

**St Joseph's Catholic Primary School**  
**Analysis of parental questionnaires – December 2017**

**Context**

In order to evaluate the views of our parents and carers, our annual questionnaire was issued for analysis by our SLT. The questionnaires were issued at the beginning of the autumn Half term 2 and the results were analysed in December 2017. The results are listed below.

This summary is based on 112 returned questionnaires.

		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know
1.	My child is happy at this school	73%	25%	2%		
	My child loves coming to school and has huge respect for all the staff. My child is extremely happy at school and responds well to the positive feedback from staff. My child settled well and enjoys attending school. The strong Catholic ethos has really helped my child settle in again. The 2% represents two children, one of whom is having friendship issues which school are aware of and have been supporting. The other child is struggling with their confidence which school were already aware of and have been supporting both the child and their parents.					
2.	My child feels safe at this school	83%	17%			
	Having a buddy in year 6 made my child feel secure and settled. The school has a lovely caring environment.					
3.	My child makes good progress at this school	78%	21%			1%
	I am very happy with my child's progress and she is often asking for more work at home. My child's reading and writing is improving but I am not sure what 'expected standard' looks like. We would like ratings to be able to compare our child to. My child has difficulties but was pleased with the scheduled meeting very early in the year. I would like more comments in my child's homework book from school about their progress.					
4.	My child is taught well at this school	47%	47%			6%
	Some parents felt it was too early to comment on the new members of staff at this early stage of the year. Some of these parents have since said that now they know the new members of staff, they are very happy with the teaching and relationship their child has with their class teacher. My child's teacher is a wonderful teacher. I think the teachers at this school do a wonderful job.					
5.	My child receives appropriate homework for their age	42%	40%	11%	1%	6%
	I understand the principle of computer based homework, but would much prefer paper based homework. I like the regular homework. My child is enthused by the homework set. My child enjoys the homework that is set. In some years, the amount seems too much. I would prefer homework where I work with my child and can see their working out. I feel like they need more structured writing or practical/experimental activities for homework. We have really liked the use of Mathletics and Spellodrome for homework.					
6.	This school ensures the pupils are well behaved	74%	26%			
	Children are very well behaved. During assemblies they show great respect and are very focused. The behaviour of pupils at the school is excellent.					
7.	This school deals effectively with bullying	40%	27%	1%		32%

	I don't know whether the school deal effectively with bullying as I have no experience of this, neither do I know anyone who has. I have no experience of this but I am aware of the school's anti-bullying work and whole school campaign. My child's class teacher was excellent in dealing with a bullying concern that I raised and was resolved within a day of contacting school. School take bullying and anti-bullying very seriously. I have not had any experience of bullying or aware of anyone being bullied so I cannot pass judgement. I have no recent experience of this, I am very happy to say. The 1 % refers to a concern from a number of years ago which has been resolved.					
8.	This school is well led and managed	58%	41%			1%
	The head teacher is a confident leader who is accessible and extremely positive. I feel there could be improved communication between school and parents. I have experienced very good management at the school. One parent did tick disagree, but after a discussion with the Head Teacher, has since said that this was an unfair comment to make.					
9.	This school responds well to any concern I raise	50%	38%	3%		9%
	I have never had to raise any concerns so I am not sure. My child's class teacher is always very happy to listen to any concerns that I raise and deals with these quickly and efficiently. I feel that comments made in my child's homework diary are not always addressed. The office can be slow at responding to messages sent via email. The 3% of parents who have ticked disagree have all said that this has now changed and that staff have respond well to concerns raised. One of these parents have said that they were very impressed with the way in which the latest concern was dealt with, quickly and efficiently and that the matter was taken very seriously – they said they were very impressed.					
10.	I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	43%	44%	9%		4%
	The website offers a real insight into my child's experience and progress at school. The end of year report is good and the open classrooms are very helpful. I would like to know at more points during the year how my child is doing. I don't like that I have to make an appointment to speak to my child's class teacher. I would like to be able to have informal meetings. Targets given at parents evening are very good to have. End of year reports were very informative. I think that it is too early in the school year to be able to answer this question. I would like to see my child's test scores from assessment week. There is little information outside of parents' evening regarding my child's progress. I am not sure how my child is getting on at school.					
11.	I would recommend this school to another parent	81%	19%			
	<b>Your comments about positive aspects of the school in the last 12 months:</b>					
	<p>All staff are very welcoming and approachable.</p> <p>We have really liked the use of Mathletics and Spellodrome for homework.</p> <p>Great communication and care for each child.</p> <p>The support my child and myself have received.</p> <p>Family mass.</p> <p>There is a great range of after school clubs.</p> <p>My children have told me about 'down time'/relaxation time being incorporated into the school day.</p> <p>Great approach to discipline.</p> <p>Lots of school trips planned which I think is excellent!</p> <p>The dedication shown to children with additional and special needs.</p> <p>A range of approaches to learning are used that clearly benefit all children.</p> <p>Additional meetings with members of staff have made me feel more confident in how my child is doing at school.</p> <p>There has been excellent continued support for me and my children in all aspects of their education.</p> <p>The progress my daughter is now making.</p> <p>Sports days, school trips and homework are all excellent.</p> <p>Very caring and supportive staff. Our children are very well looked after.</p> <p>The school does a fantastic job preparing children for secondary school.</p> <p>School safety.</p> <p>Reward assembly and rewards in class.</p> <p>The school have an excellent understanding of children's individual talents and learning styles.</p> <p>Extending the school entrance for easier access.</p> <p>Golden Book assembly celebrating all achievements and talents.</p> <p>Sports day is very inclusive.</p>					

