

5th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to those who contributed to the mid-year survey at the start of the month. Over the last half term, many parents filled in the parent survey. Our school leadership team has found the feedback helpful. We had 119 responses, which was more than last year, but still below 50% of our families. We have attempted to provide you with the results, alongside comments.

How well has your child been taught at this school over time?

Rating/Score: 4.71 out of 5

Senior leaders undertake Teaching & Learning Reviews every term to support maintaining and improving standards in teaching and learning. All teachers receive feedback, and we identify support for all. We will continue to engage with colleagues in the Cabot Learning Federation (CLF) and beyond to review the quality of education through reviews and audits.

How well have your children been taught this academic year?

Rating/Score: 4.71 out of 5

See comments above.

Do you believe your child is safe at school?

94% Agree or Strongly Agree

The Safeguarding Team is:

Mrs Saunter – Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr Jones & Mr Ellis – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

Weekly meetings review the safeguarding concerns raised across the school, including parent voice collected in person, by email or by telephone. The school completes a monitored Annual Local Authority Safeguarding Audit and a CLF audit. Both of these ensure standards are upheld, which includes training needs.

Do you believe there are a good range of subjects available to my child at this school?

97% Agree or Strongly Agree

It is good to hear that you feel that. We believe that too.

Our website page on the curriculum displays the range of curriculum subjects we teach. We really value the importance of all subjects across the curriculum and feel we give sufficient time to a wide curriculum, including the arts, sports, further personal development opportunities in PSHE (personal, social and health education) and Forest School.

Do we help you to be aware of what your child has been learning during each academic year?

92% Agree or Strongly Agree

This is an improvement following your suggestions and feedback from last year.

We update our webpages for each year group with social media @Twitter/X updates. We share newsletters fortnightly, and email at the start of each term. We offer parents a chance to come in for the 'showcases' for each year group in the school, as well as hold parents' evenings. Pre-school and Reception families can view the Tapestry portal. There is perhaps still room for improvement, given the feedback.

Our school and the CLF trust have been exploring alternatives to Twitter/X and how this might help to share learning with families. Another suggestion is to hold a few more 'open after school' dates/events, so parents can come in and look at books/learning.

Do you feel your child receives appropriate homework for their age?

95% Agree or Strongly Agree

We share a homework grid at the start of each term. This is optional and 'just for fun'. It does not have to be completed by 'just children' and can be a family experience. The children can bring this in, and we have a display space in each class to celebrate and display their work. We do need parents to support with daily reading, and for our oldest children in Year 5 and 6, there are short daily activities.

→ We would like more parents to take advantage of the Times Table Rockstars and Numbots maths accounts that every child has. Year 4's regular timetable practise has resulted in huge progress and increased confidence for them.

My child makes good progress at this school?

97% Agree or Strongly Agree

This is reflected in the data we collect on children in Reading, Writing and Maths. It is also reflected in the discussions leaders have with children when reviewing their subjects, e.g. Mr Batchelor meeting and talking with children about Science as the school science lead. Parents can always ask to see their child's learning. Please note staff have planned staff meetings on Wednesdays 3:30 pm – 5:00pm.

If you have raised concerns with the school, has it been dealt with properly?

93% Agree or Strongly Agree

This is an improvement - which is perhaps reflective of the proactive reporting to parents that all teachers and LPs are doing, alongside ongoing training and support for staff in the use of CPOMS (Child Protection Online Management System) and responding to safeguarding meetings. It does appear that some of the negative responses are historic cases.

How well has the school managed and been led this year?

4.41 out of 5

This is positive. As we have grown and become more established, we have distributed more responsibilities across the team. We have a Senior Leadership Team: Mr Jones, Mr Ellis, Mrs Lovely, Miss Hall and Ms Shapiro. We have an Extended Leadership Team, which includes Team leaders: Miss Billitteri (Early Years – Pre-school and Reception), Miss Phillips (Year 1 & 2), Mr Sharp (Year 3 & 4) and Mr Batchelor (Year 5 & 6). All teachers have aspects of the school they lead, e.g. Miss Johnson leads PHSE.

Would you recommend this school to another parent?

95% of parents Agree or Strongly Agree that they would recommend this school.

This is great to hear. Despite all of the constructive feedback and some areas where parents view the school less strong, there is an overwhelming feeling to recommend our school. Within this survey, six anonymous parents would not recommend the school and we would urge those parents to contact the school to discuss their concerns so we can improve on our work and/or address their concerns.

What are you most pleased about at HVA?

There were so many positive comments in the feedback within this response. Here are a few that seemed representative:

- *Honestly, it's hard to pick a top reason for being pleased with HVA. We're not even pleased, we're beyond thrilled!*
- *The school offers a range of different opportunities to learn and is great in supporting all the pupils in reaching their potential. The school always uses reflective practice for an ongoing improvement.*
- *The friendliness of the teachers, the variety of subjects they learn about. Children always seem happy and to have fun.*
- *The activities, the visitors that come to educate the children in different topics and the fun that goes into making school a nice place to learn.*

Higher priority areas to develop

There are two questions that we received less than 90% for and we are sharing a joint response on this:

This school makes sure its pupils are well-behaved.

