

27th June 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

Parent and Pupil Survey, 2014 - Results

Thank you to all those parents who completed and returned the annual survey questionnaire. It is very important to the School's governors and senior leaders to receive regular feedback from you on key issues and the Annual Parents' Survey is one of the ways in which we seek to do this. As your children may have told you, we also conduct a similar exercise with all pupils on an annual basis. The children will receive feedback on their survey findings from staff in school. The purpose of this letter is to give you the headline results of both surveys.

From the parents' survey we were pleased to see that on all issues that we asked about a majority parents gave positive responses. Also in most cases the proportion of parents giving a positive response was at least comparable with last year and, in some cases, there was an improvement. In particular you may be interested in the following findings:

- 100% of parents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: "My child is well cared for at school."
- 98% of parents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: "School is helping my child become a good citizen."
- 98% of parents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: "School provides well for my child's spiritual and moral development."
- 98% of parents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: "All children are valued and treated equally irrespective of race, religion, culture, gender, ability and disability."
- 98% of parents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: "I know who to talk to if I have a question or problem."
- 98% of parents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: "I think this is a good school."
- 97% of parents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: "The school is well led and managed."
- 92% of parents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: "My child likes school."

"My child really enjoys the social aspect of school and he seems to have really good friendships. He finds the topics really interesting and is always keen to tell me about what he has been learning."

However there were also some issues where, although they received a positive rating by parents, we feel we could do better. These concern the related areas of the interface between school and home – information on your children's progress and how you can help them at home – and homework.

Homework is an especially difficult area as some parents are of the view that primary school children should get little or no formal homework while others would like a much more structured approach. Furthermore research evidence on the value of homework is contested. Nevertheless the governors have asked the school's Senior Leadership Team to review our approach to homework and the ways in which parents receive information on their children's progress especially in light of the new primary curriculum which will begin to be introduced from September this year.



SHIRE OAK
C of E (VC) Primary School

The second area where we feel a review might be timely is the provision of after-school clubs and activities. We will be looking at the range of provision with a view to ensuring that, throughout the year, a good range of different kinds of

“We really like Shire Oak. We feel it combines a continually improving educational standard with a nurturing and creative atmosphere. We trust the leadership and like the staff.”

activities is on offer – sports, music, arts and crafts – to children in different age groups and at reasonable cost.

The Pupils Survey results were also generally very positive.

Especially pleasing is the fact that more than three quarters of all children said that they like coming to school. Pupils in Reception and Key Stage 1 are positive especially positive about their learning and teachers’ input and more children than last year say they feel safe both inside school and in the playground.

Key Stage 2 children were asked about a broader range of issues than the younger children and we were especially pleased to note the following:

- 85% of KS2 children agreed with the statement: “My teachers help me to learn new things.”
- 80% of KS2 children agreed with the statement: “I know who to talk to if I have a question or problem.”
- 78% of KS2 children agreed with the statement: “My teachers encourage me to work hard and do my best.”

Results for perceptions of safety in the playground and the way in which adults deal with children’s behaviour in school have all improved since last year. When asked about the best thing in school over the past year trips and residential continued to score highly and it’s interesting to note the number of children who mention maths in this context.

Overall the governors have been very pleased with the work and commitment shown by school staff throughout the year, especially in relation to improving behaviour and standards in maths, while not forgetting the values that makes Shire Oak such a happy and stimulating school. The next year will continue to present us with challenges, not least implementation of the new primary curriculum, but the governors are confident that the staff at Shire Oak will face this new challenges with their characteristic hard work, commitment and enthusiasm.

Thank you to parents for your continued support.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Janie Percy-Smith
Chair, Governing Body

Some pupils’ comments about the best things in school this year

“I think Shire Oak is a great school because we get to do fun activities.”

“Residential – they are so fun and adventurous. Plus they are very educational and we learn new skills.”

“The teachers and the encouragement from the teachers. The way teachers help us to do better in our learning.”

“I’m happy at this school.”

“Learning my times tables and my maths.”

“The kindness of the teachers and my friends.”

“I think everything here is all right here for me.”

“My best thing over the past year is the first time we went swimming.”