

# Parents/Carers Survey 2013



## ***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.*



# CONTENTS

1. Overall survey results.
2. Our response to the survey results, question by question.
3. Parent & Carers responses to the question: *'In your opinion, what are the best things about Grangetown Primary School'?*
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?'*
5. Next steps. How the school is acting upon the results of the Survey.

## 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.	69%	30%	0.8% 1 child			<b>99.2%</b>	0.8%	
2	My child feels safe at this school.	69%	29%			2%	<b>98%</b>	0%	
3	My child makes good progress at this school.	63%	34%			3%	<b>97%</b>	0%	
4	My child is well looked after at this school.	68%	32%				<b>100%</b>	0%	
5	My child is well taught at this school.	70%	29%			1%	<b>99%</b>	0%	
6	My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	50%	42%	4%		4%	<b>92%</b>	4%	
7	This school makes sure the pupils are well behaved.	57%	40%	0%		3%	<b>97%</b>	0%	
8	This school deals effectively with bullying.	42%	41%	2%		15%	<b>83%</b>	2%	
9	This school is well led and managed.	60%	36%	1%		3%	<b>96%</b>	1%	
10	This school is a welcoming and pleasant place to visit.	70%	29%	1%			<b>99%</b>	1%	
11	The school responds well to any concerns I raise.	51%	44%		1%	4%	<b>95%</b>	1%	
12	I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress.	51%	46%	2%		1%	<b>97%</b>	2%	
13	There are a good range of extra curricular activities for my child to enjoy.	40%	50%	3%		7%	<b>90%</b>	3%	
14	The school has a good reputation in the local community.	46%	48%			6%	<b>94%</b>	6%	
15	Would you recommend Grangetown Primary School to another parent	<b>Yes: 99%</b>				<b>No: 1%</b>			

**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
	69%	30%	0.8% 1 child			

**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
	69%	29%				2%

**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 have very effective internet security systems, and we educate the children in staying safe online. We work with Impact Family Services to enhance our Anti-Bullying approaches through regular workshops for the children. 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
	63%	34%				3%

**Our Response:** We are pleased that there was zero disagreement with this statement, and that such a high % 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. We have made contact with the 3% 'don't knows', to provide further information in this area of school life.

4. My child is well looked after at this school.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
	68%	32%				

**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 100% of parents have complete confidence in what we do in terms of ensuring children are well looked after.

5. My child is well taught at this school.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
	70%	29%				1%

**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
	50%	42%	4%		4%	92%

**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. We will be contacting the 4% of parents who disagree, to address their concerns, and we will also contact the 'don't knows' to clarify the position on Homework.

7. This school makes sure the pupils are well behaved.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
	57%	40%	0%		3%	97%

**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. We will contact the 3% 'don't knows' to ensure these parents know what our policies are.

8. This school deals effectively with bullying.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
	42%	41%	2%	0	15%	83%

**Our Response:**  
It's worth noting that even though the 'agreement' % is just 83%, **JUST 2% OF PARENTS DISAGREED WITH THIS STATEMENT!** The issue seems to be the 'don't knows'. We will contact both groups to clarify our stance and deal with any concerns. 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 the 15% of 'don't knows' – we will be addressing this in Autumn 2013.

9. This school is well led and managed.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
	60%	36%	1%		3%	96%

**Our Response:**  
We have a clear structure in place in terms of the leadership and management at GPS. As well as the Head and Deputy, we have a team of Key Stage Leaders. In addition, every teacher is a leader, of their class and of a curriculum area. 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. We are delighted that such high %s of parents see leadership and management as very effective.

10. This school is a welcoming and pleasant place to visit.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
	70%	29%	1%			99%

**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 – for example a visiting literacy adviser told us “your school has soul!” - we liked that! We are overjoyed that 99% 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
	51%	44%		1%	4%	95%

**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
	51%	46%	2%		1%	97%

**Our Response:**

The school holds 2 termly Consultation Days – we value parent & teacher consultation so much that we allocate full days (not just evenings) – and later appointments are available for any working parents who need them. We issue a detailed Annual Pupil Report. Over the past 2 years, we have added termly Learning Workshops for every class – during 2012-13 we held a total of 20 Learning Workshops! The Learning Workshops give parents a chance to work alongside their child in school. We run a very successful and popular Family Learning Programme. 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.