86% Agree or Strongly Agree

We do have pupils in school who need support with improving behaviour. In the comments within the survey, most parents recognise that this is a minority of children. Here is one stand-out comment we can all be proud of:

"HVA students clearly demonstrate the positive attitudes towards behaviour at the school, I've met some really polite students both inside and outside the school. Yes, there will be students who make poorer choices than others, but already within 6 months of being associated with the school I can see the 'choice and consequence' response to these students and the support that they receive from school. I also believe HVA works well with parents to resolve issues."

However, we recognise that in the feedback on this question, there is a significant proportion of parents who perceive that we do not 'make sure' pupils behave well.

What have we got in place?

- Behaviour Policy.
- Assemblies that revisit school values.
- An approach to teaching that prioritises readiness to learn. More information can be found on <https://haywoodvillageacademy.clf.uk/curriculum/> within the vision documents 'Part 6 and Part 7.'
- Present and visible leadership.
- PHSE lessons reinforcing positive behaviour.
- Use of CPOMS (recording system to note reports of inappropriate behaviour within safeguarding).

What are going to do next?

→ Assemblies to remind all children of 'Zones of regulation', neurodiversity, our Behaviour Policy reasons for behaviour.

→ Ensure messages around learning to behave and consequences that have taken place are known to children and parents when incidents have taken place.

→ Develop a pupil-friendly Behaviour Policy and share and discuss this in Team Talk assemblies.

→ Signpost parents to research that supports approaches in why we implement the approach we do, which is reflective in many good and outstanding schools nationwide.

Haywood Village Academy deals effectively with bullying.

83% Agree or Strongly Agree

Our internal pupil survey in January does not reflect this response in the parent survey and a further pupil voice work focusing on bullying did not reflect concern as much as this.

What are we going to do next?

We are holding an Anti-bullying week as part of the assembly programme in Term 5. Nationally, this usually happens in November, but we chose to do this at a different time. Within the week, we will look to support pupil skills in tackling bullying. We will also work on clarification on the term 'bullying' and what this means, both for victims and perpetrators.

Further specific feedback

Is there any constructive feedback you would like to share with the Senior Leadership Team, including the Principal?

The answers in this section covered a range of areas of school life. We have taken on board the challenges/recommendations and passed on the praise. There are a few comments we would like to respond to as they may have been mentioned more than once:

Can we open the school early when it rains?

The gates open at 8:40am for all and classrooms open at 8:45am. We need to ensure staff are present in those rooms and so we will keep to those times. We encourage families to dress and equip themselves for the weather. However, we understand that you can get caught in a sudden downpour. If this is the case, and we know a heavy downpour is rare, we will look to open the gates earlier and classrooms for 8:40am. Supervised children and families can take advantage of the bike shelters and the roof by the Forest School area.

Can I be more involved in my child's learning?

We believe we do offer a lot of opportunity for parents to 'get involved' and see the learning:

- Class showcases per year
- Online Twitter/X – Website updates
- Newsletter
- Termly email per year group
- X2 Parents evenings
- Annual school report
- Invitation to support school trips
- EYFS Tapestry
- Welcome parents to participate in learning e.g. careers week

However, we are going to reflect further and two ideas we will act on are:

- To review the calendar to put in a few more 'collect and drop-in' dates for parents to have a look at their child's learning outcomes in books.
- We are also going to review if we can do some more 'live lessons' in different year groups – these have been really successful in Reception and Year 1.

This school needs to teach a foreign language.

We do. We teach French and this happens three times a year, for a week. We use a programme to support pronunciation and French week has been happening at HVA for the past 3 years. We have also introduced 'language of the term' that is used within greetings and learning. We have currently explored Cantonese and Polish. If you have more questions about this, you can arrange to speak with Mrs Giles, who is our Modern Foreign Linguist leader.

On a final note...

We have really appreciated the supportive comments that personally named staff and others that were more general.

"I feel like everyone is approachable, friendly and overall genuinely nice people."

"Thank you for everything your team of teachers is doing."

"Educationally I am always impressed with the school, I cannot fault anything."

"I feel like the staff have high expectations of the students which I like."

Whenever you would like to share positive feedback, our teachers really value this. Teaching continues to be a profession that sadly in recent years has struggled to retain staff. We believe our teaching team work incredibly hard and have the best interests of all our children at heart. We may not always get it right, and if we do not, we welcome a kind approach to supporting improvement or resolving matters.

We thank you for your feedback and whilst we will continue to undertake parent surveys online, your feedback in person to the teaching team, administration staff or Senior Leadership team throughout the year is very helpful.

Yours faithfully

Craig Jones
Principal