



Parent Questionnaire Response 2017



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Thank you so much to those parents and guardians who took the time to respond to our summer questionnaire. We really do appreciate your careful and thoughtful responses.

Governors and staff have had the opportunity to read the comments and this has provided us with a good base for discussion that has helped shape our focus for moving the school forward. These plans will be included in the school Development Plan to help further improve the school. It was also wonderful to read the heartfelt praise for what the school does well – Thank you.

We received 23 responses out of a possible 191. Even though this is disappointing the comments received have still provided us with areas to improve on. We have analysed the results of the survey, taking into consideration your comments.

If you have any queries or questions about the outcome of the survey or any of the issues raised, please do not hesitate to get in touch with either the Chair of Governors, Mrs Doreen Mackie or myself.

Thank you again for your continued support

Mrs R Langley

Headteacher.

1. Areas with strong agree rate (95% or higher)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
<u>Q1 Parental involvement in school is encouraged</u>	43%	52%	4.3%	0	0
<u>Q2 I find the Newsletter useful and informative</u>	78%	22%	0	0	0
<u>Q3 I find the Seesaw App useful and informative</u>	78%	22%	0	0	0

According to the survey 95% agree that parent involvement is encouraged and 100% agree that the Newsletter and Seesaw App are useful and informative.

These results were very encouraging. We have received lots of positive comments regarding the introduction of Seesaw and many parents have expressed their enthusiasm for using this app. We plan as a school to continue to develop the use of this platform.

Comments.

It was pleasing to read that parents think the newsletter is useful. I know at times there can be a lot of information included but we value it as key method of communication. One comment was regarding preferring a hard copy for the fridge, which we agree is very useful. We are an Eco friendly school and try to limit our printing but parents are always welcome to request a hard copy from the office.

Even though the survey showed a high agreement that parental involvement is encouraged one comment led to suggest this is only through the Friends of the school. I agree the Friends organisation is one way of getting involved in school social activities, but we do openly encourage parents to support school in a range of ways – from hearing readers to accompanying classes on trips and visits, supporting our annual gardening day and providing welcomed support at sporting events.

2. Areas with less than 95% agree rate.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
<u>Q4 I find the School Website useful and informative</u>	48%	43%	4.3%	0	4.3%
<u>Q5 Parent's Evening are held twice a year generally in October and March. Do you find the format of Parent's Evenings useful?</u>	57%	35%	0	0	0
<u>Q6 I receive valuable information from school regarding my child's progress</u>	52%	35%	13%	0	0

Although it appears from the results the majority are happy with the above areas the results do suggest that not everyone is happy with the format for Parents Evening and the information provided regarding pupil progress. As a school we agree that these are the areas we most want to improve.

Question 7/8

Which of the following communication tools do you use?

Which methods of communication tools do you prefer and why?

Results showed that all forms of communication were favoured

Results in order of preference

1. Text message
2. School app

3. Seesaw
4. Newsletter
5. Email
6. Telephone
7. Twitter
8. Website/pupil planner

Question 9

What is the school doing well?

The following comments were made by parents.

- Newsletter
- Making sure children are happy and enjoy education.
- Providing a happy, safe and stimulating environment.
- Always keeping parents informed and up to date.
- Great at communication
- School looks clean and tidy
- Frequent opportunity for extracurricular activities
- Caring and supportive staff
- The school makes learning fun
- ALNCO helps individualise plans
- Encouraging children to learn
- Encouraging pupils to develop skills/talents, interests, introducing Catholic Values.
- Always feel welcome to come in and speak to staff
- Help children to become individual and more confident in themselves.
- Teachers are fantastic
- Topics and learning are brilliant
- Mrs Clarke is a valuable member of staff who always listens.

These comments are very encouraging and it is so rewarding for staff to know their hard work, care and dedication hasn't gone unnoticed.

Question 10

What is the school not doing well?

The following comments were made by parents.

