

HOWITT PRIMARY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PARENT SURVEY RESULTS 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, we would like to thank you very much for such a fantastic response to our survey sent out in July. We received over 140 questionnaires; this was a fantastic response and one that we are delighted with.

As Headteacher it has helped me to establish quickly the strengths of the school and areas to develop. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and I will share some of these comments below. However, in the comments section there were some useful suggestions with how we could improve and I would like to share these with you:

Highlights

- 97% agree or strongly agree that their child is happy at this school.
- 99% agree or strongly agree that their child feels safe at this school.
- 97% agree or strongly agree that their child makes good progress.
- 100% agree or strongly agree that their child is well looked after at this school.
- 100% agree or strongly agree that their child is taught well at this school.
- 89% agree or strongly agree that the school makes sure its pupils are well behaved. (Of the remaining responses, 4% disagree and 8% selected don't know).
- 75% agree or strongly agree that the school deals effectively with bullying. (Of the remaining responses, 5% disagree or strongly disagree and 20% selected don't know).
- 98% agree or strongly agree that the school is well led and managed. (Of the remaining responses, 1% disagree and 1% selected don't know).
- 88% agree or strongly agree that the school responds well to any concerns raised. (Of the remaining responses 6% disagree and 6% selected don't know).
- 92% agree or strongly agree that they receive valuable information from the school about their child's progress. (Of the remaining responses, 9% disagree).
- 93% agree or strongly agree that they would recommend this school to another parent. (Of the remaining responses, 1% disagree and 6% selected don't know).

Summary of main strengths

- Excellent, dedicated staff.
- Leadership of the school
- Community spirit
- Safe, respectful and happy learning environment
- Good communication e.g. e-mails, website and text messages
- Team are friendly and mindful of children's well-being

Sample comments included:

- The staff and teachers make it a very pleasant school.
- The school constantly encourages the children to read and have an enjoyment for learning.
- The school has fantastic facilities.
- A strength is their open door policy.

- Staff work hard to get the best from the children.
- Children enjoy doing a good range of topics.
- Smooth transition through each stage of education, nursery, infants and juniors.
- Teachers and management are always available to talk.
- Communication is a strength; they always let you know how your child is doing and if there are any problems. They are willing to help and make sure your child is happy.
- My child has had the best time in the two- year old room. The commitment and love for the children is the biggest strength by far. The best thing has been his progress
- The school has a nice atmosphere and children are happy to go to school.
- My son has liked every teacher that he has had.
- Since starting at this school my children have achieved so much and have grown in confidence.
- All the staff are lovely, very approachable and friendly.
- There are lots of opportunities for parents to come into school.
- All the children seem well behaved and all work together.
- My children are well taught and well looked after and the school is always welcoming with any concerns I have.
- A strength is the outdoor space and outdoor activities.
- The children recognise consequences for wrong decisions/behaviour.
- The children are praised for good behaviour.
- The management and staff are always available to help and talk.

Main Areas to Develop

- More updates regarding pupil progress – 12 comments
- More information needed as to how the school ensures that its pupils are well behaved – 11 comments
- More communication needed to how the school responds to concerns – 8 comments
- More information needed about how the school deals effectively with bullying – 28 comments said they didn't know, which suggests there are no issues of bullying.

School Response

92% agree or strongly agree that we are good at giving you valuable information about your child's progress. Therefore, as well as our termly parents evening and school report we are going to continue to provide an open book evening where you can view your children's books alongside them. We will continue to invite you into school as we have done this year e.g. science lesson with your child/ phonics lesson with your child/ topic lessons with your child, homework project evenings, concerts and shows. Also teachers will continue to communicate with you via the children's home/school diary and of course over the telephone. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher who will always be glad to help. In addition to this we will continue to host parent workshops and information afternoons/evenings similar to the reading one. The website continues to be a good place for you to keep up to date with what your child is doing in school as we know that they don't always tell you!

88% agree or strongly agree that the school responds well to any concerns – 8 comments suggest that this is an area for development. The school is very keen to address any concerns that you may have, however small. We are always available to listen and decide on next steps to quickly resolve any concerns or worries. It is always the happiness and safety of your children that is at the heart of everything that we do.

89% agree or strongly agree that the school makes sure that its pupils are well behaved – 5 comments suggest this is an area to improve.

We support the children in their everyday school life and understand it can be difficult for some children. We use nurture support, positive play and a positive people group to give children opportunities to share worries and to give them strategies to enjoy positive experiences. We work closely with parents to ensure that children are well behaved, enjoy coming to school and are positively engaged in their learning. Lunchtime clubs also give pupils a chance to come away from a busy playground. A play leader and learning mentor are now working with children on the playground to develop social skills and improve the lunchtime experience.

75% agree or strongly agree that the school deals effectively with bullying. (Of the remaining responses 5% disagree or strongly disagree (7 comments) and 20% (28 comments) selected don't know.

We take parents' comments very seriously and are very happy to discuss any concerns of bullying with parents. We do encourage parents to contact the school to meet with myself or other members of staff if they feel their child is being bullied. As a school, we do ensure that the pupils do fully understand what bullying means and involves and who to talk with if they have worries. We do this through being available for the children to talk, weekly lessons, school and class assemblies, our display boards and the introduction of peer buddies and mentors on the playground. We follow many procedures to ensure that our children feel safe and happy such as friendship/respect week and Blue Day. We are now aiming towards a Derbyshire accredited award. Online safety is part of weekly taught sessions. We also hold parent workshops delivered by staff and the NSPCC and regularly send out leaflets with updated information. We have achieved the Healthy schools award this year and part of this was to inform parents about how to keep their children safe online.

Sample of other suggestions

- More organisation in sporting activities
- A suggested 4 week notice for parent events
- A complete ban on smoking outside of school gates
- More homework
- Cashless pay system

Once again, thank you for your support and suggestions. I am sure that you will agree that it is important that we continue to work together and that our partnership with you is vital. Thank you for all the positive comments and I will share them with all staff. They will be very pleased and proud that you hold them and the school in such high regard.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Lynn Pilling

Head teacher