

# St. James' C of E Primary School – Parents' Questionnaire

## May 2017

Dear parents and guardians,

Thank you for the responses shared on the questionnaires; we have collated the data and will be using your responses to help move the school forward. Where possible we try to act quickly but some changes take a little longer. We had a large number of responses in and some great comments about what we do here at St. James'. We have tried to summarize the key points and have added any comments that may help.

Lisa Harford (Head)

**Please tick only one box for each question.**

	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
1. How good are we at creating a happy school environment?	44	27	3	
2. How good are we at creating a safe, secure environment?	36	32	5	1
3. How good are we at meeting children's emotional needs?	33	38	11	2
4. How good are we at meeting children's academic needs?	26	34	11	3
5. How well do we encourage positive attitudes towards school and learning?	40	29	5	1
6. How good are we at providing for children's creative and artistic needs?	36	30	8	
7. How good are we at providing for children's physical development?	34	27	8	2
8. How good are we at promoting healthy lifestyles?	26	37	11	
9. How good are we at promoting our Christian values which will enable children to become thoughtful and responsible citizens?	35	32	7	
10. Taking into consideration all aspects of children's development, how would you describe your child(ren)'s progress since they joined our school?	27	40	9	2
11. How good are we at being approachable and responding to your concerns?	25	30	12	7
12. How good are we at keeping you informed about the life of the school?	30	32	10	2
13. How good are we at keeping you informed about your child's progress – reports, consultations, review meetings etc?	26	29	17	2
14. How useful is homework in supporting and extending children's learning?	23	28	19	4
15. How useful are the wide range of curriculum enrichment activities we offer, in stimulating children's interest? (off-site educational visits, visiting theatre groups, music/dance workshops, specialist sports coaches etc.)	25	33	11	3
16. How good are the opportunities for parents to become involved in children's education and the life of the school e.g. classroom helpers, open mornings/afternoons, school trips, PTA events etc?	32	38	7	
17. How effectively do we support pupils' individual needs?	22	29	17	5
18. How suitable is the range of extra-curricular clubs offered by the school staff and out of school providers?	23	42	6	
19. How well are we doing at maintaining and improving the school premises?	33	36	5	
20. How would you rate our drive to promote effective communication? Including google calendar, twitter, facebook, scoop extra, dress up days and calendar)?	30	30	8	5
21. How would you rate art week?	38	21	3	1
22. How would you rate our PE provision, including inter house events and coaching provision?	20	35	9	1
23. How would you rate our approach to behaviour management?				

**Optional additional feedback:**

## Things that you think we do particularly well at St James' C of E Primary School:

- Creating an environment that our child likes and feels safe in.
- Listening and responding to our concerns regarding our child's educational needs.
- Work on the values that incorporates all faiths/ no faith but is embedded in how we should lead our lives.
- Wonderful set of educational trips, activities which stimulate learning (den building, dog's trust, visit to SkillZone to name a few)
- Art, drama, Young Voices, Art Week, instrumental lessons and orchestra all enrich the curriculum.
- Strong academic progress for both of my children, one of which isn't bright.
- Part of a happy community.
- Approachable and intelligent teachers and teaching assistants.
- Opportunities for older children to work and play with younger children.
- Teachers listen to concerns and act upon them quickly.
- Great PE provision; my child has never been good at sport or liked it but going to an event last year fueled his enthusiasm and he now plays for a team outside of school!
- Resolve pupil issues swiftly, thank you.
- Rewarding good behaviour for all, stickers, stamps, teacher acknowledgement.
- Healthy balance of competitive and fun PE opportunities – love the scoop extra!
- Reception settling in time for children and lovely Reception staff.
- Excellent sporting provision with coaches.
- A drive to foster an interest in reading.
- Fantastic PTA events.
- My children love the PlayPod and playing with the older children at lunchtimes!

