



Bacon Garth Primary School
The Garth
Cottingham
East Riding of Yorkshire
HU16 5BP



Tel: (01482) 849521

Email: office@bacongarth.co.uk

Fax: (01482) 846777

Headteacher: Dave Clark

Parent Survey -January 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Many thanks for taking the time to complete the recent questionnaire I sent to you. I thought you may be interested to know the results of the survey which I am sending to you in this letter.

I have included the number of responses for each question in the table below. I have also responded to parent questions/comments overleaf, and where possible have suggested where we can make changes in response to comments made.

I haven't been able to include all of the comments made, but the ones included give a flavour of parental views expressed. Please be assured that your views are important to us and that I will take them into account.

I hope that you find the information useful, informative and interesting.

Dave Clark
Headteacher

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My child likes coming to school	53	16	1	
Teaching is good and helps the children make progress	58	11	1	
The school is led, managed and organised well by the Head and Senior staff	58	12		
The School encourages my child to become mature and independent	57	13		
The school listens to parents and takes account of their views, suggestions and concerns	40	29		1
Children are respected and given positive praise for their efforts	57	13		
Staff expect my child to work hard and do his or her best	51	19		
Teachers and adults at Bacon Garth treat my child with respect, kindness and fairness	57	13		
There is a good range of activities in the curriculum that my child finds interesting and enjoyable	54	16		
I feel comfortable about approaching the school with a question, problem or complaint	53	15	2	

I am kept well informed about how my child is getting on	38	21	11	
I like the style of the annual school report	43	17		
I receive enough information about the school through newsletters, the website and letters home	59	9	1	
I receive enough information from the school about how I can help my child at home	39	22	11	
The school regularly invites parents into school (e.g. Class assemblies, parents evenings, special mentions assemblies, concerts, open evenings etc.)	57	10		1
My child is not bullied at school	47	15	6	1
The school deals effectively if my child is bullied and provides information to children on what to do if they are bullied	40	24		1
The school organises a good range of additional activities for the children	46	22		
Children at the school generally behave well	37	28	1	1
The school has a positive reputation within the community	50	19		
The refurbishment programme (e.g. all classrooms, cloakrooms etc) throughout the school has made it a better school for my child to attend	40	24		
The building programme (e.g. ICT Suite, Cloakrooms) has improved the school and is a good place for my child to attend	41	24		
The school organises enough activities (e.g. trips/visits out /visitors in) which make my child's learning enjoyable	54	14		
The school organises enough after school clubs	40	24	1	
The Headteacher, and other staff, are available on the playground regularly to speak to parents informally	57	10		
The school organises sufficient activities to help the children develop a sense of belonging to the community	37	27		
When my child has difficulties with their work, the school is effective in sorting them out	36	25		
The atmosphere of the school is friendly and happy	56	13		
The school organises a range of activities to help my child understand the importance of keeping themselves safe (e.g. Fire Safety, First Aid, Water Safety, Cycling Proficiency etc)	47	17		
The school encourages my child to be healthy and take regular exercise (e.g. through Box 2B Fit days, skipping workshop days, sports clubs, sporting activities, Healthy School Days etc)	47	19		
The school has taken adequate steps to ensure my child is safe and secure at school (e.g. security doors, locked gates, fencing etc)	50	18		
My child receives a suitable amount of homework	42	20	2	
The school meals offer good value for money	50	16	2	
My child was helped to settle into school when they first started	55	12		

Below is a selection of comments made by parents when we asked about anything that you do not feel is working well or could be improved. I have also included a response to each comment.

- I understand that school resources are limited for afterschool clubs, but I feel that the clubs are repeated every year and they should be more varied.



In response to previous pupil and parent feedback, we have increased the number of clubs to around 25 throughout the year. New clubs offered this year have included Ukulele Club, First Aid Club and Craft Club.

The coaches have been booked in for the current term's activities, but we will certainly look at extending the variety of clubs offered from the summer term onwards.

- The amount of paper work that is sent home in book bags is irritating. Can communication be sent home via e-mail or only one copy sent with the eldest child?



In the past, we sent information to parents via the eldest child. Unfortunately, this led to many parents not receiving information due to the fact that it is usually our oldest children that leave letters in the cloakroom and in bags!!

I will look at the possibility of sending home copies of information to families through the youngest child. We will also look at the possibility of trialling an e-mail system.

- Sometimes if there is a problem at lunchtime, it doesn't always get sorted out.

Lunchtime is a unique time of the school day and I appreciate that from time to time some problems may not come to my attention. As part of our revised behaviour systems, we have a new 'Lunchtime Book' which is kept by the lunchtime team and passed to me on a regular basis. This means that I can keep abreast of, and deal with, any issues occurring at lunchtimes, even if I am not available to deal with it immediately.

- Collecting children on an afternoon from the Foundation Stage Unit is busy and chaotic. Can anything be done to sort this out?

3.30 is indeed a busy time in the Foundation Unit and I appreciate parental concerns regarding this. Parents will have noticed that we have already acted on this comment and the Foundation Stage 2 children are now being collected from the FS2 door. I think that this has alleviated some of the issues. We will keep our systems under review.



