

St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School

Parent's Survey 2014 -15

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete a survey at parent's evening. In total 100 parents responded which represents an excellent number of responses. We really appreciate both your ongoing support, commendations and suggestions for improvement and we will endeavour to make changes wherever possible to ensure that we can continue to work closely in partnership to provide the best possible education and school experience for you and your child(ren).

We had a number of services at Parent's Evening this year to support parents including: Sandwell's Admissions team to support parents with applications for Reception places or Secondary school places; SinglePoint who ran a crèche for parents who needed to bring their children with them to parent's evening.

This feedback will provide you with a summary of what parents said about our school and our response to comments made. *Please note: all feedback is greatly valued and we discuss and consider every suggestion made by parents.*

Safety

- 100% of parents agree that the school takes all reasonable steps to keep children safe.
- 100% of parents agree that the school listens to concerns and acts appropriately.
- 100% of parents feel the school encourages tolerance and respect amongst pupils.
- 100% of parents say the children feel relaxed and safe in school.
- 100% of parents agree their children understand how to use computers and the internet safely in school.
- 100% said the school takes all reasonable steps to prevent bullying and harassment.
- 100% agreed their children feel safe at school.
- 100% said their children know how to get help from adults when needed.
- 99% said school staff are easy to contact for help when needed.
- 100% agreed the school is fair when handling issues and takes both sides into consideration

School's Response:

Thank you for your extremely positive feedback – we see the safeguarding of all of our children as vitally important will continue to put the safety of our children as our highest priority. We continually look for ways to educate and inform parents and children on how to stay safe in all aspects of life. For instance, projects in the New Year have been organised for all year groups to raise awareness of safety online, parents will also be invited to watch the work the children produce.

As a school we work hard to deal with any incidents that are brought to our attention both quickly and fairly. If you do have any concerns that an incident involving your child has not been dealt with, please come and discuss it with us. Further, if you ever have any concerns linked to your child's safety please ALWAYS let us know, even if it seems minor, so that we can help to sort any concerns or worries that you have.

Behaviour

- 100% of parents agree the school encourages a high standard of behaviour.
- 100% agree that children from different backgrounds get on well together.
- 100% said that they agree behaviour is generally good at the school.
- 100% feel the children treat the school and its facilities with care and respect.
- 100% agree that children are treated fairly at the school.
- 100% felt that children at the school are usually polite and helpful.

School's response:

Staff at St Francis Xavier have high expectations for behaviour, manners and respect at all times. Children are encouraged, supported and listened to and treated with respect and dignity. Our belief in forgiveness and fair chances is firmly rooted in our Catholic ethos and we put support in place to help pupils to develop in this area. Our behaviour policy (available on our school website) outlines how we deal with behaviour incidents. Please be assured that we always investigate incidents in school and treat all children fairly and equally. We also involve parents and greatly appreciate your continued cooperation with our behaviour codes and your support.

Again, if you have any concerns that an incident involving your child has not been dealt with fairly, please come and discuss it with us.

Healthy Lifestyles

- 99% of parents agree the school encourages the children to eat healthily.
- 99% agree that the school provides a variety of after school clubs for children in Year 1 to Year 6.
- 100% of parents said they feel children understand how to lead healthy lifestyles.
- 99% of parents agreed that the school encourages children to exercise regularly.

School's Response:

It is fantastic to see that parents recognise how hard we work to promote healthy lifestyles amongst our children. We have invested in employing sports coaches to work alongside our teachers to deliver fitness and sports skills sessions to all of our pupils during curriculum time and also offer free afterschool clubs every term.

Parents can access further provision through our community hub – SinglePoint. We pay £4000 every year to access SinglePoint services, so please use them. They provide free and subsidised courses, holiday and childcare provision and trips.

If you have not already been please go and register your family. You will be able to access everything from adult back to work courses to Zumba. Ask if you want something provided and they will do their best to provide it.

Can we take this opportunity to remind parents that if you wish to send in a snack for your child, healthy snacks should be brought into school, not chocolate bars or bags of crisps.

