

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

## September 2018

Dear parents and guardians,

Please complete this short questionnaire and return it by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Your views are very important and shape our School Development Plan. We hope that this will once again provide better evidence than the web based approach taken at the end of the year. Please try to answer in reference to last year rather than previous years and don't worry if you cannot answer all of the questions. If you could tick one box only, rather than two this helps when analysing the data.

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?	35	30	3	
2. How good are we at creating a safe, secure environment?	32	34	1	1
3. How good are we at meeting children's emotional needs?	30	36	2	
4. How good are we at meeting children's academic needs?	28	36		1
5. How well do we encourage positive attitudes towards school and learning?	38	25	1	
6. How good are we at providing for children's creative and artistic needs?	32	32	4	
7. How good are we at providing for children's physical development?	34	34		
8. How good are we at promoting healthy lifestyles?	30	32	6	
9. How good are we at promoting our Christian values which will enable children to become thoughtful and responsible citizens?	42	20	4	
10. Taking into consideration <u>all aspects</u> of children's development, how would you describe your child(ren)'s progress since they joined our school?	30	37	1	
11. How good are we at being approachable and responding to your concerns?	38	28	2	
12. How good are we at keeping you informed about the life of the school?	25	40	3	
13. How good are we at keeping you informed about your child's progress – reports, consultations, review meetings etc?	28	37	2	1
14. How useful is home learning in supporting and extending children's learning, given current research of impact of homework in primary schools?	27	36	2	1
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.)	44	24		
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?	25	27		
17. How effectively do we support pupils' individual needs?	22	44	4	
18. How suitable is the range of extra-curricular clubs offered by the school staff and out of school providers?	37	23	4	
19. How well are we doing at maintaining and improving the school premises?	20	20		
20. How well do we support your child's spiritual growth – see the attachment.	38	29	1	

### Optional additional feedback:

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

- Different year groups playing together
- Approachable staff (comments about admin staff, teachers and TAs)
- Safe and caring environment
- Wide range of clubs and music tuition
- Fostering a love of learning
- Staff are always accessible
- Happy environment
- Great effort by a small PTA
- Simple, effective home learning structures
- Support for special needs and difficult family life – the pastoral team
- Induction into Reception
- Dealing with behaviour
- Communication
- Lovely atmosphere
- Challenge for all and the more able
- Children leading worship

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

- Cakes and biscuits served every day at lunch, amount of sweets at PTA events
- The school use the Local Authority Caterers – all menus are nutritionally balanced to agreed government guidelines – however the school will take back your thoughts to them. The PTA have tried in the past to add healthy snacks and rewards which are not as popular – the smoothie bike is often used but we will also consider alternatives at our next planning meeting. The school do encourage pupils to donate a book to the school rather than bring sweets on their birthday. Mrs. Theyer has special book plates for such dinations.
- Mixed use of communications
- The school have planned a communication strategy planning meeting to sort this out
- Increased facilities for bikes and scooters
- The school would love more facilities but needs additional funding to do this – anyone that knows of any please let us know
- Dangerous Parking
- Parents need to park safely and phone the non-emergency police number if needed. We contact them regularly requesting that they come and look at parking.
- Form duplication
- Sometimes this happens, we are sorry about this but try to learn from errors or your comments
- 100% attendance certificates
- These will no longer be awarded
- More PE
- We follow strict guidelines on the amount of PE undertaken in school and have been awarded a gold mark for our participation in sporting events, the quality of our PE and the amount we do. As children move further up the school club and competition involvement increases as many clubs and comps are geared towards older children locally.
- Knowing sooner if your child is below expectation
- If we have concerns regarding your child and their progress the staff will contact you, there is a mid-year and end of year report and parent's evenings in terms 2, 4 and 6. Children with significant needs will be on an additional plan – these are managed by Mrs. Dove our SENCO. Some children will be below expectation and staff will work hard to move them on. If you are worried about your child's progress please see their class teacher.
- Children are not allowed to throw away their rubbish from lunch boxes – why?
- Two simple reasons: it means you know what they have and haven't eaten and secondly left overs and rubbish for 420 children each day causes a lot of rubbish that they school has to pay to be removed, if children can bring it home it saves us time, money and resources.

- Dealing with bullies

Please be reassured we deal with all worries about bullying. If you have a concern regarding bullying it is important that you let us know ASAP and importantly that myself and Mrs. Smith are made aware – we can then deal with the issues promptly. Often parents rely on their children telling us if they have a concern, this often means we don't find out. We have systems in place which many parents say have been successful. Communication is the key here. Please remember that the definition of bullying is repeated and over time, an imbalance of power put simply: ***“Bullying is when you keep picking on someone because you think you're cooler, smarter, stronger or better than them.”*** Not all behaviour is bullying but we can deal with it.

- Lack of focus on work towards the grammar test and more teaching of English and Mathematics
- Grammar tuition and work towards the grammar test is not part of any maintained school's curriculum and therefore it cannot be taught. We have no access to the tests or their administration. Our teachers follow the national curriculum with hours per year roughly allocated for each curriculum subject – this is what we are accountable for and inspected upon. There is a real drive by the government to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum at primary level to ensure that children get a variety of experiences – this paves the way for artists, geologists, dancers, cricketers, historians, singers, sculptors, engineers etc. We already teach reading, writing and mathematics every day and want to ensure that we leave room for the rest of the curriculum. Our children get high quality teaching of the main areas and we are always striving to improve outcomes for all. If you feel strongly about this and want to discuss it further then please come and see me.

Thank you for completing the questionnaire