

ANNUAL SURVEY OF PARENTS/CARERS VIEWS 2018

43 replies – thank you 😊

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
My child is happy at this school	70%	26%	2%		2%
My child feels safe at this school	86%	14%			
My child makes good progress at this school	84%	14%	2%		
My child is well looked after at this school	86%	14%			
My child is taught well at this school	86%	14%			
The school make sure that its pupils are well behaved	77%	21%			2%
The school deals effectively with bullying	51%	21%		2%	26%
The school is well led and managed	81%	16%	2%		
The school responds well to any concerns I raise	70%	21%			9%
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	65%	33%	2%		

What do you feel are the strengths of the school and what should we keep doing?

open door policy is fantastic / no problems or concerns since child started / very well led / polite children / teachers are friendly / great progress / very impressed with how child has settled / amazing teaching staff and tremendous effort daily / child is happy and valued / after school clubs and day trips are wonderful and enhance children's learning / topics capture children's imagination / classrooms exciting and eye-catching displays / kept up to date with newsletters / rewards excellent idea / support staff friendly and welcoming / this school is outstanding and I am proud to send my son here / cannot praise the school highly enough, child has made excellent progress / children have all been happy and look forward to coming to school / fantastic support and challenge / children are challenged to push themselves with hard work and this is supported by great teachers / pupils always come first/ staff are fantastic / obviously care for the children / FOE events / events for parents (assemblies) / music / sports / outdoor resources / supportive environment for children's progress and achievement / high expectations / administrative functions and office staff / sports / varied topics / good communication, helpful and friendly / always approachable if you need the time to talk / support learning well / sports activities / challenge students well / FOE / celebrate achievement / excellent management and staff / very good level of teaching and progress in each year group / school facilities / after school clubs / communications / pupil development / food choices / every teacher always happy to discuss any concerns with no problem / educational and emotional needs very well understood / progress beyond what I could have hoped for / confidence grown / enrichment activities second to none / high standards / I love this school / best ever start / Mrs T helped in her own time / all staff go above and beyond for all the pupils making sure their needs are met / good communication and feedback when any questions raised / teachers and teaching assistants knowledgeable and approachable / great team ensuring smooth transition from nursery to school / Excalibur is a brilliant school / excellent teaching staff / excellent SENCO / communication to parents is excellent / both 'in-year' transfers into KS2 very happy how quickly they integrated thanks to the teachers and staff / lots of exciting sporting activities / excellent before and after school club / building strong relationships between pupils and staff to ensure all needs catered for in best possible way / very strong, committed leadership team striving for constant improvement / good communication / thanks to all the team – you are amazing / happy with everything and pleased with progress / making learning fun / home learning just right – not too much piled on / school trips / show and tell great for confidence alongside year group assemblies / good communication when needed / lovely school, only good things to say / more than adequately informed of all activities going on and those are plentiful / great variety of extracurricular activities on offer / range of opportunities offered to pupils / Read Write Inc programme / perfect place to grow and learn / many strengths / teachers welcoming and approachable / any concerns dealt with promptly and professionally / reception teachers are an asset / school grounds always spotless and inside is immaculate too /child's teacher approachable and gives good feedback

I would like to know more about... /I would like to suggest:

More variety in sporting after school clubs / review of parentmail – sometimes feel there are too many to keep up with / assemblies on different days so working parents can attend / online access to child's progress / attending school trips (parents)/ daily exercise routine – partnered with a local gym / more in planner about general weekly progress or any times my child has been spoken to or done well / nice to have a minibus (understand it is costly) /if possible more notice of sporting events (know this might be associated with external organisations rather than school) / support for parents on how to teach reading has been fantastic – same support for maths would be good / letters with a reply slip would be handier in school bag as we don't have a printer / more rounded picture at parents' evening with next steps / school's policy on holidays during term time and why such a strong stance / both gates opened at drop off and collection time to ease flow of traffic / don't feel open door policy works – especially with management and creates a 'them and us' feeling / LGBTQ policy

16th April 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the 2018 survey and give us feedback. This is used alongside the staff survey; progress and attainment data and pupil voice to help us identify development points for the school and to continue to try and offer the best provision we can – so your views are very important to the whole school community.