School and the wider community

- 99% of parents felt that school works well with the local community.
- 100% agreed that school encourages children to help others through being charitable.
- 100% agreed the school helps children to know how to care for the environment.
- 100% said that the school provides opportunities for children to work with people from outside the school.

School's Response:

As a school we work in close partnership with a number of organisations, businesses, communities, local schools and our parish. We also have international links with schools in India and Poland. Throughout the year, children will be participating in projects alongside our Polish link school. These will cover a range of activities and over time you will be able to see all the work produced on the internet.

We celebrate diversity in our school and believe it is our multiculturalism that makes St Francis Xavier such a special place. We celebrate multicultural history month in October (as well as in topics throughout the year); celebrate a multi-faith week every year including visits to places of worship and visitors into school; we support charities around the world and find out about other cultures in curriculum topics such as 'Africa' and 'India.' We also celebrated a 'world food day' last year in which local communities came in to school and shared food from their cultures with the children and their families.

We are always looking for ways to further develop what we already do, so please let us know if there are any links that you would like to see us enhance or can support us in establishing.

Workplace skills and economic well being

- 100% of parents felt that the school encourages good attendance.
- 100% agreed the school encourages good time keeping.
- 100% agreed the school provides a range of trips and residential.

School's Response:

We rely on parents to ensure children are at school in time in the mornings and that they are collected promptly at the end of the day. Being even 5 minutes every day results in your child

missing 25 minutes of key learning in Phonics, Maths or Literacy which could result in them falling behind or not reaching their full potential. We thank parents for their continued support in getting their children to school on time.

Thank you for feedback concerning the opening of the school at the start and end of the day by school staff. We are in full agreement that, particularly in bad weather, the school doors should be opened promptly so that parents are not waiting outside in the cold or rain. This message has been relayed to all staff and we will ensure that this happens across the school from now on.

Reminder: The school bell rings at 8.55am for the main school and 8.50am for Reception. Please ensure that your child is at school on time.

Care, guidance and support

- 100% of parents agree that the school provides good or better care for the children.
- 100% agree that teachers tell parents how well their children are achieving.
- 100% agree the school is a pleasant place for the children to work.
- 100% agree that the school helps new children to settle in quickly.
- 100% of parents told us that they agree teachers work with parents to support the children.
- 100% of parents agree that end of year reports identify children's strengths and areas for improvement.

School's Response:

It is important to us that we are caring and supportive to every family that we serve. There have been some deeply moving and difficult situations faced by many of our families over the past year and we appreciate the feedback that our staff have been supportive, especially following bereavements.

If there is ever anything that you feel that we can support your family with, please come and talk to us to see if we are able to provide any support. If we cannot access services we can help in referring you to SinglePoint where further support can be provided.

We provide feedback to parents every term on their child's achievements and progress through parent's evening. If we have any concerns we arrange further meetings to discuss these with you. We also provide a written end of year report for all children outlining their strengths and ways to develop in the next year. If you ever have any questions about how your child is progressing, you are able to make an appointment to speak with their teacher by contacting the school office.

Working with parents

- 100% of parents felt that teachers help parents when they are asked for support or advice.
- 100% said that school communicates well with parents.
- 100% agreed that school gives advice on how parents can help their children at home.

- 99% said that the timings of parent's evenings are generally suitable.

School's response:

We work hard to communicate well with parents and give as much notice as we can for events and closures. Dates for the term are published on our school website in the 'Diary' section and we send out letters and texts to parents to provide information about events (if you are not receiving text messages from school, please contact the office to confirm that you have provided us with the correct mobile phone number for you.)

Family support / Provision you would like to see us develop at the school

- Breakfast Club in the Mornings
- Swimming Lessons in a range of classes
- Wider range of After School Clubs
- More parent workshops
- Parent and Child Bible Study
- Homework Club

School's response:

A few comments relate to afterschool provision. We provide free clubs to all pupils afterschool every term. As a school we are extremely fortunate to have dedicated members of staff which enable us to offer free after school clubs to the children. We try to offer clubs that are popular with the children and that the children have said they would like to be continued. However, if there are any clubs that you would like to see offered please let us know and we will see what we can do (space, resources and expertise might limit this). The Homework club is a nice idea which we will try to include in the next round of clubs.

