



St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School

## Parent/Carers' Survey – Spring 2019

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete a survey at Parents' Evening. In total, 58 responses were submitted. We appreciate both your ongoing support and the lovely commendations you wrote as well as suggestions for improvement. We will endeavour to make changes where necessary and possible to make our school the most accessible and enabling environment for our children to learn in as well as our families to feel part of our school community.

Below you will find the feedback along with a summary of comments made by parents/carers. Please note that all feedback is greatly received and valued; we discuss and consider every suggestion made by parents/carers. If you would like to see more detail, please see the comments in the **Appendix**.

### Survey Results

Survey statement	Agree	Disagree	No view given	Our response
My child is happy at this school	100%	0%	0%	We are really pleased that your child/ren enjoy school life and that you feel happy too. We will continue to work in partnership with you to ensure that this can continue.
My child feels safe at this school	100%	0%	0%	We are pleased that you feel this way, we will continue to teach the children about how to let us know whenever they do not feel safe as safeguarding is one of our highest priorities.
My child makes good progress at this school	100%	0%	0%	We will continue to guide, challenge and celebrate their successes.
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	100%	3%	7%	There are mixed views regarding homework which we have responded further on in this document.
This school ensures the pupils are well behaved	90%	3%	7%	We will continue to work with you to ensure that are children behave to the highest standard possible wherever they are.
This school deals effectively with bullying	88%	5%	7%	Thank you for some really positive comments here. Though there has been a mention that we deal with it when we know about it. We have a zero tolerance approach to bullying and that means everyone is responsible for reporting issues of bullying. Staff can only deal with what they are made aware of, so please help our boys and girls by talking about what to do if they see something that upsets or worries them, for themselves or others.
This school is well led and managed	97%	0%	0%	There were some really positive comments here, thank you. We will continue to work as a school family to seek out the views of all stakeholders and make sure that nothing stands in the way of what will be beneficial for the moral, spiritual, social and emotional as well as academically for our children.
This school responds well to any concern I raise	100%	0%	10%	Again, thank you. We pride ourselves on acting swiftly so that matters can be dealt with effectively.
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	98%	2%	0%	There were some really positive responses here and we have an open door policy so that issues that arise can be discussed. We can also telephone parents/carers of children who may not be able to get to school to speak to us.
I would recommend this school to another parent	98%	2%	0%	This is a really positive and very appreciated response. We will continue to ensure that our school remains a place of growth and excellence for all.

# Appendix

## Comments made about what is going well with homework

- It is very good and it helps my son to study well. You can give more homework.
- Most of the time homework is appropriate. However, at times difficult to know how much help to give i.e. with projects.
- Homework is appropriated to their age.
- Happy with what my son is assigned to do at home.
- My son enjoys doing his homework and I get enough time (4days) to help my son to do the homework – it is not affecting me. No pressure, just pleasure!!
- We enjoy completing the tasks together. It is nice to know what the learning is during the week.
- I feel homework is set regularly and appropriate for my child's age.
- I think they get nice variety during the terms which cover their topic
- Very good, no issues.
- Right amount of homework given and my child always look forward to do homework and reading.
- Homework is varied.
- It is very important for them because they can practice what they learnt at school.
- Good and age appropriate
- I believe that the homework is appropriate for the children and they get enough time to do it.
- I am happy with my child's progress and education.
- Good for ages although sometimes repetitive.
- I feel that the homework gives my child the chance to share with me what was learnt at school and gives us a chance to boost learning and be creative at home
- I think the homework is appropriate and definitely helps my child.
- Relevant homework comes home with my child
- The Homework club is very good and helpful
- My opinion about the school homework is that is a good learning process for my child, who enjoys doing it. Also the spelling for Y5 pupils is sometimes difficult but my child learns them and always gets them right
- The school homework is good and it helps develop the knowledge of the children .
- The Maths and English homework are very good, it is nice to see what the children have been learning at school.
- At first I thought the homework was too difficult for my child. Probably because English is not our first language but it quickly turned out that my child is doing very well on homework. I have no objections.
- In my opinion my child's homework is very interesting, helpful in her education and very builds imagination.
- Homework is engaging and at the child's level.

