, very approachable. Caring, nurturing environment for the children.'
- ✓ 'Lovely school, great staff. Never had any issues. Feel very thankful to have two children very happy going in and coming out of school every day. They are both thriving. Thank you.'
- ✓ 'The school team have been amazing, from the admin support to the teachers. We could not ask for better support with the transition we had for our daughter into starting reception part way through the term. Thank you everyone.'
- ✓ 'Excellent school with dedicated teachers. My child is extremely happy at Whitby heath primary school.'
- ✓ My children have enjoyed a variety of experiences both inside and outside of school such as a residential, zoo visits and sporting activities - as well as visitors who have come in to school to share and demonstrate their own areas of expertise. This has really enhanced learning.

Our Response To Other Questions, Queries and Comments

We also received very helpful questions, queries and comments that we have grouped and responded to below. We hope this gives you a greater idea of what's on offer currently and what the future holds:

Curriculum

Some responses questioned the opportunities for a wider range of musical tuition through the school in school hours. *This is something the school already offers through an external company*

called 'Musical Minds'. Details can be obtained from the school office.

Some parents felt school could do more to support arts and other vocational activities and how there is a strong focus on academia which they agreed is good but voiced concerns over how it supports children who have strengths in other areas. *As a school we are legally required to teach the National Curriculum subjects, however we supplement this with a wide variety of extra-curricular provision that includes the Arts, STEM and Sports. We also address children's well-being and development holistically through our teaching of PSHE, ELSA and Zones of Self-Regulation.*

PE

A proportion of parents shared their concerns about the reduced PE time table. *We agree and this is a high priority for change in September 2024. Our school day is currently too short and is not in line with government recommendations of 32.5 hours p/week (which becomes a requirement in Sept 2024). As a consequence, school previously was not able to effectively fit in the entire National Curriculum, which was something that needed addressing in the short term. On joining school as the new headteacher in April 2023, it was evident to me that there was not enough time to consult with the school community and address this in time for Sept 2023. Therefore, temporarily we have slightly reduced the PE allocation to an extended session in one day, rather than across two days. This has ensured children receive the full National Curriculum.*

In the coming months we will consult with parents on how we plan to slightly extend the school day from Sept 2024 to meet the national requirements – and this will also enable us to revisit the 2 sessions of PE p/week allocation.

After School Provision

Many parents shared their concerns over the lack of extra-curricular activities. Suggesting the need for school teams to be competitive with local schools. Furthermore, parents indicated that clubs often filled very quickly and how it would be nice to see a variety of club types e.g. craft/STEM/film etc. *School have developed an enrichment and extra-curricular programme which enables children across all phases to access clubs on a half termly basis examples include STEM, Cricket, Art, Choir, Drama and Fencing. Currently this term our staff are running 12 different clubs and we are extremely grateful that they give up their free time afterschool and at weekends to offer so many clubs. Our school competes in all available competitions that are organised by the LA and Sports Partnership. In many cases we will align afterschool clubs in particular sports to the terms when the competitions are. Some half-terms will therefore have more clubs than others. Details for such clubs are shared via Dojo and are filled on a first come first served basis. We have to conform with health and safety regulations and therefore have to restrict numbers.*

Communication

Some parents agreed how their child/ren are thriving but would like to hear more (from the teachers / school) about what they are doing, where they are at, plans, more things we can do to help, if a child is particularly gifted in one subject, what are they doing to encourage and push this more? *We have 2 set parents' evenings a year as well as an annual report. Class teachers will always reach out to parents via Dojo or individually to support a child's specific learning needs. Parents are encouraged to contact teachers via private message on Dojo if they have any concerns or questions around their child during the year.*

Communication and celebrations are shared via Class Dojo and weekly newsletters.

We have also been overhauling our class pages on our school website. These will now show what topics are being studied each term in your child's class, as well providing other key class-related information (such as PE day, staff information, etc). These class webpages will then be shared with you at the start of each term on Class Dojo.

Drop off and Collection

Parents have suggested staggered school pick up times, sharing how the playground is very crowded and it's sometimes difficult to see your child's class and indeed your child. *We agree this could be better and we would like to address it as part of our consultation with parents on the length of the school day so we meet the national regulations.*

Homework

Parents shared concerns in relation to homework and difficulties accessing it. *All children have been sent a homework book to record their homework, there is no expectation for parents to print it out. From January 2024 Maths homework will be Mathletics and English tasks will be set via Class Dojo weekly. We also have long term plans to make homework even more streamlined and accessible in the future. We moved away from SeeSaw as this system was extremely expensive for what we used it for and we were able to use those funds more effectively for children.*

Dojo Reward System

Parents felt the use of Class Dojo is excellent for communication, but voiced concerns over consistency of its use. *Class teachers share celebrations and events in the classroom with parents via Class Story – but as with anything new, the initial usage across school could be inconsistent. Staff have shared with each other how they are using the Announcements and Class Story aspects of Dojo and will continue to work towards greater consistency, ensuring helpful communications with parents.*

The children have responded extremely well to the Dojo points system and how they align to our

new School Values. We celebrate their achievements in weekly and termly celebration assemblies and classes are able to work towards goals for agreed class rewards - For example, Year 4 recently had a PJ day!