

Parent Questionnaire Responses Oct 2018



Response to Parent Consultation via Parent Questionnaires

Dear Parents

The governors and staff find it invaluable to hear from parents about the potential improvements school could make as well as celebrating the things we do well.

The following document outlines the comments that were made about the strengths of the school as well as the areas to improve. We have noted our responses to the improvement. Thank you so much for completing the forms.

This information was collated through questionnaire and the Governors meeting parents at the parent consultation evenings.

Strengths of the school:

Pastoral Care	Communication with parents	Energy and positivity of the staff	Inviting parents to join in special events and assemblies
Good breakfast and after school club	Varied activities	Brilliant staff	Homework
Happy children	Face to face time with teachers	V.I.P week	Extra-curricular activities
Friendly Staff – easy to raise concerns	Promotion of healthy diets	Inclusion for children needing support	How the children are prepared for SATS
Supportive environment	Well behaved children	Warm and inclusive atmosphere	Email/text communication

It is always lovely to read through and be reminded of the positive things that make our school a great school. It is important to hear about these things so that we can maintain and improve these also. It highlights what parents find important and what is worth celebrating.

We also find it helpful hearing what parents feel could be improved. Whilst sometimes these are not always in our gift to change, we make every effort to reflect on these issues and respond accordingly. Factors such as finances and practicalities affect the timings of these however we do reflect on each thought raised.

1 You said – Provide more musical opportunities

We did ... We make every effort to accommodate peripatetic teachers who teach in the school day. We do insist that these lessons take place in the afternoons or lunchtimes. Miss Loy has established a good programme of termly concerts which has grown from an end of

term concert. This showcases any child who wished to play an instrument. Importantly music remains a key part of our curriculum and we are always looking for opportunities to connect with the community and take up opportunities like the 'Big Sing' at Casterton, Sedbergh prep. I am also pleased that Year 3 and 4 learn music through instruments such as recorders and brass.

2 You said – Can you provide a Homework Club?

We did ... Last year the Governors funded a Homework Club on Mondays supported by Mrs Gladwinfield. This has provided a space to practise spellings, times tables, read and work through homework given to the children. This has extended into the new academic year for 2018 and has up to 14 children in the group.

3 You said - Can you improve the security fencing?

We did ... Importantly it is a fine balance to ensure the safety of the children whilst maintaining a positive environment. In response to this we made the conscious decision to provide fencing which is not imposing but remains effective. We hope you feel this provides the correct level of protection or locality. Importantly our staff also have walkie-talkies throughout school and whilst outside to ensure good communication and safety.



4 You said – Our children need a greater interaction with the wider world

We did ... This can obviously mean various things to different people. However we now ensure that Year 4 work closely with our partner school to understand a very different urban school context. We make every effort to encourage the children to think of other children in different countries, without stereotyping. We have a range of visitors in school from far and wide who share their experiences with the children.

5 You said – The children would benefit from more outdoor equipment

We did ... Each year we have invested in play equipment for both juniors and infants. The children manage these themselves and whilst they inevitably deteriorate, we do try to replenish these. Importantly we continue to be keen to create play spaces such as the new areas and zones to let the children explore. This zoning of play also reduces the conflicts with one another, improving behaviour.



We are also about to have the school mapped to create orienteering courses around our school environment. This will enable Y3-6 to take part in orienteering courses throughout the year. Our infant children will also take part in short courses to begin their orienteering experience.

6 You said - Can school increase reading 1:1 in class?

We did ... Often parents would like teachers to hear children read more than once per week. Typically children read each day but not on a one to one basis. In class we read together as part of Shared Reading. This is where we explore a book or text and explore it in detail discussing various elements of the text. Through the week children may read with an adult in class as part of guided reading, where children are in groups. One to one reading does take place particularly for those requiring support and additional help. Teachers do like to hear the children read a book but it is not possible to do so each week. We do however ensure that our various volunteers read with the children and our teaching assistants work with various children also. We encourage a 'Strive for 5' approach at home where children read to an adult five times in a week as a minimum. It is worth noting that we have invested over £1000 in books this year to improve access to new texts and specific dyslexia friendly books in the juniors.

7 You said – Can you help children with friendships?

We did ... As part of growing up we expect there to be occasional times where children fall out or need to talk through issues with their friends. This is part of growing up and is often part of our work with the children. It is important to us that the children look after one another and have the social skills to solve problems themselves. At various stages in the children's journey through school, the children take part in discussions and lessons about being a good friend. We are happy to support children who fall out after they and their parents have talked this through, especially if this happens out of school.

8 You said – Can you improve the parking around school?

We did ... This has been a long standing problem being so close to QES and the surrounding residential properties. I was very pleased to hear that people are now using the parking near Booths at the designated times. We do have passes in the school office if you wish to

take up this provision. We can only ask that parents continue to park safely and avoid blocking the bus bay when buses arrive at the beginning and end of the day.

9 You said – Can you improve the quality of the school dinners?

We did ... We have worked at various intervals with our lunch providers and we are currently planning a further meeting very soon to look at changes to the dinner menus and provision. We are reviewing the situation all of the time and this is an ongoing piece of work to get this right. It is our expectation that we will find a solution within the year.

We would like to thank you for the ongoing discussions that parents have with school and want to reassure you of the improvements we are making as a direct result of the comments made by parents. We would also like to thank you for the supportive and encouraging words shared throughout the year directly, in the pupil report feedback forms, Year 6 exit questionnaires by the children and letters and emails.

Many thanks

Mr Brian Jones
Headteacher

On behalf of the Board of Governors.