### School comments

We are very pleased that there are so many positive comments here and that you feel it is benefitting your child/ren in so many different ways.

Comments made about what may need to be improved with homework	School comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently, there marking needs to be in more detail; with the marking. It is set out well and adopted to each child however I do feel that it should be marked with more comments about progress or not certain subjects – I feel the comments are bit superficial - discipline, behaviour, RE education</li> </ul>	<p>We have reviewed our marking and feedback policy this year and looked at giving feedback that is relevant to the children’s learning and progress. Our policy is to spend more time with verbal feedback and highlighting to show times when the learning target was met. The highlighting is: PINK for THINK, this means that there are errors to be corrected. The other is GREEN for SEEN, meaning that this is evidence of the target met.</p> <p>Also, there are grades for effort and progress within a lesson/piece of learning. These are:</p> <p>EP = Excellent progress    GP = Good progress  SP = Satisfactory progress    UP = Unsatisfactory progress</p> <p>A score will also be given (as in previous marking policy) for effort, 1 being best and 4 being least.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I would like to see a bit more homework given to my children to do over the weekends, maybe something to recap over the weeks work that they have done during school, maybe a project to work on to keep their minds active in learning and developing.</li> </ul>	<p>Please feel free to explore topics you know they are learning about, by visiting the library, carrying out your own mini projects. We are mindful that learning outside of the classroom can involve attending other clubs, having hobbies, etc.</p> <p>We don’t expect the children to be doing a massive extra amount and don’t expect them to feel any pressure. If you wish for your son/daughter to have extra learning, you may purchase revision books for the year group they are in to help them develop confidence.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to our own judgment (particularly my child) school homework is very less specially during the time for weekends. I wish there was more homework to get some extra knowledge.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The SATs homework should start before Christmas so the children in KS1 aren’t under pressure.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Irregular, it does not give the children any regular practice or duty – it is just once a week.</li> <li>I don’t think they should have homework during holidays.</li> <li>More Maths and English based as well as project/ art work.</li> <li>Really good but sometimes too little.</li> <li>I feel the children (most of time) get far too much homework. Majority I feel is aimed at myself as a parent and not the child – leading to extra pressures at home! I am all for family time but could do without the extra pressures.</li> </ul>	<p>We are currently reviewing the homework set across the whole school so that there is a consistent approach. If you feel that there is too much, then please speak to your son/daughter’s class teacher. The homework set will be under the expectation that you do not spend excessive time to complete it. Also, as you have days to complete it, you may choose to complete it in separate sessions to manage it. If you feel that it is aimed at yourself, it may mean that your son/daughter needs help as homework is only set to consolidate what they have learnt at school.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The homework is varied and interesting, however when it comes to Year 6 I thought they might have had a little more to prepare them for a secondary school</li> </ul>	<p>The children in Year 6 spend the first half of the year finishing their Key Stage 2 learning, so preparation for secondary school as a focus takes place in the final half term mainly. This is a big step for them as they are leaving a familiar environment, so we do transition activities with them. We also look at their learning and complete transition activities with them. To support them at home, an ideal homework for them would be to use maps (e.g., Google Maps) to plan their journey and go through with them what they are looking forward to/wooried about. You may also visit sites to complete activities, here are some examples:</p> <p><a href="http://www.manchesterhealthacademy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/activities.pdf">http://www.manchesterhealthacademy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/activities.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/at-school/tips-for-starting-secondary-school">https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/at-school/tips-for-starting-secondary-school</a></p> <p>It is not a necessity to do this and we are not endorsing these materials, but you may find it useful.</p>