## Things that you think would help to improve St James' C of E Primary School:

## General Areas and our responses/actions:

- **Menu Choices this term** (we will take this back to the catering company, please let us know which dishes your children do not like so that we can inform CaterLink)
- **Additional PE Lessons** (unfortunately we have too many other areas of the curriculum which we have a statutory obligation to cover, this limits the amount of time spent on PE but we follow government guidelines) This is why we offer a wide range of extra-curricular and competitive PE.
- **More bicycle racks** (something will look into for September)
- **School gate safety for Reception** – next year we have planned for Reception to go straight into the classroom rather than the playground all year, a few small children have managed to pass back out of the gate as it can be difficult to distinguish them against younger pre-school children leaving with parents. We aim to be as vigilant as possible and try to have two staff at the gates and stop children leaving regularly. By Reception parents being asked to 'deliver' their child to the class this will prevent this issue in the future.
- **No homework, more homework/homebased learning suggestions, no SATS, basic skills of reading for home only, more core skills homework** – as you can see different parents want different things from homework, we hope that we are placing ourselves somewhere in the middle but will be reviewing homework for next year. Unfortunately we have to complete all statutory tests and data returns.
- **Letters rather than emails, emails only – no paper, extra text messages before an event and less methods of communication please** – once again you all want different things and so we will try to cater for all of your communication preferences. Dates sometimes change either due to us or for external reasons but we will try to update and alert you asap.

## One off questions/comments that we can answer:

- **Head bumps and certificates could be smaller to save paper and ink costs** – a great idea, thank you!
- **PTA funds – what are they spent on; it would be good to know** – please come to the PTA AGM which highlights this or check the newsletters and Facebook page which often shares new purchases.
- **Would like to help my child carry extra bags into school** – please do if you feel it's necessary, just let a staff member know so that you don't get locked in, remember that we also want them to become independent though.

- **Parents evening; 3 per year please** – we have three, two are individual and the third is a drop in, however we are always available to discuss your child's progress.
- **CCTV cameras** – we have coverage via CCTV for the back of the school, front is also partly covered by residents.
- **Events always happen at the end of term** – unfortunately these are usually a culmination of a theme and what the children work towards and so can only be done when the work is completed; Church services and plays are often linked to a holiday (Whitsun, Easter, Christmas) we try to host open afternoon/mornings earlier in the term.
- **No effort taken to move children to higher groups** – education has changed, level 3 and 6 SATS papers have been scrapped and schools are urged to teach all children together; this benefits all children – even the more able pupils (there is educational research to support this), instead children are exposed to learning at a greater depth which means they use their learning to solve problems outside of what they are taught. Maths groups in years 5 and 6 are not set and there has been movement between groups when needed. If you are concerned please see the teacher
- **Discourage sweets in school** – children may choose to donate a book to the library instead of bring sweets to give out for their birthday, we have a few of these every year and will remind parents of this alternative method of celebration. We will also explore the use of stickers and certificates for entering competitions. The PTA have also looked at alternatives to sweets at their fairs – we will follow this up in school again next year
- **Open school gates on time** – we always try to open them on time and are sorry when we don't. It is usually when we have an issue with staffing or an emergency. We have put the barriers in place to stop the children running out onto the driveway and have spoken with the council about the parking issues faced by parents. We also can't open the gates earlier at the end of the school day as the outdoor areas are used by the children, even in the rain and so need to remain locked. There is limited shelter at the front of the school by the main door.
- **More notice for events** – all pre-planned events are sent home at the start of the year and each term in the newsletter, from time to time we will add events in; we will try to give you as much notice of these as possible and will make sure staff let you know asap if they change the date of an event or add one and make sure that they update the calendar.
- **Hearing children read more, daily hearing of readers** – our staff hear children read as much as possible; some children read daily, some weekly and some fortnightly depending on their ability in KS1 and year 3 and 4 (and in years 5 and 6 if needed). The children are always being asked to read things out in class and group reading and peer reading also take place. Our results and progress in reading is very strong and comparable to other local schools and we place a great emphasis on reading for pleasure to create lifelong readers. We don't rush or hurry reading but do spend lots of time discussing what the texts say. Our phonic results and early years reading results are also now above average. Hearing every child read individually in a class takes about 4 ½ hours. We encourage all children to read to an adult or older child at home every day for this reason.
- **Smaller teacher to child ratio** – unfortunately our school admission number that is set by the LA is 60 per year group and all government funded schools take up to 30 per class (this is our cap at St. James' but in school nearby some classes have up to 34). Budget and building constraints mean that the pupils will always have a high pupil to teacher ratio. We employ many teaching assistants who work full time in KS1 and mornings in KS2 to ensure that the children's learning is maximized. They spend most of their time with the children in groups or 1:1