- Parents Evening
- Reporting on progress
- More Homework in year 1
- Contact with parents
- Last minute communication of details of events very last minute
- Attendance slips
- Regulation of school uniform
- If you write in the planner it would be nice to get a reply.

Response to comments and Actions underway.

Parents Evening/Pupil progress.

As a staff we have discussed how best to improve the way in which we report on pupil progress and how we can improve the format of Parents evening. We agree that at present for some, parent's evening can be less productive and waiting times vary. We therefore have decided to hold parents evening over two nights in the hope this will allow more time to discuss pupils progress.

We also intend to introduce an opportunity for parents and carers to come into school on a more informal bases to share what pupils have been doing in class on a regular bases. The 'Share the Learning' sessions will take place during the week before half term. The aim of the sessions is to encourage parents, carers and grandparents to come and see first-hand what the children are experiencing in the classroom. The sessions will be very informal and will allow children to share what they have been learning. Obviously we will not expect every parent to attend every session but we hope that by holding these sessions regularly through the year it will allow as many of you as possible to attend throughout the year. More information regarding these sessions will be sent home as soon as arrangements have been finalised.

More Homework for year 1 pupils.

There were a few comments regarding homework. The majority were positive and even suggested pupils had too much homework. Homework is always a difficult area to get right. Teachers and Parents have different views on the benefits and on how much children should have, so we know we won't please everyone. We feel we provide a reasonable amount of homework for pupils in all year groups. One comment asked for more homework for pupils in year 1. This year we are encouraging Foundation phase pupils to access RM easy Maths online to support their maths learning. Pupils will be provided with login details and will be encouraged use the site at home.

Late communication and no reply in pupil planners.

This is a tough one and it is something myself and the staff worry over constantly. Our aim as a school is to provide our pupils with as many exciting and stimulating experiences as possible and we do try whenever possible to give parents and carers as much notice as possible. However, often events and activities are brought to our attention in a short space of time which leaves us with the dilemma, is it an important opportunity for pupils not too miss or is it just too short notice to expect parents to support us and if so the children will just have to miss it this time. It is never our intention to inflict undue pressure on families by leaving our preparations to the last minute. It is often those organising events and activities that fail to inform us in a timely manner. Often lack of forward planning is through no fault of our own. We will continue to strive to ensure as much notice as possible is provided for all our future events and trips.

Staff do endeavour when possible to reply to any communication in the pupil planner, either by written or verbal response. However sometimes events or other work commitments can prevent a timely response. All staff will continue to ensure this is addressed.

Attendance Slips

Some parents commented that they were unhappy with the attendance slips and felt they were unfair and a waste of resources. Unfortunately attendance was a key recommendation for the school from Estyn. The use of Attendance slips is just one of the methods we use to encourage good attendance. The colour coded slips are a quick and easy way for us to highlight good attendance and they prove to be an effective indicator of a drop in attendance that needs addressing. As a school we have researched the most effective methods and have found that informing parents and carers regularly on their child's attendance has the biggest impact. We understand that often a drop in attendance is due to illness and medical appointments

and even though these still have an effect on the overall attendance, will be taken into consideration when discussing attendance issues. We also ensure good attendance is celebrated with our weekly attendance cup, merits awards, 100% attendance certificates.

Regulation of School Uniform

Firstly can I take this opportunity to thank parents and carers of Edward Morgan for always supporting our uniform policy and turning the children out so smartly. Staff often receive comments from visitors and members of the public about how smart the pupils look, when out on trips.

I do agree that some parents were allowing their children to wear brightly coloured trainers for school on a regular basis. As a result, during the summer term the Governors reviewed the uniform policy and made amendments in the hope that certain issues will be addressed. We now ask that all pupils only wear black school shoes and not trainers for school. Trainers and pumps will only be allowed for PE lessons or certain playtime activities. The Governing Body appreciated all parents support in this matter.