What the school does well and what our school could do better

Comments on what our school does well in general	Our comments
I love how friendly and approachable the teachers are, always smiling on the doors to welcome the children in to school. I also like the new extra time in the morning for dropping children off – this has helped a lot.	We are aware as a school at how difficult it can be to arrive without difficulty parking and that we need to consider our local residents who deserve to be treated with respect to their driveways/properties. Opening early has made a little difference and we appreciate that this is making a smoother start/end to the day for everyone, our school family as well as our school neighbours!
Involve parents with discussions/ decisions.	We value your opinions greatly as part of our many stakeholders, so this is good to hear.
School does well in his studies and spiritual activities	We are proud of our faith and that we are learning and growing as a school community.
Good discipline	We are very proud of our children and will continue ot have high expecations of their learning. We value everyone’s opinions and would like all our stakeholders to feel that they have a voice.  Christ is at the centre of our school in everything we say, think and do, so your recognition of this is well received. We will continue to help our school family on everyone’s journey of faith.
All aspects of children learning	
Motivates them, teaches them respect and good discipline, teachers do an excellent job in teaching us we as parents have seen our children come a long way, have become confident with reading and talking.	
Discipline, ready to listen any concerns and amazing staff. The school have done really well for my child. My child came to school with very low pencil grip and now is improving really well.	
The school ensures the pupils behaved well and learn Catholic religion as much as Maths and English.	
Could easily recognize the hard work and effort the teachers put in when we visit the school. Always have time to answer the concerns. Much appreciate the Catholic values you implement.	
My child enjoys gymnastic on Fridays and other days at school.	
Informs me of anything I need to know in terms of behaviour, my child’s learning and important dates. The staff are wonderful!	We pride ourselves on keeping a high profile for PE, using Sports’ Premium funding to provide the best equipment and teaching that we can offer.
The school keep the parents well informed about things happening in school. Everything is fine	We are pleased that communication is valued and that staff are appreciated.

Comments on what our school does well in general continued...	Our comments
Involving parents in the teaching often children	We hold regular parent/carers' evenings and have an open door policy so that that matters can be dealt with swiftly. We pride ourselves on the children being the best that they can be also.
Good Catholic behaviour in all children and teaches them how to behave and be well mannered.	
Teachers teach core subjects and RE well	We strive to achieve our best and allow the children to fulfil their potential in all areas. Attendance and achievement in ALL areas are important, including academic and non-academic. We would like to think that everyone at St Francis Xavier feels part of the school family whilst with us and even after they leave us to go to secondary schools.
I do like family atmosphere at school and the same time the school is very strict.	
Award for the attendance, stars of the week and trips for children	
There is a strong feeling of the community within the school among pupils and families. School is doing well academically. Children are taught respect. Well done for good attendance.	
Everything	
Respect plus the children's manners are great	
Behaviour, morals/ values extension boosting progression, encouraging further learning involving parents	
Anti-Bullying, Educational needs, additional support where needed	
Inclusion' diversity, compassion for children and their learning	
Engaging parents	
I think that the school education and curriculum is excellent. The teachers teach the children very well. They are very caring and committed to the children's safety and education. The teachers are friendly	We have also talked about fundraising to help the school further, so we are reviewing what we may do in the forthcoming year.
Opening the school gates earlier is good and helps with parking and traffic	
Safeguarding, teaching the children, open the door early	
Makes the children feel special on their communion	
Teaching children values.	
Looking after my children and encouraging them to work hard.	
Everything at the moment. My child has made great progress in English and has no problem communicating in English language.	
Cares about the high level of teaching but also promotes a healthy lifestyle.	
SMSC and RE	
Making the child feel they belong, are part of a family, RE and Catholic teaching is very <i>good</i>	
Provides children with good information about the topics they are learning	
Nothing as yet	
Nothing, just continue with the amazing work they are doing	
My opinion is that the school's doing its best. I cannot think of anything, maybe 2 school fairs instead of one.	
It is hard to say because we are very happy at the moment and we can see that our child is making great progress.	
Please carry on what you are doing and please do more.	

