



Margaret McMillan
Primary School

Inspiration • Aspiration • Determination

Parent Questionnaire

20 November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may remember that we asked you to complete a Parental Survey during the recent Parents Evening in school. It asked a wide variety of questions about your experiences of school and will provide us with feedback on how you think we are doing, and what we could do better.

We would like to thank all of you who responded and gave us feedback and comments. The leadership team contacted any parents who did not feel positively about any element of the survey, in order to better understand any issues. However, the majority of responses were extremely positive. Thank you for taking time to respond to our survey. We will be carrying out further questionnaires and holding regular parent events over the course of the year. However, if you have any concerns or feedback please do not wait for a questionnaire—please contact school and speak to your child’s class teacher or Phase leader directly.

For each question we had between 183 and 22 responses depending on the question. Only parents whose child had experienced bullying or had SEND were asked to answer those particular questions.

Below are the results of the survey and any comments that we received, along with a response.

Lorraine Martin

Headteacher

Parental Engagement Survey Autumn 2023	Number of responses	Strongly agree /agree
My child is happy at this school	182	100%
My child feels safe at this school	183	100%
The school makes sure my child is well behaved	176	100%
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	54	85%
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	173	97%
When I have raised concerns, they have been properly dealt with.	155	98%
The school has high expectations for my child	172	94%
My child does well at this school	174	97%
The school lets me know how well my child is doing	177	99%
There are a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	175	99%
The school supports my child’s wider personal development	169	96%
I would recommend this school to another parent	146	98%
Does the school give your child with SEND the support they need to succeed?	22	96%

We are really pleased that all parents felt that their children felt safe and happy at school and that 143 parents out of 146 surveyed would recommend Margaret McMillan to another parent. We pride ourselves on our high expectations of behaviour and conduct of our children and 100% of parents agreed that we make sure their child is well-behaved.

7 parents out of 172 did not know if the school had high expectations for their child (other than for behaviour). The colour-coded report helps to indicate this and we hope this should form part of the discussion during parents evening. If you want to know more please attend the parent curriculum workshops across the year.

6 out of 169 were unsure if school supported their child's wider development. Wider development refers to all the opportunities we provide children outside of subject teaching that contribute to the experiences and personal development. This includes the wide range of afterschool clubs, visits and visitors, forest school, residential and sports tournaments. We feel that we provide an extensive and broad offer.

Thank you for the lovely additional comments—we really appreciate them;

- ◆ *I would recommend this school to other parents. The staff are very nice and friendly.*
- ◆ *I am pleased with the support and care provided to my child while she is in school. Thank you.*
- ◆ **Childs Name* is enjoying her time at school and we feel that she is developing and fitting in with the children.*
- ◆ *The school is doing amazing and helping my child. Thank you.*
- ◆ *We look forward to seeing her success and progress with the help of school.*
- ◆ *My child is happy at this school and feels safe.*
- ◆ *Great school, great staff.*
- ◆ *School lets me know if anything happens with my son at school.*
- ◆ **Childs Name* is doing so well at school. I am so proud of her and thank you to the teachers who help her.*
- ◆ *We are really happy, thanks for everything.*
- ◆ *The new class teacher Mrs Ullah and her teaching is amazing.*
- ◆ *I am satisfied with this school. I am happy to send my child here. One of my daughters has just finished and moved to secondary. I found the teachers, especially Mrs Laban and Miss Duffy, very hard working and concerned about students.*
- ◆ *All my children are in this school. I have great respect for this school.*
- ◆ *The school has a lot of resources for learning and development. I have noticed a great improvement in my child's confidence. Highly recommend.*
- ◆ *I am happy with my 5th child coming to this school to learn. The staff always help me and my children.*
- ◆ *Amazing school and the SEN team is amazing too. The amount of help and guidance they give makes my child happy and comfortable.*
- ◆ *I am very happy that his teacher is putting a lot of effort in for *Childs Name* as he has some issues with high frequency sounds. He is doing well and improving day by day.*
- ◆ *Teachers have great impact on students and they encourage the kids to excel in their capabilities. Satisfied with the teachers - they discuss the daily activity of the child on the class door even if it's only 2-3 sentences. Much appreciated.*

Some parents asked us further questions;

- ◆ *Why can't they close the doors a bit later like 9am?*
- ◆ *I like the school but I would like them to leave the doors open until 9am so we can come on time?*

Schools have to be open 6.5 hours a day. School starts at 8:40 and finishes at 3:10. We open the doors 5 minutes before school starts and close them 5 minutes after at 8:45am. After this time we ask that you take children to the hub to be signed in as teachers are starting lessons and staff are not available to take registers or supervise cloakrooms.

