

Parents/Carers Survey 2012



Your Views Count!

- *This document presents the results of our Annual Survey of Parent/Carer Views.*
- *This Survey – and the other smaller surveys we carry out from time to time – will help to shape the ongoing development of the school.*
- *Thankyou to all parents/carers who completed our Survey.*



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1. Overall Results of the Survey

100 parents/carers responded. This is a response rate of 42 % (at the time of the survey there were 240 families from Nursery to Year 6).

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement	Total % who disagree
1	My child is happy at school.	66%	33%	1%			99%	1%
2	My child feels safe at this school.	62%	36%	1%		1%	98%	1%
3	My child makes good progress at this school.	64%	36%				100%	0%
4	My child is well looked after at this school.	63%	36%			1%	99%	0%
5	My child is well taught at this school.	65%	35%				100%	0%
6	My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	55%	39%	2%		4%	94%	2%
7	This school makes sure the pupils are well behaved.	51%	44%	2%		3%	95%	2%
8	This school deals effectively with bullying.	32%	44%	3%	0	21%	76%	3%
9	This school is well led and managed.	57%	38%	1%		4%	95%	1%
10	This school is a welcoming and pleasant place to visit.	67%	33%				100%	
11	The school responds well to any concerns I raise.	48%	46%		1%	5%	94%	1%
12	I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress.	50%	47%	2%		1%	97%	2%
13	There are a good range of extra curricular activities for my child to enjoy.	49%	41%	3%		7%	90%	3%
14	The school has a good reputation in the local community.	35%	49%	5%	1%	10%	84%	6%



Next, we will take each question in turn, and add our response.

2. Our Response to the survey results, question by question

1. My child is happy at school.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
	66%	33%	1%	0	0	99%

Our Response: We are delighted that 99% of children are happy. We work hard to ensure that the children are able to thrive & flourish, that they feel safe, and that lessons and other activities are enjoyable. Happy children are happy and productive learners!

2. My child feels safe at this school.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
	62%	36%	1%	0	1%	98%

Our Response: We have several systems and procedures to ensure that we are a safe school – for example our Safeguarding systems, site security, anti-bullying policies, playground buddies and so on. We also strongly promote mutual respect, and we encourage the children to be caring toward each other.

3. My child makes good progress at this school.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
	64%	36%	0	0	0	100%

Our Response: We are thrilled that 100% of parents believe that their children are making good progress. We have worked very hard as a staff team to ensure that all children make the best possible progress, and we have made significant steps forward in this area. We will continue to work hard to maintain parental satisfaction in this area.

4. My child is well looked after at this school.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
	63%	36%	0	0	1%	99%

Our Response: We have aimed to create a caring environment in school, within which all children feel safe and well cared for. All of the adults in school are caring and considerate with the children. We are delighted that 99% of parents have complete confidence in what we do, and that no parents disagree.

5. My child is well taught at this school.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
	65%	35%	0	0	0	100%

Our Response: We have worked very hard to ensure that every teacher, and every Teaching Asst, is highly skilled and well-equipped to carry out their core role – teaching – very effectively. Significant staff development has taken place, and as you know we have added wisely to our staff team. We are **thrilled** that you have recognised the great progress we have made in this area.

6. My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
	55%	39%	2%	0	4%	94%

Our Response. We aim to provide homework which is meaningful, and which links to & supports work the children are doing in class. Reading, spelling & learning number facts (including times-tables) all feature, and there are also opportunities for research and project work. We are pleased that such a high percentage of parents are in agreement.

7. This school makes sure the pupils are well behaved.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
	51%	44%	2%	0	3%	95%

Our Response:
We have very high expectations for good behaviour in school - all children are clear as to what those expectations are. Our 'Golden Rules' are promoted in every classroom. We place strong emphasis on mutual respect. We have clear systems in place to reward good behaviour and deal effectively & consistently with any inappropriate behaviour. All staff, including lunchtime staff, are trained in positive behaviour management. Our curriculum is engaging & our teaching motivates the children.

8. This school deals effectively with bullying.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
	32%	44%	3%	0	21%	90%

Our Response:
We have a **zero-tolerance** of bullying – any suspected bullying is addressed rigorously. The children are familiar with our approaches & know who to 'tell' if they experience or see bullying. Staff are trained in how to deal with bullying. Though we have made parents aware of our systems (we consulted parents in mid-2011), we feel that perhaps our newest parents are not yet fully aware of what we do – thus 21% 'don't knows' – we will be addressing this in Autumn 2012.

9. This school is well led and managed.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
	57%	38%	1%		4%	95%

Our Response:
We have a clear structure in place in terms of the leadership and management of GPS. As well as the Head and Deputy, we have a team of Key Stage Leaders. All of our leaders are 100% committed to making the school successful – we are highly aspirational, determined to make GPS the best that it can possibly be, for every child. Our Governing Body actively holds our leaders to account, and contributes to the strategic development of the school.

10. This school is a welcoming and pleasant place to visit.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
	67%	33%				100%

Our Response:
We are very keen that anyone who visits GPS feels welcomed – this applies to parents & carers, other professionals, and those who visit to carry out work or deliver goods. A cheery greeting and a smile are important. We also like to think that visitors pick-up and sense that our school is a special place, where everyone is valued. Lots of visitors have said that they can feel the welcome and sense the positive vibe – last year a literacy adviser told us "your school has soul"! - we liked that! We are overjoyed that 100% of parents/carers see GPS as welcoming and pleasant.