Comments on what our school could do better	Our comments
Hygiene factor: must add important issue to do with lack of no hand soap for such a number of weeks in the boy's toilets – too much sickness and lack of hygiene in place!	We regularly follow policy regarding cleanliness and were aware that a dispenser was leaking in the boys' toilets. It has since been repaired.
Hygiene, regular checks/ cleaning and supply of toiletries when it runs out (tissue)	We were not told this by the children though, it was picked up in routine checks. Please assure you children that they are allowed to say if something isn't right or not working in the toilets or anywhere in school. We value our children's voice and would encourage them to be positively proactive if they find an issue.
Concerns about the hygiene in school, effective hand washing as a lot of children have been off sick	
Communication: I feel this area needs major improvement. The newsletters are horrendous all crammed in, can't read some of it sometimes and incorrect information and/ or dates. Also txt messages are late being sent or very last minute and again with wrong information. Can we go back to the old way of reading out the Stars and Writers of the week too. I prefer when the teacher for that year announces the names and reason why. It's just easier to follow as a parent.	I have since sent a letter asking for views about the newsletter and haven't had adverse comments, but take these suggestions on board. The newsletter has been revised and can still be made available on paper should you request it.  If there have been discrepancies with texts, we can only apologise for the technical glitch. The same goes for dates. You will notice that you received the term's dates for Summer, so that we can give you plenty of notice for events.
Communication, SLT not available/ visible during Parents Evening	
Some communication has been late or none at all. This needs to be better e.g. Fair Trade assembly, Athletics week and sometimes inaccurate information	For Stars of the Week, it was changed so that we could accommodate the amount we have to do during that time. This is testament to how wonderful our boys and girls are. Before assembly, they also have Superstar Playtime to celebrate everyone who has done well. If teachers were to read the certificates again, we would either have to forfeit this playtime or end after the bell has rung due to possible delays.
Provide some more information about what is being taught and how parents can further support learning in an informed way at home	Also, the teachers have already taken the time to write the certificates and reasons why they are being commended and having this read by the Head Teacher in front of everyone is intended to show what a real achievement has been made. The certificates are read out in order by year group, names and achievement so to avoid any confusion.
Give small projects to develop their minds and be creative	This may be a helpful comment for homework, which is being reviewed. Though there are other projects such as the Easter Garden and Bonnet task that will take place as an option again.  Please remember that we have School Parish Mass a number of times throughout the year, where we call on children to join us as a school at Mass, sitting with us to take part in the choir, readings and serving. Father Joseph encourages the children to read and discuss the Gospel further, so this may be something that can be fulfilled after Mass at the weekend in addition to projects set by school.
Play area could be refreshed but it's not so bad anyway	We agree, currently, we are exploring ways in which the playgrounds can be improved, having no green areas or very little is limiting to wellbeing, so watch this space!  Also, if you ask your son/daughter, you will find that they staff in school have been using fundraising money to better equip the playground and to create zones for the children to play safely and enjoyably in.
Could you set up a parent pay so I can pay online rather than sending cash each time.	This is going to an option very soon!

Comments on what our school could do better continued	Our comments
School trips	We will look at our curriculum coverage and what is suitable for our children.
Please explain the initials in the work books to parents e.g.: HS, SA etc.	If you speak to your son/daughter's class teacher, they will explain. From September, how we mark will be shared on parent/carers' evening.
It would be nice to see the teachers of the classes making Sacrament in Mass each week.	<p>The staff who lead Sacramental preparation within school attend the entirety of School Parish Masses. It is worth bearing in mind that they also have their own Churches that they belong to, so being at St Francis Xavier each week is not something that we would expect of our staff.</p> <p>As teachers, we are the children's Catechists and we prepare the children fully as part of the RE curriculum and in addition to this, support the children in their parish. As members of the Parish can be Catechists, it may be that you feel as a parent you could offer your services as a Catechist also. I have been working with Father to develop the Sacramental programme and will be looking to work with Father to build even stronger links with the Parish, so that the children realise that being in a Catholic school is part of their place within a Catholic Church. As the children's first teachers, you will be able to lead them well with our continued support.</p>
My opinion is that the school's doing its best. I cannot think of anything, maybe 2 school fairs instead of one.	We are looking at how we can build more fundraising activities within the school year that perhaps other members of the school family participate as the majority is led by staff. We would appreciate your suggestions for support from the wide circle of our school family.
School awards used to be presented (with an explanation) form each years teachers – it would be good for this method to return as it allows parents to hear firsthand in more detail what their child has done well plus is more personal. More fundraising such as school disco's	
More workshops for the children and more after school clubs	We are exploring this area.
Can the newsletter go back to letter format instead of "Block colour format"	We value the opinions of all and this is something that has adapted over time.
Open doors on time in the morning.	The doors are usually opened immediately after the bell is rung at now 8.40am. Please let me know if this is not occurring.
Take them more often to different kind of trips.	This is being explored as mentioned above.