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
	40%	50%	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. This year, we have introduced additional Clubs for our younger children. We have also expanded our music provision. We will aim to publicise our excellent programme of Clubs even more widely, so that the 7% of 'don't knows' are aware of what we offer!

14.The school has a good reputation in the local community.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
	45%	48%		0%	6%	94%

**Our Response:**

*It is hugely pleasing that NO PARENTS DISAGREE WITH THIS STATEMENT! We will contact the 6% of 'don't knows', to ensure they understand the huge progress we have made as a school. Over the past 3 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. We want the local community to feel proud of the 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.*

15	Would you recommend Grangetown Primary School to another parent	<b>Yes: 99%</b>	No: 1%
----	---	-----------------	--------

**Our Response:**

*We are very pleased that such a high % of parents would recommend Grangetown to another parent. That's a huge vote of confidence in the school, and shows that parents are very happy with what the school is offering. We can promise all parents that we will continue to work very hard, every day, to maintain our high standards. We work hard in providing a broad, exciting and enriching curriculum, as well as a solid and thorough grounding in reading, writing and maths. We want every child to be literate and numerate, and to develop their self-confidence and interpersonal skills. We will help every child find his/her talent, whether that lies in the arts, sport or in any other part of the curriculum. We will continue to build strong links between home and school, and we will make good use of the local area to enhance our curriculum.*

### 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, and most are actual comments made:

- All Staff are helpful/caring/understanding/friendly/welcoming/approachable. We agree with Ofsted that the GPS staff do 'go the extra mile'.
- Good support for children's learning.
- The children – their positive attitude and great behaviour.
- Good school, safe and secure.
- Good ICT skills, iPads are fantastic.
- Spanish is wonderful. It's important that children learn about another culture & language.
- Choir and drama are great – children are so lucky!
- Empire Theatre Dance is amazing – what an opportunity for the children.
- Your Office staff are a real asset – polite and helpful at all times.
- After School Clubs are great – hats off to the hard-working staff for running them!
- The cleanliness of school really stands out – such a positive impression.
- Concerns are always dealt with promptly.
- Parent & Teacher Consultation Days are well organised.
- Scooter/Bike stands – thanks for putting these in place.
- The Reading Scheme is excellent. The children have responded well to Reading Bands.
- Good pupil achievement.
- The strong range of educational visits – this adds so much to the curriculum.
- The wide choice of after school clubs.
- 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, & some are actual comments:

- *More celebrations of local events & to support minority celebrations.*
- *We need a crossing patrol.*
- *Many parents concerned about other parents parking directly outside the school gates.*
- *Please can we have shelters for children & parents when bad weather?*
- *Over the next 3 years GPS will be one of the best schools in Sunderland!*
- *To keep on improving as a school.*
- *More projects connecting the children with nature, please.*
- *To learn more about road safety.*
- *How about a Dance after school club?*
- *Create a garden with a pond, plants, fish etc for educational reasons.*
- *To go on and achieve outstanding in Ofsted report*
- *The option to pay for extra nursery sessions*
- *Please keep on developing & improving your brilliant Choir and Musical facilities*

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

- *Over the past 2 years we have communicated frequently 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. This year, we are monitoring car park use, and we are communicating directly with parents. We are also consulting with the local police on how we deal with the very small minority of parents who, sadly, continue to park irresponsibly and dangerously on the 'slope' outside of school.*
  - *We already celebrate a number of local events and local/national celebrations, and we will continue to keep this under review.*
  - *The crossing patrol is back – October 2013. We have had a lot of communication with the local Council about this over recent months.*
  - *Road safety sessions are part of our curriculum – provided by Sunderland Council.*
  - *We will soon be introducing the option to pay for extra Nursery sessions.*
  - *We have set up a parent/carer gardening group, and we hope this will lead to further developments in our courtyard...involving children of course...with a range of 'eco' initiatives being part of this project.*
  - *We are now exploring the possibility of having shelters put up in the playground – this would be an expensive project so we are keen to fundraise – more news soon!*
  - *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 make sure that all new parents in particular have a strong awareness of our firm and clear policies in these areas.*
  - *We'll maintain all the good work we do in the arts, sport, after school clubs, & family learning.*
- 

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