

### **Parents' RE survey 2015**

99 parents completed our survey - this is a fantastic response. Thank you for your input and feedback. We really appreciate both your commendations and your suggestions for improvement and we will endeavour to ensure your children continue to be taught in the full Catholic ethos of our school and Church.

#### **RE and Catholic Life of the School:**

- 100% of parents agree that the mission statement is shared with all the community.
- 100% of parents agree that the mission statement is clearly rooted in the teachings of Christ and the Church.
- 100% of parents agree the Head Teacher and other staff are witnesses to their faith and to the catholic values.
- 100% of parents agree that the Catholic ethos of the school is very obvious in all of the school's work, e.g. assemblies, Masses, fundraising, displays, letters home.
- 100% of parents agree that there is high quality provision for Catholic collective worship, e.g. assemblies, prayer services, personal prayers in class.
- 100% of parents agree that liturgy and prayer are an integral part of the school's life.
- 100% of parents agree that the school does everything it can to encourage Mass attendance.
- 100% of parents agree that the school teaches children to follow Jesus' example ('Gospel Values').
- 100% of parents agree that there are many opportunities for multicultural and multi-faith education such as international links, annual multicultural and multi faith weeks, lessons about other countries, cultures and religions.
- 100% of parents agree the school promotes British Values, e.g. knowing right from wrong, behaving responsibly, importance of democracy, respect and understanding for others (faith, other cultures etc.).
- 100% of parents agree that all pupils irrespective of age, ethnicity, ability, gender, faith background are encouraged to fulfil their potential (vocation).
- 100% of parents agree the school tries hard to be an excellent Catholic school.
- 100% of parents agree there are many opportunities for Catholic children and parents to be involved in the Catholic life of the school, e.g. by attending Masses, assemblies, Carol services, Holy Week and Easter services, supporting charities, praying and helping others.

School's response:

A massive thank you to all those who took the time to complete a form for the school - we are overwhelmed by the positive feedback we have received. As a Catholic school we will always endeavour to keep Christ in the centre of everything we do. We understand the importance of work and support in school and across the community and greatly appreciate all the help and involvement we receive throughout the year.

**What do you feel we do well in as a Catholic School?**

Here is a summary of responses from parents.

- Good teaching, discipline and equality.
- The faith is at the core of everything - which is excellent. Lots of Masses etc. prayers in class. Thoughtful discussion to aid pupils to put faith into practise.
- Supporting the children in both religious and non-religious areas.
- Encouraging them to engage in all activities.
- Including everyone in all aspects of the Catholic Faith.
- My children having a very good understanding, I enjoy them telling me about what they have learnt.
- The school are very supportive and I feel they promote a friendly environment, the children are their number one priority. This is an excellent school.
- I think that every assembly, mass, celebrations, solemnity are all taught and performed to a very high standard
- The behaviour of the children is exemplary, not only on these occasions but at other times too.
- Thank you for all that you do for our children and the good examples you set.
- I feel the level of support and the understanding of my child's needs are great.
- Teach well and advise parents of encouragement and struggles
- Support children as individuals in their learning.
- The school has an underlying message in everything it does. A good example.

- School does well in spreading the Word.
- Integrates all faiths and respects other faiths.
- Keeps parents well informed of child's progress
- School does well in teaching the Faith. Good discipline. Helps pupils that need extra help.
- Outstanding school, great friendly atmosphere. Holy Communion and preparation books. Reconciliation mass was beautiful.
- Promoting the Catholic Life of the school.
- We always feel welcome and supported in this school, it is great.
- School does well in teaching a clear understanding of all the catholic events.
- I think the school makes the Gospel and Church teaching the centre of school life. This is immediately clear when you visit the school.
- The school is very supportive in difficult times.
- I like the fact there are prayers and mass services at school. I think it is very important for children to be told about our faith.
- St Francis teaches great morals, respect, manners and show the children a great understanding of their faith.
- I love how the children go to mass on Thursdays and how the school invites parents to prayer services and assemblies.
- The teachers are good examples / role models. The head teacher is approachable and willing to help.
- Promoting Christian values in the children's everyday lives.
- Love how each child has a day when they lead prayers, also like the introduction of parent prayer services.
- Promoting British values, sending leaflets home with Sunday Gospel and worksheets.
- Prompting the Faith.
- School does well in teaching the children right from wrong, also in teaching them about the values of Jesus and God.
- Encourages hard working, the school works to the children's abilities.
- We feel that the children are being moulded as a good Catholic child because when we discuss the Gospels they participate to our questions and answers.

