

Parent Feedback Forms June 2023

Parent Feedback Forms 2022/23.

Thank you to all who returned the recent parent feedback forms on Survey Monkey. 158 parents took the time to complete the forms which reflects a very healthy level of engagement from our parent body. The feedback was once again very positive and appreciative of the good work being done in school. The criticisms were for the most part both constructive and respectful.

This year's feedback form was once again unsigned. This has advantages and disadvantages. The benefit of having signed feedback was that in previous years I was able to address minor issues directly with the parent in question. I find it frustrating that I am unable to do so this year. However I understand unsigned feedback encourages a freedom of expression that the signed version may not afford. Please contact us directly if you have any worries or concerns that you feel are not being addressed.

When asked to list our strengths, many parents wrote that the school has a warm, safe and welcoming environment. Parents acknowledged that although we recognise the importance of literacy and numeracy, pupils are also exposed to and encouraged to take part in so many other curricular and extra-curricular activities from performance arts, to a wide variety of sports, cooking, nature, gardening, caring for others and the list goes on. 98% of parents believe that Arts Education (Art, Crafts, Music, Dance, Drama, Creative Writing) is as important as Literacy and Numeracy in primary school. One parent wrote, "I love that the children are allowed to run, get dirty and be children". Many parents commented that the school is well run with very good channels of communication between home and school. Communication is something we have worked on in recent years following feedback received in previous surveys. We have introduced SeeSaw and fortnightly newsletters in response to previous feedback received. Parents spoke about approachable teachers who listened to parents and were always available to them. Liz our school's secretary was also recognised for the valuable contribution she makes to the overall smooth running of the school. Seesaw and Aladdin are excellent tools of communication however some parents commented that they would like just one communication app. Parents seem to really enjoy and engage with the regular newsletters which are sent home. Parents spoke in glowing terms about the help their children get from support teachers and in Spraoi.

The area that traditionally has received the most negative comment was the car park situation and entry and exit procedures. 91% of parents now feel that this is working well. I am pleased to see such progress in this area. Parents did express some concern about driver behaviour outside the school gates. This is a matter for the Gardaí. When asked generally how we might improve there was no consistent theme among the 55 comments received. Some parents commented about homework; however this is an area that divides opinion. Most parents are now happy with the amount of homework

received. We have a revised policy on our website reflecting feedback received previously. However, we will continue to try to improve.

86% of parents prefer the present tracksuit type uniform to a more formal version. This is a high satisfaction rating and it ensures we will continue with this uniform for the foreseeable. The 6th Class half-zip received favourable comment.

We asked a question about smart phones on the survey in an effort to begin a conversation about them. 73% of parents stated that their child doesn't have a smart phone. 24% of parents stated they would refuse to sign up to a collective agreement not to allow their child own a smart phone up to and including 6th Class. I assume this is because many of their children already have smart phones. We will now repeat this survey in junior classes and examine the results with the Parents Assoc. in Sept in an effort to drive change in this area.

Key Questions	Yes	No	Comment
My child is happy and safe at school?	95%	5%	The most important question of all as an unhappy child cannot access the curriculum. We are aware of a small number of pupils who find coming to school challenging and we continue to support them.
I am satisfied with my child's progress at school.	97%	3%	Standardised test results for literacy and numeracy this year were very good and comparable to other years.
I am happy with my child's social and emotional development at school.	93%	7%	It is very important to us that we are supporting all pupils' social and emotional development at school. Please let us know if you continue to have concerns.
I am aware of the school's anti-bullying procedures	86%	14%	Anti-Bullying Policy is posted on the blog under school policies.

<p>Please comment on how bullying issues were dealt with in your experience.</p>			<p>Most comments were very positive. A small number of parents expressed frustration that the bully wasn't punished or were unaware of the consequences for the bully. It is important to remember that we have a duty of care to support the alleged bully and to ensure matters are dealt with in a climate of trust and love as per our school's ethos.</p>
<p>I am aware of the school's Child Protection Policy</p>	<p>91%</p>	<p>9%</p>	<p>C.P. Policy is posted on the blog under school policies and also on the noticeboard in the entrance hall. Copies are available for parents.</p>
<p>I am aware of who is on the BOM</p>	<p>53%</p>	<p>47%</p>	<p>We regularly circulate BOM reports to parents through the newsletter. We will try to increase awareness as to who is on the board.</p>
<p>I am aware of who is on the Parents Assoc.</p>	<p>50%</p>	<p>50%</p>	<p>Feedback for the Parents Assoc.</p>
<p>I am happy my child attends a Catholic school.</p>	<p>92%</p>	<p>8%</p>	<p>This figure remains very high.</p>
<p>I am encouraged to be involved in my child's education.</p>	<p>98%</p>	<p>2%</p>	<p>This is positive feedback.</p>
<p>The school has a friendly, welcoming atmosphere.</p>	<p>100%</p>		<p>This is very positive feedback. Thank you. Liz our school secretary plays an important part in this.</p>

Teachers are approachable.	99%		This is positive feedback.
My child gets the right amount of homework.	83%	7%	16% of parents told us in a survey earlier in the year that their child receives too much homework. We have a new Homework Policy on our website. We are moving in the right direction.
I think it is important that Gaeilge is taught at school.	74%	26%	There is great enthusiasm among the pupils generally for Irish in our school. It is very important that parents share this enthusiasm.
Teaching a foreign language at primary school is important.	52%	48%	A new foreign language programme will be introduced from Sept. 2025