



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

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Garden Fields JMI School Parental Survey- Feb 2016 Feedback

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire online in February. We received 242 responses. We have outlined those areas that demonstrate a real positive strength of the school below:

- 1. The School is well led and managed – 98.3%**
- 2. The School is helping my child to become mature – 96.2%**
- 3. I would feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions or a problem or complaint – 95%**
- 4. There is a range of activities that my child finds interesting and enjoyable – 94.9%**
- 5. Staff treat my child fairly – 94.9%**
- 6. My child likes school – 94.6%**
- 7. Staff expect my child to work hard – 94.5%**
- 8. The teaching is good – 92.5%**
- 9. Children behave well – 92.5%**
- 10. My child is making good progress – 90.9%**

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.

- Provide parents with consistent feedback and communication about both learning and progress, relevant to the year group, identifying key areas for support at home.**
- Develop the core values of our school 'Happy, Caring, Inspiring' in all aspects of school life and through a programme known as Character Education, ensuring that behaviours are consistent across the school.**
- To ensure that all teaching is consistently inspiring and engaging leading to high expectations of challenge but also support for nurturing and learning behaviours.**
- Embed the changes that have been made to assessment (new reporting criteria at the end of Year 2 and Year 6) so that parents have a greater understanding on how this impacts on their child's learning and progress through their learning journey.**
- Re-enforcement of anti-bullying strategies, with parents, pupils and members of the school staff through the development of the Pastoral Support and Nurturing Team.**
- Look carefully each term's extra-curricular offering so that it incorporates a variety of activities other than sport.**

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.

(2015 figures are shown in brackets to aid comparison)	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
My child likes school (your child goes to school with ease and talks about school when they come home)	54.1% (60.1%)	40.5% (37.3%)	3.3% (2.6%)	0.0% (0.0%)	2.1% (0.0%)
My child is making good progress (your child feels they are getting better at reading, writing or maths, and/or the termly parent meetings or school report suggest this)	38.6% (36.6%)	52.3% (53.7%)	5.8% (8.4%)	0.0% (0.0%)	3.3% (1.3%)
Children behave well (you think your child behaves well, his/her classmates behave well and general behaviour is good)	29.9% (31.9%)	62.7% (61.1%)	5.4% (4.9%)	0.4% (0.0%)	1.7% (2.2%)
My child is not bullied or harassed at school (there are active anti-bullying efforts, you or your child is able to talk to the school if they are being bullied)	39.5% (42.0%)	46.2% (48.7%)	8.4% (4.9%)	0.4% (0.0%)	5.5% (4.4%)
The teaching is good (your child talks about their teacher, your general impression is that they do a good job)	47.5% (42.2%)	45.0% (53.3%)	3.8% (2.2%)	0.0% (0.0%)	3.8% (2.2%)
I am kept well informed about how my child is getting on (you are informed through parents' evenings, the annual report and informal communication with the class teacher)	24.2% (21.8%)	60.8% (61.8%)	12.1% (15.6%)	0.8% (0.0%)	2.1% (0.9%)
I would feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions or a problem or complaint (you get a friendly service from the office staff, you feel confident to talk to your child's teacher)	57.9% (54.9%)	37.1% (42.0%)	2.1% (3.1%)	0.4% (0.0%)	2.5% (0.0%)
Staff expect my child to work hard and achieve his or her best (your overall impression is that your child works hard at school)	41.9% (45.3%)	52.6% (49.3%)	3.4% (2.7%)	0.0% (0.0%)	2.1% (2.7%)
The school is well-led and managed (you get regular information on school developments e.g. via newsletters, and your general impression is that it is well run)	55.1% (52.7%)	43.2% (45.0%)	0.9% (1.8%)	0.0% (0.0%)	0.9% (0.5%)
Staff treat my child fairly (your child feels part of the class, they talk about their teacher, and information at parents evening shows your teacher knows your child)	50.0% (49.8%)	44.9% (44.6%)	3.0% (4.9%)	0.0% (0.0%)	2.1% (0.9%)
The school seeks the views of parents and takes account of their suggestions and concerns (you get an annual questionnaire and the school listens to comments and says what it has done)	33.3% (32.4%)	55.1% (56.8%)	6.0% (7.2%)	0.4% (0.0%)	5.1% (3.6%)
The school provides appropriate home-learning (your child bring home their homework diary or Home-School book, your child does their home-learning and it is about the right amount)	24.8% (22.9%)	62.0% (53.4%)	9.0% (18.8%)	3.4% (2.7%)	0.9% (2.2%)
The school is helping my child become mature and independent (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)	41.9% (45.3%)	54.3% (49.8%)	1.7% (1.3%)	0.4% (0.0%)	1.7% (3.6%)
There is a range of activities that my child finds interesting and enjoyable (your child talks about activities in class time, and knows that the school has extra-curricular activities at lunch or after school)	47.9% (54.7%)	47.0% (41.3%)	2.1% (3.1%)	0.4% (0.0%)	2.6% (0.9%)

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?

Themes:

Improve communications

It is always hard to know what the children do each day - often they don't want to talk about everything after a long day at a school. The blog is good and perhaps a weekly update at a regular time would help parents to know what they are learning/doing so they can contribute more.

Refine home learning

I think a little more communication about how we can support her learning would be great. I have really appreciated having the half term plan and home learning opportunities list but am unsure what the expectations are e.g. How many home learning tasks should be completed in a half term, how many times the reading books should be read in a week etc.

Provide more extra-curricular & other activities for the 'non-sporty'

More arts/design, performance, visual arts, dance, cooking, making, innovative classes/extra-curricular activities or projects.

Improve safety post school expansion (including road safety)

We have concerns about the road safety around the school. The use of the driveway during school drop/off and pick up is obviously a new hazard since the inclusion of the drop off area. Crossing the roads and entering the school in the morning is hazardous to say the least. Perhaps a zebra crossing across the driveway would make that area safer.

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

Themes:

The teachers overall approach and supportiveness

Great, caring teachers who are dedicated to helping the children achieve their best.

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

Extra-curricular and sport - excellent offerings and completely agree with the all-inclusive nature of it.

...the sporting activities have improved so much making it inclusive for children that may not be naturally sporty

The atmosphere and ethos of the school

Overall, I'm very happy with the school, its culture and its strong values which it instils in the children. There's a real sense of community. I think some of the teachers go the extra mile

Zero tolerance to bullying taking an active interest in children with extra needs. Nice to see children with extra needs being fully integrated in the school.

Progress made by the child

Teaching, nurturing, encouragement. Her writing and reading have come on in leaps and bounds in only a term and a half. We are blown away and she loves school and learning.

The PTA and parental involvement generally

I think the PTA do a brilliant job and are supported by the school and parents alike. There's always interesting stuff going on from charity events to days out.

Read Write Inc. and other subject based support

The school staff are very passionate about Read write Inc. and my child has developed this passion as talks about it a lot and is learning so much. Extra maths support and general extra help

Communication by the school

Newsletters and general communication on the website is excellent. Really enjoy reading the Blogs.

The facilities and space in the school

The 'green' playing space and the school ground itself is very spacious and open, and kept clean.

The focus on (recognising) achievement and merit system

Rewarding effort and good achievement. Show and tells also allow children to showcase their work outside the school.

Behaviour of the children

Ethos, attitude and behaviour of all children is wonderful. They seem to care for each other so much.

Thank you again for your support and completing the questionnaire.

C.J.Jukes
Headteacher

