

SSAS Infants Governors Questionnaire Results 2017

Introduction

Thank you very much to everyone who completed the questionnaire. This year we have had 82 responses which represents approximately 35% of the children in the school. The survey is a useful gauge about what parents and carers consider to be the aspects of school life that work very well and equally where we need to consider addressing issues to improve the school.

The questionnaire featured 32 questions over 5 sections; Environment, Behaviour & Pastoral Care, Curriculum, Extra-curricular activities and Governing Body. Each of these sections will be looked at in turn.

1. Environment

The results in this section were overwhelmingly positive. The most positive responses came from the statements:

- My child is happy at the school (100%)
- The school encourages parents to play an active part in school life (98.7%)

The lowest scoring question in this section was:

- I would find it easy to approach the school with questions or problems concerning my child (93.9%)

Governor Comments:

- The school strives to be a community where everyone is made to feel welcome and every child is valued and nurtured. It is wonderful to see that everyone who responded to the survey felt their child was happy at school. The Governors would like to thank the leadership team, staff and volunteers for all the work they put into creating this special environment.

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2. Behavioural & Pastoral Care

The majority of responses to this section were positive, examples of statements that scored very highly were;

- My child is safe and well cared for at school (100%)
- The school's values and attitudes have a positive effect on my child and are in keeping with the Catholic ethos of the school (100%)
- My child is treated fairly by staff (100%)
- My child is given opportunities to develop their spiritual growth and their faith (100%)
- The school achieves high standards of behaviour (98.7%)

Lower scoring statements were;

- The school successfully combats discrimination (83.51% positive, 16.4% not applicable)
- Any problems I've had have been adequately addressed when raised with the school staff (82.2% positive, 13.9% not applicable, 3.7% disagree)
- Any instances of bullying are dealt with appropriately (60.6% positive, 39.2% not applicable)

Governor Comments:

- The relatively high percentage of "not applicable" responses to certain questions in this section indicates that the particular issue in question is not one that the parent or carer has faced, which in itself is very positive. However, it is important to note the following:
- The school takes bullying extremely seriously. The anti-bullying policy is part of the Behaviour Policy, included in the welcome packs for each Reception child on starting school. The Behaviour policy is reviewed every September. The school has an Anti-Bullying week each Autumn and return to themes explored throughout the year. The children produced a newsletter for parents, expressing this learning to share at home (see attached). The children are explicitly taught how to keep themselves safe in school and online. Parents are invited to e-Safety workshops annually and receive termly newsletters from Herts for Learning.

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- We have an acceptable usage agreement relating to technology and electronic communications which we ask parents to read and sign annually.
- In line with our ethos, the school's equality policy and equality legislation, the school must not discriminate against people based on amongst other things, gender, ethnicity, race and age.
- If you feel that there is an issue that you would like to discuss regarding your child, the first step is to raise it with their teacher. The best way to do this is a note to the teacher or email admin@ssasinfants.herts.sch.uk. Parents can request an appointment to see a teacher or arrange a telephone conversation after school at a mutually convenient time.

If you do not feel that the teacher has adequately dealt with the problem, you can raise it with the Head Teacher. If you still do not feel that the issue has been dealt with to your satisfaction, you can then raise it with the Chair of Governors, David Miveld. This process is set out in more detail in the school's complaints policy which can be found on our website.

3. Curriculum

Overwhelmingly positive responses were given to the statements;

- My child is making good progress because the teaching is good at the school (98.7%)
- My child is taught well at school (98.7%)
- The teaching staff strive to find imaginative ways of making learning fun and interesting over the breadth of the curriculum (97.3%)
- I am happy with the standards achieved by the school (98.7%)

Lower scoring statements were;

- I am kept informed about my child's progress (88.5% positive, 11.5% disagree)
- I am satisfied with the work that my child is expected to do at home (93.5% positive, 5% disagree)
- I have a clear understanding of how much I am expected to help my child with their homework (83.2% positive, 14.1% disagree)

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Governor Comments:

- The fact that children are making good progress, standards are high and teachers use imaginative ways to engage the children and make learning fun is a great credit to the teaching team.
- Parents have two consultations with class teachers and a comprehensive written report each year.
- This year we implemented the new cycle for consultations and reports, which we had mentioned in our comments on last year's survey. Nursery and Year 2 receive a full written report at the end of each school year to highlight their performance to the end of the year.
- Reception and Year 1 children will receive a full written report midway through the year, focusing on their achievements and targets, which are reviewed at the consultations in the summer term.
- In response to last year's parent feedback, autumn consultations were moved forward this year to allow the teachers to update you on how your child is settling in to their new class. However, this survey indicates you felt it was too early, so we will arrange the initial consultation just before the end of the first half term of the autumn term in 2017.
- Homework – Teachers explain homework expectations at meetings in the first week of September and are happy to answer questions throughout the year. Currently, all children have daily reading homework and/or phonics/spelling patterns to learn and practise. Children in KS1 also have a weekly maths worksheet to complete. Following successful trials, we are reviewing other 'fixed' homework and plan to adopt a more flexible, homework grid of suggested research or activities related to topics. The feedback from children and parents has been that they have really they have enjoyed this. It is an exciting initiative and more information will be presented to parents in September.

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4. Extra-curricular Activities

The responses were again largely extremely positive for the statements;

- The school provides a good range of extra-curricular activities (88.4% positive, 6.4% disagree, 5.1% not applicable)
- I am aware of the After School Clubs available to me (93.5%, 5.1% not applicable)

Governor Comments:

- The Badgers after school club has received excellent feedback from parents and carers and continues to grow in popularity.
- We have reviewed our current school club provision. We will continue to offer gymnastics in September 2017 but have replaced tennis with multi-skills clubs run by specialist provider GameOn. These clubs will be offered to Y2 in the Autumn, Y1 in Spring and Reception in Summer. An assembly is planned for September when more information will be made available.
- Art club will continue on Mondays and languages clubs (Spanish, French and Italian) on other days. We intend to offer Inventioneering club to Year 2 pupils.

5. Governing Body

The most positive responses were to the statements;

- The governing body provide a good level of support to the school (90.8%)
- The school is well led and managed (100%)

Lower scoring statements in this section were;

- I understand what the 'Building Fund' is and why it is so important that I contribute to it (90% positive, 9% disagree)
- I understand the roles and responsibilities of the Governing Body (85.8% positive, 12.9% disagree)
- I know how to contact the Governing Body if I need to (76.6% positive, 23.4% disagree)

Governor Comments:

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- We appreciate the importance of the parent body knowing who the Governors are and what our roles are. We are keen to forge closer ties to so that we can work together in the interests of the school. There is an opportunity to meet and discuss issues with Governors at open evenings and the intention is that a governor will attend meetings for new parents. Information on who we are can be found at <http://ssasinfants.herts.sch.uk/governors/>
- If you would like to contact the governors, there is a dedicated email address governors@ssasinfants.herts.sch.uk, so please do send an email. Alternatively, there is a box in the school reception area in which you can leave a message or given that a number of us have children in the school, please do feel free to stop us and we can put you in touch with the relevant person to deal with your query or arrange a mutually convenient time to discuss the issue further.

Thank you again to all those who took the time to complete the survey, it is appreciated and please be assured that we will continually seek to improve the school with your feedback.