- I feel Jesus is the most important part of everything the school does. Prayers, masses, assemblies, even homework. Children are calm and friendly to the others. They respect others as well.
- School does well in keeping the faith - instilling good Christian values in the kids.
- Teaching pupils about Jesus / words of God
- Promote family values and encourage children to be well mannered and well behaved.
- I think that all aspects are dealt with very well: discipline, education, play and teaching of Catholicism.
- Keep parents well informed and they keep children interested in learning at the school.
- I believe the school does more than most to promote Catholic values and ethos. Excellent.
- Teaching the children about Christ
- Making children understand the importance of God, prayer and religious belief. Children also like to lead a disciplined life.
- Children do well to regularly attend Church, attendance for classes, Easter assemblies and the teaching of R.E.
- I think the school is doing well with children's value formation, instilling Catholic teachings. I'm quite happy with the school as a big part of moulding our children.
- Children are all encouraged to participate in school masses - good communication with parents. The school promotes good behaviour.
- Brining the community together!
- The school stays close to the Catholic Faith and teachings while being inclusive to other faiths.
- Involving parents and the community in the school.
- As a Catholic school you are doing an excellent role in showing children all aspects of the catholic faith. It's really important that they will know from so early about the Church, about Jesus and about living in the Catholic faith.
- Catholic values, respect and understanding for others.
- St Francis is a great school, I feel all the children are well mannered and have a great understanding of the catholic faith.

- Teaches the children values of life. Provide a good education and learning environment for the children. Children get involved in other school activities.
- I am very happy with the way the school teaches the children British Values like respect, right and wrong.

School's response:

Thank you for these comments. We see the understanding of different cultures and religions as a vital part of every child's education as a global citizen living in a multicultural and diverse school and society. We plan multi-faith week so that all classes have visits to places of worship and have visitors into school (where possible). Parents were invited to come into school to share their own faith with the children - please keep this in mind for future celebrations.

You have made some good suggestions for future improvement - some of the things that you have suggested we already do (for example studying religions not represented in our school population and try foods of other faiths.) We will take all of your feedback on board to ensure that multi-faith week is even more successful next time. Thank you.

**What could we do better?**

Here is a summary of responses from parents:

- The sacrament of Confirmation needs more communication. Working parents can't attend meetings immediately after school. A letter informing us of everything should be sent in the post.

- Support children of other faiths to further understand catholic practises in ordinary lives.

School's response:

We are aware as parents that not all meetings can be attended due to other commitments, we do however endeavour to ensure correspondents are given to all parents to explain the different events we put on. If you are unsure or haven't received any correspondents please don't hesitate to ask any member of staff.

At St Francis Xavier we pride ourselves on our integration and involvement in teachings of all Faiths to all children - we also ensure that all children are involved in all aspects of special events within the schools life. If there are any other ideas or suggestions please let the school know.

**Feedback on workshops attended:**

**Other feedback:**

- More sports, extra homework for students.
- Let parents help out i.e. volunteer if they have the standard police checks and training.
- Open the gates earlier as it is dangerous to keep the kids waiting on the pavement
- Communicating opportunities for parents to be involved.
- Sometimes it is easier to receive text communications instead of letters - occasionally we do not receive letters home.
- Improve feedback mechanism and better follow through of issues raised.
- More notice with events.
- Parents invited to attend assemblies when their child gets a 'star of the week' certificate.
- What has happened to the Irish dancing?
- A bike rack to enable children to ride to school.
- More physical activity clubs after school.

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School  
'Jesus holds us in the palm of his hand'

- A breakfast club.

Finally, thank you so much for your extremely positive support of our school. We couldn't continue to be such a good school without your help and support and we value all of your feedback and comments. We will discuss and consider all of your suggestions and act upon them where possible. If you have any concerns or suggestions in the meantime we would be delighted to help. Please do not hesitate to contact us at school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Simmons  
Deputy Head Teacher

Mr A Dickinson  
Head Teacher