

ANNUAL SURVEY OF PARENTS/CARERS VIEWS 2016

Any information that you give us is confidential and will help us improve provision for your child/children.

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't know |
|--|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| My child is happy at this school | 79% | 21% | | | |
| My child feels safe at this school | 73% | 27% | | | |
| My child makes good progress at this school | 69% | 31% | | | |
| My child is well looked after at this school | 69% | 30% | 2% | | |
| My child is taught well at this school | 72% | 26% | 2% | | |
| The school make sure that its pupils are well behaved | 64% | 30% | 4% | | 2% |
| The school deals effectively with bullying | 40% | 14% | 4% | | 41% |
| The school is well led and managed | 65% | 26% | | | 9% |
| The school responds well to any concerns I raise | 55% | 36% | 2% | | 6% |
| I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress | 61% | 37% | 2% | | |

What do you feel are the strengths of the school?

All staff/good communication from school to parents/good safe place for children to learn/easy to speak to staff/teacher child relationships are good/children well supported in learning/teachers and all other staff/all of the staff/teaches good ethics and morals/staff approachable & understanding/parental involvement/weekly reception newsletter/child's academic progress/termly projects are varied and interesting/trips are inspired/feeling of well-being towards our children/school works as a team/communication between members of staff is excellent/pastoral care cannot be faulted and even extends to the family circle/an excellent school/fabulous and committed staff who seem happy to be at work/strong relationships between staff and pupils/ Feel my children are well understood by their teachers and are taught and cared for excellently/discipline and behaviour is a strength/privilege to be part of such a fabulous school, thanks/teaching staff and support given to individual children/ the staff/ Miss Street - engages well with the children and really motivates them to learn/ staff helped with road safety issue raised - helped to have school's support/teachers very easy to approach/Great read write inc programme child come on loads/ my child is happy at school and eager to learn/excellent teaching staff and up to date training of staff/good communication with parents/wide range of teaching techniques and experiences that the children are exposed to is fantastic, making learning fun/ bringing confidence to the children/communication is brilliant/open door policy is brilliant/excellent teaching staff up to date and current training/great communication with parents/Excalibur is a really good school and has strength in all areas/ contact between parents & teachers is really well done with the use of the planners, newsletters and parentmail/FOE is a great asset to the school, the events put on for the children are great & really enjoyable/ curriculum taught in a fun way/ children learn outside the classroom through visits and walks etc/school is supportive and friendly and welcoming/ Information between the school and parents is excellent -we receive regular communication/ nurturing positive and caring atmosphere/ teachers and assistants work hard to ensure pupils are engaged, motivated and happy/ some excellent teachers/constant presence from headteacher & very accessible/safe & pleasant environment/ school very good at what it does and always sorts problems straight away/all staff friendly and ready to help, we can talk openly to you/ there is a lot for children to do after school, trips and new hands on adventures for them/ positive and always willing to help/good communication between parents, teacher and headteacher/lovely, well presented classrooms & communal areas/teachers always friendly and welcoming/ excellent teaching staff/ open door policy, always updating on progress/ my son is always progressing, content and happy at school, he is well looked after and I appreciate all the hard work from all members of staff/ Staff are approachable at all times/ the school and FOE provide excellent ways of fundraising for the school/ enthusiastic, caring staff who go the extra mile/nurturing environment/music provision/useful website/sports week/variety of how the curriculum is taught/getting children to appreciate punctuality and good manners/ noticing a child's strengths and weaknesses/ teachers/ friendliness of all the staff and parents, you can talk to the teachers if you have any concerns and they are always happy to chat to you.

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

Separating younger ones from older ones on playground/structured art projects/more notice of everything/nothing, keep up the good work/ more frequent feedback related specifically to own child/greater ratio of staff to children during breaktime/better communication - often told about an event on the morning of an event itself/just keep doing what you're doing, it obviously works, so impressed with everything, music excellent/repeat of maths information evening held last year/updates termly on progress and performance/residential trips for years 3-6/ how the house points work/ co-ordinate holidays with the high school/ 3 weekly awards idea - so children who always behave well are rewarded/ a lollypop person?/ terminology used in lessons/ more about the progress of my child to support the teachers at home/ more male teachers, more teachers with drama/music skills/ my child complains about teachers shouting/more teacher input & help with the PTA/ more trips/ an afterschool cricket club/ more information about what my child is learning on a week to week basis/ wider range of after school activities/ more notice of events such as Christmas plays/ if issues speak to individual parents rather than generic newsletter/ inform parents of teaching staff changes/more transparency about how school budget is spent/ Maybe a yearly or if not possible 8 weeks' notice of events such as Christmas, Easter, harvest etc/ school has fewer after school clubs compared to stoke-on trent especially for KS1/section off the playground.

Our children have voted yes to a school council suggestion that we include a school tie (with shirts and V neck sweaters) in our uniform from September 2016. Do you think this is a good idea? Please circle:

YES 20%

NO 80%

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for completing the annual survey! We had 49 replies which is great. You will see that the overall majority of returns show us that you are happy with much of the work of the school and particularly value the friendliness of the school, our open door policy, our communication with you and the varied learning experiences for the children.

The collated responses will be fed back, discussed and evaluated by all staff and the governing body. The senior leadership team will use your feedback, in conjunction with other sources of data, to help us to plan what works well in our school and what can be further improved through our school improvement process.

