



GARDEN FIELDS J.M.I. SCHOOL, Townsend Drive, St. Albans, Herts. AL3 5RL

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11 June 2015

Garden Fields JMI School Parental Survey- Feb 2015 Feedback

Dear Parent/Carers,

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire online in February. We received 228 responses. We have outlined those areas that demonstrate a real positive strength of the school below:

1. The school is well led and managed – 97.7%
2. My child likes school – 97.4%
3. I would feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions or a problem or complaint – 96.9%
4. There is a range of activities that my child finds interesting and enjoyable – 96%
5. The teaching is good – 95.6%
6. My child is not bullied or harassed at school – 90.3%

The questionnaire has allowed the Senior Leadership Team and Governors to analyse the findings and identify the following areas of development and school improvement for the forthcoming year.

- Continue to provide parents with consistent feedback about both learning and progress, especially in light of changes to the national curriculum.
- Review of our current reward system to ensure that it is both fair and supportive in the development of children's self-esteem and learning.
- To ensure that all teaching is consistently good or better and there are high expectations of challenge for all children.
- Provide appropriate information about the changes that are being made to assessment following the removal of levels.
- To further develop behaviour in an expanding school ensuring the consistency of approach to all children by all members of staff through an updated Behaviour Policy.
- Continuation of and re-enforcement of anti-bullying strategies, with parents, pupils and members of the school staff through the development of the Pastoral Support Team.

The past year has seen many changes at Garden Fields, so it is pleasing that the majority of responses to the questionnaire have been very supportive and positive.

We will, as always, work to ensure that the school provides outstanding learning opportunities for all pupils and feedback from parents will continue to be a key factor in helping us to decide our priorities.

The following is a summary of some of the key results together with key points and comments from parents.

The figures do not add up to 100% due to rounding and some parents deeming questions non-applicable.

(2014 figures are shown in brackets to aid comparison)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
My child likes school (<i>your child goes to school with ease and talks about school when they come home</i>)	60.1% (61.5%)	37.3% (36.6%)	2.6% (1.6%)	0.0% (0.0%)	0.4% (0.4%)
My child is making good progress (<i>your child feels they are getting better at reading, writing or maths, and/or the termly parent meetings or school report</i>)	36.6% (42.6%)	53.7% (49.6%)	8.4% (6.1%)	0.0% (0.0%)	1.3% (1.6%)

<i>suggest this)</i>					
Children behave well (<i>you think your child behaves well, his/her classmates behave well and general behaviour is good</i>)	31.9% (33.2%)	61.1% (62.3%)	4.9% (2.5%)	0.4% (0.4%)	2.2% (1.6%)
My child is not bullied or harassed at school (<i>there are active anti-bullying efforts, you or your child is able to talk to the school if they are being bullied</i>)	42.0% (38.5%)	48.7% (48.8%)	4.9% (6.6%)	0.8% (0.4%)	4.4% (5.7%)
The teaching is good (<i>your child talks about their teacher, your general impression is that they do a good job</i>)	42.2% (48.6%)	53.3% (44.4%)	2.2% (2.5%)	0.0% (0.4%)	2.2% (4.1%)
I am kept well informed about how my child is getting on (<i>you are informed through parents' evenings, the annual report and informal communication with the class teacher</i>)	21.8% (32.0%)	61.8% (57.0%)	15.6% (9.8%)	0.4% (0.4%)	0.9% (0.8%)
I would feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions or a problem or complaint (<i>you get a friendly service from the office staff, you feel confident to talk to your child's teacher</i>)	54.9% (58.6%)	42.0% (38.1%)	3.1% (2.0%)	0.0% (0.0%)	0.0% (1.2%)
Staff expect my child to work hard and achieve his or her best (<i>your overall impression is that your child works hard at school</i>)	45.3% (45.1%)	49.3% (46.7%)	2.7% (4.1%)	0.0% (0.4%)	2.7% (3.7%)
The school is well-led and managed (<i>you get regular information on school developments e.g. via newsletters, and your general impression is that it is well run</i>)	52.7% (55.3%)	45.0% (43.0%)	1.8% (1.2%)	0.0% (0.0%)	0.5% (0.4%)
Staff treat my child fairly (<i>your child feels part of the class, they talk about their teacher, and information at parents evening shows your teacher knows your child</i>)	49.8% (54.9%)	44.4% (40.6%)	4.9% (3.3%)	0.0% (0.0%)	0.9% (1.2%)
The school seeks the views of parents and takes account of their suggestions and concerns (<i>you get an annual questionnaire and the school listens to comments and says what it has done</i>)	32.4% (35.7%)	56.8% (56.1%)	7.2% (4.5%)	0.0% (0.4%)	3.6% (3.3%)
The school provides appropriate home-learning (<i>your child bring home their homework diary or Home-School book, your child does their home-learning and it is about the right amount</i>)	22.9% (28.3%)	53.4% (50.4%)	18.8% (18.9%)	2.7% (2.0%)	2.2% (0.4%)
The school is helping my child become mature and independent (<i>your child gets on well with other children and adults, they have a good attitude to school learning and year 5/year 6 residential trips (where relevant)</i>)	45.3% (45.1%)	49.8% (51.2%)	1.3% (1.2%)	0.0% (0.0%)	3.6% (2.5%)
There is a range of activities that my child finds interesting and enjoyable (<i>your child talks about activities in class time, and knows that the school has extra-curricular activities at lunch or after school</i>)	54.7% (51.6%)	41.3% (44.3%)	3.1% (3.3%)	0.0% (0.0%)	0.9% (0.8%)