You have given us overwhelmingly positive feedback; as you can see from the figures and comments above. It reads as a real celebration of the hard work by everyone who is part of our school. Some of the strengths which many people repeatedly commented on are:

- Good communication
- Open door policy
- Friendly and approachable staff
- Strong leadership team
- Sports
- Good support and challenge for our children
- Enrichment activities – such as: extra-curricular opportunities, trips, topics and FOE
- Good teaching and pupil progress
- Children come first

We will endeavour to continue to provide all of this. You have also offered some good ideas and asked for more information about one or two things. We have listened and some of these we can act on quickly. We will:

- Hold a parent/carers' maths evening in the summer term – keep an eye out for the date
- Try hard to get sporting fixtures out sooner where possible
- Double check that only essential information is sent out on parentmail
- Review the areas covered during parent/teacher consultations to try and ensure a more 'rounded picture'
- See if either school staff, volunteers or external providers can offer some different sports in the menu of extra-curricular activities

For some of the 'would like to know more about' requests, we would direct you to our website www.excalibur.cheshire.sch.uk

LGBTQ - Our equal opportunities and accessibility policy, which was written in accordance with The Equality Act 2010, is available under the policies tab and articulates our commitment to equality on the grounds of gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion/belief, age, level of educational need or background.

Term time holidays - why such a strong stance – Under 'Parent Info' and the attendance tab, you will find a plethora of information about the importance of good attendance for all children. You will also find 'top tips', absence reporting procedures and our attendance policy here. Promoting good attendance is not unique to Excalibur and the government is clear that schools may only grant term time holiday leave in exceptional circumstances. The school can authorise term time absence in an emergency or for genuine pastoral reasons (e.g the death of a close relative). All schools have a legal duty to promote good attendance. All schools are required to monitor pupil attendance through attendance procedures. All schools must submit attendance data to the local authority.

Parents on school trips – we welcome the support of parent helpers and indeed several already regularly support us on school trips and in school by completing tasks for the teachers. If this is something which you are interested in, first speak to the class teacher. Then, for safeguarding reasons, you will need to complete a DBS check and provide two references at the office. Once this has been satisfactorily completed and returned, you are more than welcome to help. On the rare occasion that we have more volunteers than places available on trips, names are pulled from a hat.

Don't feel open door policy works – especially management - them and us feeling – We work very hard to secure strong partnerships with all stakeholders because we know that it is under these circumstances when children do best. Many parents/carers, over several years, have repeatedly stated that one of the strengths of the school is our friendly, welcoming atmosphere. Within the confines of safeguarding, safety and practicality, we try to be as open an organisation as possible; at all levels. We would encourage anyone who feels unable to approach any of the leadership team to find a way to come and talk to us about how we can improve this for you. It may just be a misunderstanding around a school policy, but we will always do our best to explain clearly and to understand even if there is something we can't change.

More in planner about general weekly progress or any time my child has been spoken to or done well – the use of planners is currently under review by the staff because as the children move through the school, it seems they are used less and less by parents/carers and pupils. They are an expensive resource for the school if they are not effective. Planners seem to be more useful for the parents/carers of younger pupils. As the children move through the year groups, we expect the planners become more of a tool for the children themselves to develop their organisational skills and own reading log records/comments. We are unable to look at every child's planner daily; in most classes this happens on the child's guided reading day. If a message is pressing, we would always encourage you to contact school to speak with the teacher as children can tend to forget to hand over the planner to the teachers in the busy school day. We do not believe that writing in the planner each time a child is spoken to or has done well

is logistically possible. There are at least 30 children in each class and if this was done, the teachers would lose a significant amount of teaching time checking planners. Of course, if we feel something is particularly pertinent, we would use the planner; but better still pick up the phone or have a chat at the end of the day. Furthermore, we use a wide range of extrinsic rewards through the school which your child can share with you or tell you about; verbal praise, house points, stickers, class rewards, star of the week, VIP's and postcards home - to name a few. We know that different rewards work for different children.

Reply slips – if you are unable to print reply slips for permissions, you can email permission to admin@excalibur.cheshire.sch.uk

On line access to pupil progress – staff will discuss this further, but there is little 'online' to give access to. We track progress using 'School Pupil Tracker' which is where the teachers record a teacher assessment for Reading, Writing and Maths at the end of each term. We give you this information at parent/teacher consultations, mid-year and end of year reports. Day to day assessment of learning objectives is recorded in pupil's work books and it is in the children's books where you can really see how well they are progressing, so maybe we can find a way to share these more regularly with parents/carers – perhaps through drop-ins? Staff will discuss how we could best do this.

Open both gates – we have checked, and Mr Pickin (our site manager) does open both pedestrian gates in the morning and afternoon. If this suggestion is referring to the vehicular gate, then we are unable to open this for safety reasons. It is important to keep the pedestrian and vehicular traffic separate. The 'dog-leg' gate at the bottom of the path we understand needs some skilful navigating with a buggy or pushchair and generally slows the pedestrian traffic. We appreciate this may seem inconvenient, but it does stop young children from running out on to the road.

Finally, thank you once more for your input and your kind comments.

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you over the coming months.

Yours Faithfully,

Lise Houldsworth (Head Teacher)

Juliet Tomkinson (Deputy Head)

Vicky Alsop (Chair of Governors)