- It was really beneficial to come into the Class 1 classroom for the traditional tales day. It allowed me to see the classroom, the work that the children had completed and the range of activities that the children had been doing. More pop in sessions like this would be great as my child felt a sense of pride showing me the classroom and the work.

I agree with this comment and I will be talking with all the teachers about how we can provide more opportunities for parents of children in all classes throughout the school to visit their child's classroom.

- Can you provide more opportunities for parents to come and see FS1 staff to talk about the children?

I will talk with my Foundation One team about how we can develop these opportunities over the coming year.

- **Why is the uniform shirts and not polo shirts? Is it not easier for younger pupils to change for PE with polo shirts?**



Yes - it is easier for the children to change when wearing polo shirts, but we find that they soon become quick at changing, so we don't find it a significant issue. Until about six years ago, the children wore polo shirts as part of their uniform. However, we found that the children look far smarter in their shirts, which wear better than polo shirts.

At Bacon Garth, we place great emphasis on ensuring the school learning environment and resources are attractive, smart and well presented. We believe this fosters a sense of pride in the school, sets high expectations for the children and encourages them to do well. Uniform extends this belief further. Pupils looking and feeling 'smart' in their uniform enhances our school ethos and has an important impact on the progress and attainment that they make. Indeed, most of the children like dressing smartly and often ask me if they can have a tie as part of their uniform!!

- **Sometimes letters sent home don't have a date on, so if it refers to an activity taking place on a specific day of the week e.g. this Thursday (and we don't know how long we have had the letter), we are unsure to which day it is referring.**

You can often tell whether a letter has been written on my behalf by the school admin team or by me personallybecause it is me who forgets to put the date at the top of the letter!! Sorry!! I understand why this can cause confusion and I will endeavour to remember to put the dates on my letters!

- **You may already do this - perhaps a 'Grow Your Own Vegetables' area for all the children to learn about growing plants and vegetables.**



We do indeed do this and each class has a planting patch in the school garden area. Mrs. Banyard (who also runs our gardening club) works with all the classes to plant and grow vegetables. Often the classes will cook and eat these in school and last year there were some lovely baby carrots, potatoes and cabbages to try!

- **The School Council elections can be a popularity contest. I don't agree that there should be a voting system where children are elected on popularity rather than on merit and that naughty children/bullies can be elected.**

It is important that the children have ownership of who they elect to represent them on the school council and as adults we are keen not to be seen to influence who the children choose. Like all elections, there is an element of popularity in voting, but I believe that overall, children at Bacon Garth make sensible and mature choices about who to vote for once they have listened to the children's 'election pitch'. I must point out that being elected to the school council often has a significant positive impact on those children who may not always display perfect behaviour as they take on additional responsibility and grow in maturity. This has an overall benefit to the whole school community. Mrs Fieldhouse and I will definitely talk about this comment with the current School Council and discuss whether a review of voting procedures and rules for standing in elections would be appropriate.

- **Can we come and try the school dinners and have lunch with the children?**



I think that this is a great idea! Logistically we would need to look at how we would manage it, but I will certainly talk with our Business Manager, Mrs Urry and Cook, Mrs Holroyd, about the possibility of doing something like this!

- The school offers lots of opportunities for parents to come and see events and assemblies at the school but these are always during the day and working parents cannot always take the time away from work. An evening programme once in a while would be nice.

I appreciate that parents cannot always take time away from work to attend. We used to hold evening performances of concerts but found that often children, particularly the youngest ones, were shattered when they had to come back to school during the evening. In addition, lots of our evening performances began to clash with other activities the children were involved in and so they couldn't attend. The only evening performance we now put on is the Year 6 leaver's play.

We do now video record as many performances and events as possible so parents can watch their child if unable to attend the actual performance.

- I like the style of the annual report and the two teacher-parent meetings are useful, but I would like additional information on how my child is doing throughout the year.

I know that many parents would like to have more frequent updates on how their child is progressing and, as a school, we feel it is important to provide you with this information.

Writing the annual reports takes a significant amount of time and so it would be unfeasible to produce these more frequently.

However, I am currently looking at whether there is a manageable way for us to produce an 'interim progress' report more frequently for parents. This may well be in a format that doesn't include written comments but allows teachers to tick/highlight key aspects of pupil attainment, progress and development and note whether the children are working below, at or above age related expectations. I hope to have an interim report format in place for us to trial next term.



- I would like more information on how to help my child at home, particularly in maths.

There are many ways that we can improve the range of support to parents in helping them to help their child at home. Over the next year, we will endeavour to produce more information booklets to parents on a range of issues, as well as exploring the possibility of holding more information sessions for parents.

The information sessions on phonics in FS2 and Year 1 have been useful, and we will look at holding more sessions like this for different aspects of your child's education.



One common request from parents is that they would like to know how we teach their child in maths so that they use the same method of calculation at home as the child learns at school. This is particularly the case when it comes to the methods we use to teach subtraction, multiplication and division. I will look at holding a Maths evening for parents next term, as well as producing a summary document of the methods we use to teach the children maths.