<p>The teaching assistants are invaluable.          Excellent communication and the school excels in all aspects.          Open classroom sessions.          Variety of lunchtime activities.          I love the regular meetings with Mrs Holmes – SENCO          Year 6 buddies for Reception children is a great idea.          School trips have been valuable for our children’s education.          I think the friendship groups set up to help my child have been a positive aspect this year.          It is great to see the continuing progress improving the school building and facilities.          The children seem generally very happy and are well cared for, enthusiastic and engaged, which is great!          I really like the open classroom sessions. They gave me a great insight into my child’s learning but also enabled me to see the teacher’s approach to learning and how my child interacted with their teacher and peers.          Trips and school activities have been excellent.          I really like the parent information evenings but was disappointed it wasn’t better attended. Thank you for the opportunity.          The curriculum update is good.          Celebrating children’s achievements individually. There is lots of positivity around the school.          Communication channels have greatly improved and dates of forthcoming events are given in advance.          The creative weeks and projects have gone down very well.          The FOSJ attempts at raising money.</p>
<p><b>Your comments about aspects of school that you feel we could improve:</b></p> <p>We would like to see communication between school and parents improved.          We would like more opportunities to discuss progress and attainment.          Improved communication regarding FOSJ events would be helpful.          Occasionally messages are shared on whiteboards outside of classrooms, it would be helpful to also send this information home via text message.          The appointment of a caretaker to maintain school grounds.          Improved use of the outdoor grounds for lessons.          Further clarity of homework tasks and expectations.          It would be good to vary the days of coffee mornings and open classrooms as unable to attend due to work commitments.          A change to the day and time of golden book assembly.          More information in the FS2 end of school report, however, when requested this was provided.          Communication to be improved – I would like to know how my child is getting on each day.          I would like to have more clarity on what is a request and what is a rule at the school.</p>

## Results

Again, it is lovely to see the opinions of our parents in question 11 with 100% positive responses about their child’s experience at the school and who would recommend the school, with 81% strongly agreeing.

In question 2, I was very pleased to see that 100% of parents feel we keep their children safe which highlights the continuing work we have done regarding safeguarding in its entirety both in terms of the building, procedures and through the curriculum. I am also pleased to see that 100% of parents say that the children at St Joseph’s are well behaved.

### General discussion about areas of strength

Areas of greatest strength according to parental views appear to be:

1. A general positive experience of the school
2. My child is happy at school
3. The school keeps my child safe
4. My child makes good progress at this school
5. The school ensures that pupils are well behaved
6. The school is well led and managed