A number of other significant questions were asked and the themes emerging from the responses are summarised below, together with some representative and helpful quotations from the responses.

Parents were asked: ***Is there anything that you think we could do to make school life better for your child?***

The following were the commonly noted themes:

Improve frequency and content of feedback from teachers

"Better communication regarding my child's performance on a more regular basis."

Make rewards and merits giving fairer and more consistent

"Consistency across the year group with regard to rewards such as merits and certificates so that all children feel they have an equal opportunity to receive 'awards' or recognition for good work."

Improve music provision

"More sport and music clubs available at this age, instrument lessons not available til year 3."

Improve school trips

"More varied and regular school trips."

Improve lunchtime provision and supervision

"My son finds the school dinners too small and is still hungry afterwards."

"Encourage the playground and lunch time staff to follow the mission statement and more understanding of their behaviour."

The particular aspects of Garden Fields which parents are pleased about

Parents were asked: *"Are there any particular aspects of the school with which you are pleased?"*

Themes:

The excellent provision of after school clubs and extra-curricular activities

"The amount of extra-curricular activities on offer - it's amazing"

The teachers

"The standard of teaching."

"My daughter's maths teacher has been brilliant, encouraging her even though she struggles and explaining lots of helpful tips/shortcuts to help her progress in maths."

"The teaching received in Year 2 is fantastic. My son has great confidence in his maths. His writing and reading skills have progressed even further."

"The teaching and communication from the teachers in Year 1 has been excellent and I cannot praise them enough."

The atmosphere and ethos of the school

"I particularly love the very caring and kind environment that is nurtured and encouraged throughout the school."

The leadership and management of the school

"The leadership is inspiring"

The level of sport provision

"You have such dedicated and enthusiastic sports teacher in Mrs Johnson, who puts so much effort into her job, and so many extra hours, that I hope she is acknowledged for this."

The fact that their child loves or enjoys school.

"Really warm atmosphere and my children are very happy."

"My child has a lovely group of friends and on the whole is very settled and happy."

The office and reception staff

"The office staff are so friendly and helpful at all times"

"Very caring and efficient office staff"

Music activities and provision

"Miss Wray has definitely raised the profile of music even further and our children have enjoyed this very much."

"Pleased with the introduction of more musical extra-curricular activities"

Nurturing of children

"I am very pleased with the extra care given to my child when she needs it."

"The nurture group has been amazing for my child. Every aspect of her attending has been positive"

Other additional support or help provided

"My son has needed help with spelling, handwriting, dyslexia issues - these have been tackled really well and he feels so much better about his General writing etc. very happy with how much support has been given from the teachers - and my son is happy too."

"SEN services - especially fine & gross motor classes, and language and communications group."

The well-behaved nature of children

"We feel it's very professional and the children have a good understanding of what is right and what is wrong."

"Very friendly school with good ethos of older kids looking after/out for the younger one"

Thank you again for your support and completing the questionnaire.

C.J.Jukes

Headteacher