



Bacon Garth Primary School
The Garth
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PARENT SURVEY - OCTOBER 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Many thanks for taking the time to complete the recent questionnaire. I have included the number of responses for each question in the table below. I have also responded to parent/carer questions/comments, and where possible have suggested where we can make changes in order to improve our school. I have included all of the comments made, to ensure all parental views are given consideration. Please be assured that your views are important to us and we will endeavour to address every one of the issues raised. I hope that you find the information useful, informative and interesting.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My child likes coming to school	39	22	2	
Teaching is good and helps the children make progress	48	15	1	
The school is led, managed and organised well by the Head and Senior staff	36	22	1	
The School encourages my child to become mature and independent	40	15	1	
The school listens to parents and takes account of their views, suggestions and concerns	26	25	3	
Children are respected and given positive praise for their efforts	38	21		
The school has high expectations for my child	39	22	1	
Teachers and adults at Bacon Garth treat my child with respect, kindness and fairness	33	19		
There is a good range of activities in the curriculum that my child finds interesting and enjoyable	44	17		
I feel comfortable about approaching the school with a question, problem or complaint	43	16	4	
I am kept well informed about how my child is getting on	27	25	6	
I like the style of the annual school report	36	21	2	
I receive enough information about the school through newsletters, the website, text messages and letters home	44	19	2	
I receive enough information from the school about how I can help my child at home	36	25	3	
The school regularly invites parents into school (e.g. Class assemblies, parents evenings, award assemblies, nativity plays, concerts, open evenings, sports days, dance, themed days etc.)	38	23	2	
My child is not bullied at school	27	28	5	2
The school has acted swiftly and effectively if my child has experienced bullying	16	17	6	2

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The school organises a good range of additional activities for the children	39	19	2	
Children at the school generally behave well	25	32	2	
The school has a positive reputation within the community	40	18		
The school organises enough activities (e.g. trips/visits out /visitors in) which make my child's learning enjoyable	43	17	1	
The school organises enough after school clubs	37	19	4	1
The Headteacher, and other staff, are available on the playground regularly to speak to parents informally	42	17	3	
The school organises sufficient activities to help the children develop a sense of belonging to the community	28	29	3	
When my child has difficulties with their work, the school is effective in sorting them out	27	27	3	
The atmosphere of the school is friendly and happy	40	23		
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)	29	22	1	
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)	34	2	2	
The school has taken adequate steps to ensure my child is safe and secure at school (e.g. security doors, locked gates, fencing etc)	36	16	1	
My child receives a suitable amount of homework	35	24	3	
The school meals offer good value for money	35	22	1	
My child was helped to settle into school when they first started	39	17	2	
I am aware of the role of the Governors in school	23	21	10	2
The school site, buildings and classrooms are well maintained and provide a pleasant environment for my child to come to school	47	16		
Transition arrangements for children moving from Foundation to Year 1 are effective in supporting my child with the move (* appropriate to current FS and Year 1 parents)	24	7	1	

Thank you for some very positive comments about the work of the school. It is always good to hear the positives as well as ways in which we can improve:

- ☺ The staff are very friendly from Reception all the way to Head.
- ☺ **The school trips are well-thought-out and well-organised.**
- ☺ Makes me feel secure my child will be well looked after out of school.
- ☺ **Nothing seems to have changed since Mr Clark left. If it's not broke don't fix it.**
- ☺ Really happy with my child's progress. Hoping year 2 will be even better.
- ☺ **I like that teachers are on the doors at arriving and leaving to talk to if needed.**
- ☺ Really like the curriculum enrichment such as bats, chicks, owls, dogs, Zulu dancers, trips, speakers, etc.
- ☺ **Mrs Fieldhouse is a fabulous head teacher, so caring and lovely, I think she has taken to the role brilliantly. I love that class 1 (last year) had so many opportunities for parents to come in and work with their children.**
- ☺ My son is enthusiastic about the topics he is taught. The curriculum seems broad and captures children's interest.
- ☺ **Mrs Fieldhouse is doing a wonderful job as Head and is easy to approach and talk to if and when needed.**
- ☺ I feel my two are still enjoying school. Love the amount of after school activities on offer. Really think the reading buddy system is a good idea.
- ☺ **The school has provided a safe haven for children in looked after care and has provided real support to carers.**
- ☺ My daughter loves her school and overall, so do we. I like how different children get the opportunities to do and take part in different activities if they wish. Generally most things are done really well. We see the difference in **** week on week learning, growing and she is so happy here. The Headteacher transition seemed seamless to us too and has carried on being the lovely school it is.
- ☺ **Extremely happy with Bacon Garth.**
- ☺ I feel ***** is settling in well and this has been helped by the 1:2:1 support and the general attitude of the teachers in the school.
- ☺ **We like the FS Unit. I feel it really helped ***** settle into FS2 because he had been in FS1 and had regular contact with the FS2 staff and classroom. I hope it will be very similar for his transition to year 1.**
- ☺ My children have always had a positive experience. The transition between Headteachers has been flowing and consistent. Overall, a very reputable school.
- ☺ **Pleased that it has stayed a small school.**
- ☺ The school feels child-led instead of number-led. My daughter feels like she is an individual that matters.
- ☺ **The Foundation staff are very welcoming. They are watching every child and pick up very quickly if a bit of support is needed. Miss Hutley is fantastic, *****has enjoyed her first week of learning.**
- ☺ The Foundation Team have been extremely good at settling in my child. My child is happy and confident in going to school after only a few days.