11.The school responds well to any concerns I raise.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
	48%	46%		1%	5%	94%

Our Response:

We aim to respond swiftly, and in a caring, considerate and fair way, to any concerns or queries. Teachers and Teaching Assistants are on the playground, and/or outside the classroom door, to individually greet every child every morning, and again at the end of the day to say goodbye – parents/carers can have a quick word at those times, or can make an appointment for a longer meeting. And, of course, the Head and/or Deputy Head are available – please catch them on the yard or call at the office – we aim to see parents as soon as we possibly can (often immediately).

12.I receive valuable information from the sch about my child's progress.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
	50%	47%	2%		1%	97%

Our Response:

The school holds 3 termly Open Afternoons (Autumn, Spring, Summer), & issues 1 Annual Report. Over the past year, we have added termly Learning Workshops for every class – during 2011-12 we held a total of 25 Learning Workshops! The Learning Workshops give parents a chance to work alongside their child in school. In addition, we are flexible & welcoming in terms of organising any additional meetings with teachers that parents might request. We are pleased that 97% of parents agree with our approaches. This is an area we would like to develop even further, and will be consulting parents during Autumn 2012.

13.There are a good range of extra-curricular activities for my child to enjoy.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
	49%	41%	3%		7%	90%

Our Response:

We work hard to put in place a varied and exciting range of extra-curricular activities ('Clubs'). We consult the children on what Clubs they'd like, and then we give them a chance to 'sign-up' for the Clubs they want to do each term. We are always keen to develop this area of school life – we are looking to set-up one or two new clubs this term, drawing upon the skills and interests of our new staff, whilst maintaining the existing Clubs.

14.The school has a good reputation in the local community.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
	35%	49%	5%	1%	10%	84%

Our Response:

Over the past 2 years we have established complete stability and an aspirational vision for the future of GPS. We have completely overcome some of the turbulence of the pre-2009 period. The school has been turned-around. The curriculum has been transformed and standards of pupil achievement have risen significantly. Pupil behaviour is very good. We have worked very hard to raise the status and reputation of the school to the levels it had enjoyed previously. We want the local community to feel proud of its school. Our strategies have included: bringing stability to staffing (leadership & teaching), improving the quality of teaching, creating an engaging curriculum, working closely with parents, adopting a welcoming and positive ethos, issuing newsletters and creating a positive and informative website.

3. Parent & Carers responses to the question: ‘In your opinion, what are the best things about Grangetown Primary School’?

The following were most frequently mentioned

- The topic-based curriculum.
- Our caring, welcoming and nurturing approach.
- The way we encourage the children.
- The strong range of educational visits.
- The good relationships around school.
- The way we value the arts.
- The wide choice of after school clubs.
- The progress the children make.
- The way we value parents/carers, and the growth in Learning Workshops & Family Learning.
- The quality of our communication with parents/carers – newsletters, letters, website.



4. Parents/carers responses to the question: ‘Is there anything in particular that you’d change about the school, & how would you like to see the school develop over the next year?’

The following were most frequently mentioned responses:

- Improving the parking situation outside of school so that parents drive more carefully and park in the correct places.
- Maintain the excellent work we are doing in the Arts.
- Maintain the growing work we are doing with parents/carers.
- An earlier start to Breakfast Club, if possible.
- A designated area for bikes & scooters.
- Extending the teaching of a foreign language, and of musical instrument tuition.
- More parents/carers supporting the Parents Group.



5. Next steps. We are acting upon the Survey in the following ways:

- A meeting will be set up with Sunderland Council, to look into the 'parking' issues mentioned by several parents. As you know, the school has already provided very clear guidance on these issues, and we have even gained use of two nearby spaces for parking,...but unfortunately a very small number of parents/carers have not taken onboard this advice and continue to sometimes drive and/or park inappropriately....this small minority of parents/carers are causing upset and frustration for the majority of parents/carers.
- Spanish will be taught across the school from Sept. This decision had already been taken, but it links well with comments from some parents relating to the teaching of a foreign language.
- We will make sure that all of our newer parents (Nursery/Reception) know about our strong and clear approach to Anti-Bullying.
- A new area for bikes will be established. We are receiving some funding towards this from the Bike It project (via Sunderland Council). We expect to have this in place by October half term.
- Breakfast Club will start earlier, initially 7.45 instead of 8.00 (this earlier start got underway during Summer term 2012).
- Instrumental tuition is being extended – extra violin & cello groups. There will be 2 violin groups for KS1, instead of one. Singing lessons, led by a professional singer, are being introduced in years 1 and 2 (already in place in years 3-6)
- We will again issue our Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies to all parents/carers, to demonstrate how through those policies are, and to maximise parent/carer awareness. Both policies have been placed on our website.
- We will promote the 'parent/carer suggestion boxes' which were set up last year main foyer, & EYFS. Extra boxes will be installed next to the KS1 and KS2 entrances. Whilst a suggestion box system can never replace a face to face meeting, it simply gives busy parents another way of passing on views and comments.
- Our website is being completely updated & revamped. It will become a key means of providing up to the minute information for parents/carers. This change is already underway (Summer 2012), and will accelerate during Autumn term.
- We'll maintain all the good work we do in the arts, sport, after school clubs, & family learning.
- We will maintain our progress in developing our Curriculum, including the use of enriching visits – parents were overwhelmingly supportive of this.



***Thankyou for responding
to our Survey***