## **Responses made to main comments outlined above:**

- We continue to look for opportunities to ensure that we have effective open channels of communication between home and school. We use a range of methods to communicate with parents and ensure that we are easily accessible should parents need to contact us. We use a range of communication methods: text service, email, Head Teacher weekly newsletters, the school website, the online school calendar as well as the class half termly newsletters which are now emailed out to parents and uploaded to the school class web pages. We send out reminders via text, paper letters, email letters and occasionally use whiteboards outside of classrooms. The office staff continue to make themselves available every morning (at the computer suite door) and afterschool so that parents can leave messages or make appointments with staff. Where necessary staff arrange regular meetings with parents where there are concerns or strategy reviews with their children. Staff also make contact with parents should one off issues need addressing or following up. We recognise that there will, at times, be short notice given for an event and this is due to opportunities that arise in school at short notice and rather than pass on those that we feel would be beneficial to our children, we will if appropriate, embrace these. The majority of our school events and trips are planned well in advance and can therefore, give parents lots of notice for events taking place both in and out of school but we will also continue to take these opportunities at short notice as we want to ensure we continue to provide a rich and varied curriculum to our children.
- We will again be holding parent information evenings in the school hall to discuss progress, expectations and attainment. We strongly encourage that parents attend to gain further insight into how children are assessed and monitored. In addition to the bi-annual parents evening that we hold in school, we will also continue to open our classrooms, each term, on a Monday evening for parents to come into school and sit with their child and look through their books, look at the current learning journeys in the classroom and have a look at some of the resources currently being used to support learning. Class teachers are also available during these open sessions to talk about learning journeys. As always, your child's class teacher will arrange a meeting with any parent, should concerns arise. Parents are also reminded that teachers are always available through appointments made at the school office. We remind parents at this point, that discussions before school are difficult for a number of reasons including teachers being needed in class for registration to start and safeguarding procedures as doors must be locked by 9am. Should you feel that it is essential that you discuss an issue with your child's class teacher before school, please speak to the office staff so that arrangements can be made.
- We will also be continuing with our very popular show and share sessions where parents are invited to come into school and actively participate in their child's lessons. These provide parents with a great insight into their child's progress and attainment and participation in class. They also provide parents with ideas and knowledge to be able to help at home.
- 13% of parents said they either disagree or don't know whether they receive appropriate information about their child's progress. We pride ourselves on the partnership we have with our parents in their child's learning journey. We offer many opportunities throughout the year to discuss progress and attainment both on an individual and general basis: Changes have been made to the end of year reports that were sent out last year. These now show the child's band for attainment in line with the new age related expectation (ARE) in addition to effort bandings for all subject areas e.g. working below ARE, working at ARE, working above ARE. At each parents' information evening this information is also shared, which shows each child's current attainment with their target. Parents are given current data for their child at each parents' evening as well as in their child's end of year report. In total this information is given out at three separate points during the year. Each child also has copies of their own targets which can be seen at any open classroom

session or during show and share sessions. In addition this this, parents can discuss their child's progress and attainment or ways to help at home by requesting an appointment with their child's class teacher which will be arranged for the earliest convenient time. With Parent Information Evening target and attainment forms, a two page letter with a detailed explanation of progress and attainment in line with the curriculum was given to every parent. This followed on from the Parents' Information Evening. We will be holding this event again in February 2018. All parents/carers are invited.

- Again, one of the main areas from the questionnaire that has been highlighted in the parents' response is how school deal with bullying. Many of the comments were that parents didn't know the school's procedure to dealing with bullying in school because they didn't know of any issues of bullying in school. Whilst this can be seen as a positive, I would like to again, direct parents to the policies section of our school website where you will find our Anti-Bullying Policy which highlights how we not only deal with bullying, but how we teach our children about bullying and the effects of bullying. Last year, in response to the parent questionnaire, we sent out a parent questionnaire before and after the event which showed that in most cases, parents felt better educated on the school's anti bullying strategies. Parents were also invited into school to watch assemblies and see some of the work the children had done as part of Anti-Bullying Week. We will again be holding our anti-bullying week on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018.
- Those parents who said they did not know whether their child was taught well, after a discussion with the Headteacher, have all said that they feel their child is taught well and are very happy with the staff. They felt the time at which the questionnaire was sent out, was difficult to say whether or not their child was taught well as the staff were new to school. They all now have positive comments and experiences of these members of staff.
- Homework continues to be a topic of conflict with 18% of parents saying they either disagree, strongly disagree or don't know whether their child receives appropriate homework for their age. Last year we trialled a range of homework approaches across year groups and have also sent out a homework questionnaire to parents. Using feedback from both parents and children, including discussions and comments received about the varying homework tasks trialled, we have now reviewed our homework policy which includes more element of choice, extended timings whilst also keeping the current structured timed tasks already in place. The new homework policy allows children to complete further tasks if they wish but also sets out tasks and objectives that we feel children will benefit from completing at home.

Where a questionnaire highlighted a negative response, if the questionnaire was named, the parent was invited into school to discuss any issues. The following could be noted.

In any cases where a negative comment/suggestion was made, it was usually that the parent did not understand the question or decision that had been made, or the school could give examples of actions that had already been taken to address these concerns. Some parents noted that sending out the questionnaire so early in the school year, made it difficult to answer some of the questions for example, whether their child is well taught when their child had a new class teacher or that they had no experience to be able to answer the question. In some of these cases parents had since changed their views.

## **Summary**

We are delighted with the number of overall positive comments.

We will continue to liaise with parents to make improvements to the life of the school.

As always, should you have any concerns or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher, Mrs Ward (Deputy Head Teacher) or myself. Appointments can be made easily via the school office.

Next year, based on some of your feedback, we will send the questionnaires out later in the academic year, after the first parents' evening.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Miss L. Milivojevic