Breakfast Club and Swimming Club

In regards to workshops, we provide parents with the opportunity to participate in child / parent lessons throughout the year. Workshops to update parents as to the new curriculum and the methods of teaching of the school will also occur throughout the year. Workshops for Phonics has proven very successful and a Maths workshop will take place in the New Year designed to meet the needs of all year groups. If there are any workshops which you would like to see being held at the school please let us know of your suggestions.

Our Catholic faith and ethos of the school is extremely important to everyone within the school. Although Bible sessions are not specifically run during break times at the moment we do offer opportunities of reflection and prayer in a variety of settings. The children participate in prayer service once a week and during celebrations and during different occasions of the Churches year we also run a Rosary Group during lunch times.

Other feedback - commendations

- The school promotes excellent behaviour. Discipline is apparent more and more. Praise where due is given.
- Teaching curriculum has really improved
- The school encourages development
- Encourages good behaviour and offers 'play days' for parents to support
- Teaching, presentation and the facilities are excellent
- Encourages children to do well and work hard to achieve their best.
- Provides and promotes an environment where children feel comfortable. Provides excellent education and a family environment.
- The school communicates well with children
- Excellent family support
- Very high standards of learning in reception and nursery.
- Excellent communication with parents about what's happening in school
- Good support given to children.
- Children feel safe in school
- Good morals, encouraging respect and tolerance
- The school does well with special events, religious occasions and pupil safety
- Communication is excellent. I feel the school encourages the children to achieve more all the time.
- Children feel valued and are encouraged to do their best. The school is constantly improving and building on its success.
- Lovely atmosphere, feels safe. Good communication with parents.
- Kind caring, encouraging, supportive, respectful, considerate and professional. We value the catholic ethos which the school promotes well.
- The school takes prompt action in reference to concerns and complaints
- The school always puts the children first, they understand them well and work well with parents

School's response:

It is important for us that school is a positive experience for parents and their children and that everyone feels a part of the school and parish community here at St Francis Xavier. Thank you for your overwhelming positive feedback and please rest assured that we will continue to work hard to be the best school that we can possibly be.

Other feedback – suggestions (with our responses)

We cannot feedback on every comment made by parents as this would not be practical. However, we have taken comments that more than one parent has made and grouped them together below along with our response as a school. Please let us know if there is anything that you feel we have not covered.

Larger involvement with Charity Work

School's response:

As a school we continually stress the importance of Charity and giving to others. Throughout the year we are involved in a range of fundraisers such as CAFOD, ...

The generosity of the parents within this school is truly incredible and provide aid to some many. We will always look to support as many as possible.

Newsletters and prior notice of events and School Trips

School's response:

We have received some fantastic feedback from parents on the good communication within the school. We are always striving to improve and appreciate any suggestions on how we can achieve this. We will always work hard to provide parents with as much notice as possible on any events which may be taking place within school. We have recently started a new monthly newsletter to keep everyone informed on events within school. If you do not receive these please ask at the main office or log onto the school website where we keep current and past newsletters.

Entrance / Exit of KS2

School's response:

Boosting even further Children with talents

School's response:

As a school we endeavor to challenge and push all of our children to enable them to reach their God given potential. We try to achieve this through everyday lessons and activities but also by participating in out of school academic and sport competitions and providing a high range of facilities within school in which children can learn and experiment with new skills.

Finally, thank you so much for your overwhelmingly positive and ongoing support for our school. It is your feedback and comments that help us to improve and we listen to and discuss all of your suggestions and act upon them whenever possible.

If you have any concerns or suggestions throughout the year we would be happy to hear them. As always please feel free to contact us at school.

Yours faithfully,

D Simmons
Deputy Head Teacher

A Dickinson
Head Teacher