You will see that despite the majority of our pupils telling us they would like to change the uniform to include a tie, 80% of parents/carers have expressed that they do not think this is a good idea - therefore we shall postpone plans for this.

We appreciate all of your comments and it is heartening to hear that the hard work of staff and the effort that is made by all the school community is impacting positively on our children. You have given us some good ideas too and we will be discussing these further - some we can act on straight away, for example we will be offering a cricket (striking and fielding) club this term and we are planning to repeat the maths information evening in the summer term. Some are more difficult to act upon, such as more male teachers (which is a national trend in primary unfortunately).

You will see some suggestions/comments highlighted and commented on below - this is because the information already exists or we feel we can give further information now which may help to offer clarification. We hope that you find this useful.

Many thanks again for taking the time to offer feedback. As always, should you have any queries or concerns then please do come to see us.

Yours Faithfully,

Mrs Lise Houldsworth (Head Teacher) & Mrs Sarah Choi (Parent voice governor) ☺

Separating younger ones from older ones on playground/ section off the playground

The playground is zoned at playtimes, so only one class plays on specific areas at a time; such as the A frame area or the fort, or has access to equipment. There are zones for just KS1 and just KS2, but importantly areas where the children from any year group can come together to play should they wish to, such as the quiet areas and around the friendship bench. We encourage our older pupils to take care of our younger children through structured programmes such as play leading, peer counselling and the house captain system. In this way, we seek to balance the social interaction of the children, the wholeness of the school community and the safety of pupils accessing resources and climbing equipment appropriate to their size and age. Teachers will be reminding all classes of this zoning system and of the options open to them at playtimes.

more notice of everything/ more notice of events such as Christmas plays/ Maybe a yearly or if not possible 8 weeks' notice of events such as Christmas, Easter, harvest etc/ better communication - often told about an event on the morning of an event itself

We work very hard to give as much notice of events as we can. The Easter service date went out from Newsletter 4, 21/10/15; giving 4 months' notice. Christmas date was on from Newsletter 3, 9/10/15 giving 9 weeks' notice. Unfortunately, harvest assembly had less notice as it falls so early within the academic year. There are some events from external agencies that we are told about in less time e.g music events such as the Y4 brass concert, but we endeavour to get this information out to you as soon as we have it. May we ask you to check general newsletters carefully for dates - they always appear at the end of the letter and we try and put any new dates added in bold. If you miss a letter, they are all uploaded to our website and dates are added (as soon as we are able) to the website calendar also. We will feedback to teaching staff to give dates for class assemblies as soon as possible. We are unable to find any events, which parents/carers

needed to know of, that have been announced on the morning themselves, so if you have any further information of when this has happened specifically please do let us know, so that we can rectify this for the future.

how the house points work

All children in all classes can earn house point tokens from any member of staff for a range of things: progress, academic achievement, good manners, great homework, being a good friend, being helpful or reliable or persevering and so on. Children who get 'star of the week' automatically earn 5 tokens for their house. The tokens are collected from the classes and put into the plastic boxes in the entrance hall so the children can see how well their house is doing. At the end of each half term they are emptied and counted up. The winning house then receives the house cup in assembly with their coloured ribbons on and the children belonging to the winning house earn a non-uniform day - usually on the second day back after the half term break (so that we can remind them about it on the first day back!). Winners are also celebrated on the header on the website, so you can check there at the end of each half term if your child forgets who has won.

co-ordinate holidays with the high school

For a number of years, all Alsager schools (including the high school) have consulted and co-ordinated with each other to ensure the same holiday dates. There may be slight differences when, for example, a school has to take an INSET day on a specific date because it has to close for elections (such as our school) or when certain tasks have to be undertaken (moderation at the high school for example). There are 5 INSET days schools must take each year and some schools will be tied into when they have to take them, but the main dates should be the same.

more teacher input & help with the PTA

F.O.E does a fantastic job for everyone's children. They organise some brilliant events for us all. Teachers support after school evening events such as the Christmas, Easter and Summer fairs and termly discos by: manning stalls, counting and banking money, tidying up, putting furniture away, locking up the school and supervising children. Occasionally, some teachers may be unable to attend an event due to family or social commitments, but the majority of staff is in attendance and support events regularly. There is always staff representation at Friends of Excalibur meetings, which are held approximately every 6 weeks and start at 7.30pm in Alsager. Teachers are unable to help shop for events, set up the events or pitch in during lunchtime gift wraps for example as they are either in the classroom teaching, preparing afternoon lessons or eating their lunch. Teachers help to promote any competitions by planning and holding special assemblies as necessary and by reminding pupils about special events being held. They also encourage children to take part by joining in non-uniform days and other events and competitions.

more transparency about how school budget is spent

Information about any maintained school's budget has been available via the DfE site for a number of years. There is a link to this on our website. Furthermore - the governors at Excalibur made the decision last year to publish non confidential part 1 minutes on our website. Financial information, discussions, benchmarking, SFVS information, best value statements and challenges can be found under the minutes of the Strategic Leadership and Management sub-committee meetings. Furthermore, Mrs Hilditch, our School Business Manager, is very happy to answer any specific queries you have. The accounts for Friends of Excalibur are also published on the school's website.