

Parent Questionnaire

31st March 2023

Dear Parents

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 it interesting to read.

- We had 105 responses – much less than in previous years.
- How well have we taught your child? Rating 4.6 (out of 5).
- Do you know about your child's education and progress? 95% agreed or strongly agreed.
- Do you believe your child is safe at school? 97% agreed or strongly agreed.
- Is the school well led and managed this year? Rating 4.3 (out of 5).
- If you have raised concerns with the school, has it been dealt with properly? 90% agreed, strongly agreed or have not had concerns.
- 93% of families would recommend this school to another parent.

There has been some very constructive feedback and praise for the work staff do. There were also constructive points made. With each question, I will share some 'typical comments' and a response.

What are you most pleased about?

There were comments from every responder, with the following comments reflecting the general themes of positivity:

"How X's additional needs have been supported."

"Teachers are lovely and have the children's best interest at heart."

"The friendliness of staff and how they treat the children."

"Friendly, helpful, wonderful staff who show a lot of passion for the school and teaching."

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

51 responders strongly agreed with this statement and 51 agreed.

Whilst this reflects largely what we also feel, we do acknowledge that the opportunities to learn Computer Science and Music could be enhanced further. An example of how we are looking to extend the opportunities in school include buying in the support of North Somerset Music Service to teach weekly whole-class instrument lessons next term: ukeleles to Year 5 and clarinets to Year 4. These 45 minute lessons will be weekly and run for 10 weeks at no extra cost to families.

Do you know about your child's education and progress?

95% agreed or strongly agreed.

This is pleasing feedback. We took on board previous year's comments in this area. This year we have been sharing week 1 termly emails to parents to share the upcoming learning themes for each year group. We have increased the frequency of newsletters (fortnightly) and featured 'In the learning'. On the curriculum web pages our use of twitter in every class features a minimum of 2 tweets a week to show 'what is happening in the learning'. We have also run class assemblies and more showcases and exhibitions this year than in previous years when these opportunities were limited due to COVID. Maybe there is more we can do - please let us know via info@hva.clf.uk.

Do you believe your child is safe at school?

97% agreed or strongly agreed.

We always welcome constructive feedback in this area. Over time, we feel children have benefitted when parents have raised concerns, no matter how small. More recently we have reflected on an increase in playground collisions between reception children and have since organised a 'marked off area' that will help to protect them.

For your information, Ms Shapiro (Operations Manager) and I meet weekly on a Friday to review Health and Safety across the school. This weekly Risk Assessment Review is a legacy from the COVID period and has proved effective. In addition, there is a weekly safeguarding briefing between Mr Ellis, Mrs Saunter and myself. We are the safeguarding officers for the school and we monitor, review and communicate to all staff on safeguarding matters we have been alerted to through our online system that all staff have access to and report on.

Is the school well led and managed this year?

Rating 4.3 (out of 5). Next time, we will offer a chance for feedback. We want to know why this is not a 5 rating.

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

90% agreed, strongly agreed or have not had concerns.

"If we had an issue the school has always looked into it and helped us about the children."

"X teacher deals with concerns promptly, and I am always happy with the outcome."

"We raised an issue with homophobic language which we felt was dealt with efficiently and appropriately."

"(Both of my children's teachers) are both very approachable and when concerns have been raised I have felt these have been dealt with accordingly."

There was praise for how many of our teachers respond to concerns. However, a minority of parents shared dissatisfaction and left no further comments. There were a couple of comments which highlighted frustration with the speed at the response parents received and dissatisfaction with an outcome of a concern. We have looked into those comments, reflected and shared with staff where possible.

Would you recommend this school to another parent?

93% of families would recommend this school to another parent.

We had 7 parents that either disagreed or strongly disagreed. It was not clear why these parents noted this as there was limited 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:

Gate times: "Maybe to open gates earlier in the mornings, having to go straight to work after the morning drop off, it means I'm mostly late as it's not always open by 8.40am and then the reception classroom door isn't opened for another few minutes." Our school cannot open earlier than it already does. We have to support teachers' pay and conditions, and as such there are set hours for contact time with children. Our gates open at 8:40 am. We expect EYFS & Year 1 children to be walked to classrooms. Classrooms open at 8:45am. Children in Year 4 – Year 6 can begin to arrive at school without their parents if a letter has been sent to the Principal and acknowledged. Gates close at 8:55 am.

Ofsted: There were two parents who believed we recently had a visit from Ofsted and that we should have informed parents. We believe their children told them we had a visit from inspectors and may have assumed that when we had colleagues who visited from other schools, they were

Ofsted inspectors. We did not have a visit from Ofsted and, if we did, we certainly would inform all families. Throughout the year we do invite colleagues to visit the school to support senior leaders in reviewing the effectiveness of the provision. This often involves talking to children and sometimes parents.

Clubs: "A wider variety of after school and lunch time sports and activities, such as an art club, drama, gardening club, netball, cricket, dance". We do offer a range of clubs over the course of the academic year. We know that our current offer of clubs are over-subscribed and we are continually looking to extend the offer. A new Term 5 and 6 offer will be shared at the start of Term 5.

Lunches: Not only have some parents shared dissatisfaction regarding recent school lunches, but recently both our staff (on behalf of children) and the children have shared their views. We held a Team Talk assembly and all pupils had the opportunity to give feedback. Last week Mrs Brice (Assistant Principal) and Ms Shapiro met with our catering provider to challenge and seek assurances of not only increased portion sizes but also of extending the variety of healthier options for desserts and main meals that children were requesting. Other ideas the children shared were more theme days e.g. Mexican food day, and how they could bring their water bottles into the school hall.

School trips: Several Year 6 parents have shown dissatisfaction with their child's school trip experiences in recent years. We understand the dissatisfaction. However, by and large, we do not feel the criticism is fair, largely because much of the reason for the lack of school trips is linked to windows of opportunity during COVID times and the significant cost of the Year 6 residential which we wanted to be considerate towards. Nevertheless, we have taken on board how our upper school has not yet established a trip programme – we are working on this. We will also share in the new term some of the extensive enrichment offers that we provide in the school, including for Year 6. This enrichment offer means that we provide a range of opportunities that are as valuable as school trips but are often cheaper or even free alternatives.

On a final note...

"We are very happy with how the children are loving the school and how well they are looked after, they both have come on so much since they both started. That's all thanks to Haywood Village school for helping them, teaching them so they do well."

Whenever you would like to share positive feedback, our teachers really value this. Teaching is a profession that sadly in recent times is struggling to retain staff. I believe our 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