- I would like more information on what an expected level is for my child

With a new National Curriculum now in force and a revised national assessment system that does not have levels, parents often ask me, what are the age related expectations for each year group?

Over the next term, I plan to write and distribute a summary document for parents to explain the key objectives and expectations in each year group.

Finally, thank you for some fantastic comments about the work of the school. It is always great to hear the positives as well as ways in which we can improve. Although there were too many to include, I have listed a selection of your comments below.

- 😊 We love seeing Mr Clark in the playground! All staff are super at this school - such a great team spirit!
- 😊 I think end of term award assemblies are such a lovely idea - and it's great to be invited into the school to see behind the scenes.
- 😊 The school has such an amazing happy, community feel. Staff are always friendly and my son always comes home with a smile on his face! He loves going to school at Bacon Garth.
- 😊 I am really happy with how friendly all the staff are - from Tracie the Caretaker - to the girls in the office and all the teachers. It's so great that everyone knows all the children's names and there is always somebody in the playground if you need to talk to anyone. My children are extremely happy at school- I couldn't ask for more!
- 😊 The school has a lovely, welcoming atmosphere and although our child is only in his first year we already feel a sense of belonging and feel part of school life.
- 😊 Mr Smith, Miss Jorna and Mr Clark were fab when my son was bullied.
- 😊 The children are happy and confident at school and there are plenty of opportunities for praise and celebration of good work and behaviour.
- 😊 Staff are friendly, always approachable and take any concerns on board.
- 😊 Teachers/Headteacher always available to talk to. Fantastic play equipment in the playground and an interesting range of topics for the children to learn about.
- 😊 The friendship bench in the playground is such a good idea and this, along with the playground buddy system, helps the children to think about others. I think this is one of the most important things they should be learning.
- 😊 Love the buddy system at playtime. All teachers are very helpful nothing is too much when you ask questions they spend time explaining. Great team work.
- 😊 Love the fact Mr Clark is around in the playground for parents to talk to and for the children to speak to.
- 😊 Great interaction between staff and the children; you can tell they are a committed hard working team!
- 😊 The school does many things well. They are a big part of the community!
- 😊 We are very happy with how our child is progressing. Very proud that we are part of Bacon Garth and the outstanding achievements it has made. Huge well done to all the teachers and members of staff.
- 😊 The children always have many positive things to say about their day and seem to be really engaged with the work they do in class.
- 😊 Children are well-behaved at school and well respected. I am very happy with the way school is managed.
- 😊 I would like to take this opportunity to say how pleased we are with FS1. The staff are all so kind and friendly and we have every confidence leaving our child in their care. The building is a great facility too. We love how the FS1's are made to feel part of the school eg. Christmas concert. From what we have observed and hear from our child, it seems a great balance of structure and free play which is giving them a great start to education. Thank you!
- 😊 The school has very welcoming staff with big smiles on their faces. This makes children and parents feel welcome at school. School is highly organised and keeps us updated. Thank you!
- 😊 My child has progressed well throughout the years and will be sad to leave at the end of the year!





- ☺ The amount of work that goes into the school productions and the display boards is really fantastic and the kids love it!
- ☺ I have ticked disagree in relation to bullying as both children have experienced some - but it has been acted on so quickly and professionally.
- ☺ There is always a friendly welcoming feel to the school. My children are very settled, happy and always full of enthusiasm for each new topic.
- ☺ FS2 staff extremely helpful and communicate excellently with parents. Huge efforts are put in to keep parents up to date with the children's progress. Homework instructions are always made explicit.
- ☺ I couldn't be happier with everything and everyone. My boy isn't the best 'mixer' but he has settled brilliantly!
- ☺ The special mentions assemblies are great - it encourages the children to work hard and try and reach their full potential for a positive reward. The improvements that have been made to the playground equipment is very positive.
- ☺ My child's thirst for knowledge has been supported and enhanced in the Foundation Unit. She loves phonics and is very proud of her efforts all encouraged by the teachers.
- ☺ I think the text message system is very helpful and a good way of reminding parents of activities that may get missed.
- ☺ I am happy to say I feel my child is treated well, fairly and kindly in all aspects of school life. He has come on extremely well with his learning thanks to great staff. Thank you!
- ☺ Every member of staff from the Headteacher to the playground supervisor to the girls on reception is so friendly, happy, polite, pleasant and helpful.
- ☺ My son isn't yet in full time education but I feel that the school will be a positive learning space for him to grow, so have opted for Bacon Garth as 1st Choice. This is due to the friendly staff, range of activities during/after school and also the recent school ratings for SAT pass score - it is far above any other local option.
- ☺ I feel totally secure that when my child is in school he is safe, secure and well looked after. He is very happy and interested in lessons and that is thanks to staff who ensure this is the case.
- ☺ My child adores coming to Bacon Garth! We have recently moved out of the catchment area so we were very upset to not be able to include Bacon Garth on his application for school places this September. We would like to thank all at Bacon Garth so much for making his first school experience such a positive one. The school will very much be missed when he leaves. THANK YOU!!



Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire.

Your views are important to us and we will take on board your suggestions and comments as we continue to improve and develop the school so that Bacon Garth continues to be the best it can be for all of our children.