- ◆ *Regular updates are not given. We do not know what our child is doing well in or what he needs to improve on. My child is not pushed or challenged - could be pushed further.*

The majority (99%) of parents felt we do let them know how their child is doing. We offer 3 progress reports and parents evening across the year (1 each term) which include written information. This written termly report includes personalised targets for each child and these are reviewed prior to the next parents meeting. Additionally, SEND meetings are arranged for relevant children as and when needed (Annual reviews for example). Where there are particular points to discuss in terms of less than expected pupil progress, teachers would speak directly to parents at the doors at the end of the school day or arrange specific meetings.

If you have any particular concerns please catch the class teacher at the end of the day or ring to make an appointment—please do not wait for parents evening.

- ◆ *I would appreciate if the school could give weekly Maths/English homework as I feel my child needs more support in these subjects. More parent/teacher communication is needed. More use of the seesaw app needs to be in place as it is not being used.*
- ◆ *Give more homework for parents for us to mark. Suggest books for parents to buy to help their kids at home.*

Research suggests that written homework has minimal impact on children's learning but daily reading and number facts practice is the most impactful and will help with their recall skills. We are mindful that many children attend Madrassa after school and do not want to make homework an additional burden for families. Getting this balance right in terms of teacher workload, stress for children and families is always tricky.

We send out a half-termly homework mat which includes additional learning for all areas of the curriculum. Reading and weekly spellings are expected to be practiced daily.

We have recently introduced Sumdog maths for all our children which contains personalised learning challenges for each child. You can find additional maths learn by heart activities on the school website.

The See-Saw app was originally introduced as a learning platform during the pandemic for remote learning. We continue to use this in early years (Reception & Nursery) but it is not regularly used across the rest of school. However we can review this.

We are trying to reduce our carbon footprint and paper waste. Much of our homework is practise and reading which does not require lots of paper.

As a school, we would not recommend specific homework books or publishers. We do purchase KS2 SATs practice books at a cheaper price which are available to year 6 parents.

- ◆ *Each term we would like parents to be given a paper stating what they are covering in their studies.*

At the start of each topic we send a Homework Mat which outlines the units in all the curriculum areas. We have recently updated our curriculums in school and are currently reviewing our curriculum information to parents. Reception and Nursery send this information via SeeSaw.

Unfortunately, not all parents felt they could agree with all of statements. In particular;

15% (8 out of 54 parents who had experienced this) disagreed that any incidents of bullying are dealt with quickly and effectively.

Our response...

The majority of parents did not complete this question as their child had not experienced bullying. Sometimes it is believed that bullying describes any incident which involves poor behaviour or disagreements. There is a sustained and deliberate nature to bullying rather than an argument or falling out. On rare occasions we may have to follow up an incidence of bullying which doesn't resolve immediately.

Our PSHE and relationships curriculum focuses on teaching children how to build healthy and positive relationships and how to recognise poor friendships including bullying and what they can do to challenge those who are being unkind.

We have a robust behaviour policy in place and any incidents of poor behaviour are dealt with promptly. Class teachers and phase leaders will meet with parents to discuss any issues to ensure that the standard of behaviour at school remains high. We follow a restorative approach to incidents in school which focuses on repairing relationships between individuals and encourages children to take responsibility for their own behaviour and actions.

As a school we want you to be satisfied with the service we provide. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not wait for the termly parents evenings or questionnaires— contact your child's class teacher, the assistant head of Phase or catch us on the path in the morning. We want to resolve any concerns or issues as soon as we can.

Lorraine Martin

Headteacher