- ☺ **The school has a lovely feel about it. It seems very well organised and I love the newsletters home, lots of info to keep parents up-to-date and in the loop - the more the better. FS2 teacher Miss Hutley very friendly and approachable.**
- ☺ **Very good education level. Child well rewarded for its work at school. Very good communication with parents.**
- ☺ **My child is happy at school and we are pleased with his progress. He thoroughly enjoys all the extra curricula activities and we are impressed by the high quality of the D&T projects throughout the school.**
- ☺ **My son had a wonderful first year. We found the FSU staff to be wonderful, supportive and nurturing and they really helped him to settle into the school. He has flourished since beginning Bacon Garth.**
- ☺ **I like the new idea of having a tuck shop. The clubs are a good idea. The teachers are very approachable and give my daughter a good amount of work.**
- ☺ **My child is doing really well and feels happy at school.**
- ☺ **Overall I believe this is one of the best schools in Cottingham, staff are fantastic.**
- ☺ **I like the diverse topics/themes taught throughout the school and the encouragement from all of the teaching/TA staff to all the children.**
- ☺ **Happy welcoming atmosphere! All staff are friendly and kind. We love coming into school to see our daughters work/take part in the themed activities.**
- ☺ **We really appreciate all the outside of school activities that are organised, school trips/Zulu day, etc. Shows that the staff really care and go the extra mile for the kids' education and enjoyment.**
- ☺ **Reading buddy system seems to be working well.**
- ☺ **Plenty of extra activities, school clubs - extra-curricular things for children to do and enjoy.**
- ☺ **I feel as though Bacon Garth is the best school in this area for my child. With not being from the area, all recommendations from various people were for Bacon Garth. The pupils get to experience many activities & trips, much more than I ever had at primary school.**
- ☺ **Presence of staff in playground/in view staff always happy and polite.**
- ☺ **Miss Hutley, she is so welcoming to children & parents. I feel I could ask the silliest of question from an anxious mummy and she is so happy to reassure you.**
- ☺ **My child has had personal troubles and concerns and the school have handled it brilliantly, especially the head who has offered nothing but support and kindness which I am extremely thankful for.**
- ☺ **My child enjoys the range of topics and is enthusiastic to learn which appears to be encouraged.**
- ☺ **My child is always happy and excited to go school. I think the happy, friendly atmosphere makes the children feel safe and they always seem interested in their new topics each term.**
- ☺ **Happy with most aspects of the school.**
- ☺ **Communication is very good. Staff are efficient and knowledgeable. My boys and me love this school.**
- ☺ **It was really nice to see the FS2 teaching assistants moved to year 1 with the children.**
- ☺ **All of my children have attended Bacon Garth and I believe it is the best school in the area as they really help children achieve their potential.**
- ☺ **Keep it up!**

- ☺ All I will say is that my child is extremely happy at Bacon Garth and I am proud to say she attends this school.
- ☺ **Staff are all lovely.**
- ☺ Very happy with everything.
- ☺ **Everything is wonderful with Mrs Fieldhouse as head, I think she is doing a smashing job.**
- ☺ Very smooth transition between FS & year 1. ***** was confident that she knew where to go etc - so she's settled in really well. Thankyou.
- ☺ **Excellent transition from Yr3 to Yr4 for ***** - which has meant she settled really well. Thankyou.**

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, together with my responses. Where comments from parents are of a similar nature, I have condensed them to save space.

- One of the only things I have a concern about is how much is offered to children who are capable of more than the curriculum offers. I think the school could do more to push my child to his potential.
I am sorry to hear that you feel your child is not being challenged enough in class. As you have given me your child's name, I have passed these comments on to the class teacher. Please feel free to chat with the teacher or me at any time so that a frank discussion can take place to ensure that your child achieves their full potential.
- Would be great if you could maybe do evening information sessions eg the year 2 SATS info session is on a Thursday afternoon and I can't always leave work early.
I am happy to organise an evening slot for the year 2 SATs information session. I will ask Mrs Robinson to look into this. In the meantime, please feel free to talk to her after school about the matters that were discussed in the session.
- I would like more certificates, awards handed out to pupils. There was a lot in years 1, 2, 3 but as they got older seemed less
We have many reward schemes in upper key stage 2, including raffle tickets for a weekly prize, certificates for learning times tables, cycling proficiency certificates, swimming certificates, special mentions certificates/stickers, marbles for a whole class treat as well as team points to reward good behaviour and hard work. I will review our rewards schemes throughout school to ensure greater cohesion between year groups.
- I know other schools get updates and regular pictures of what their child has done in the week. It would be nice if something like that could be done at Bacon Garth. For eg, my son received a head teacher's award on the first day back, he lost the sticker and if he didn't tell me about it, I wouldn't have found out.
Thank you to many of you for raising an important issue about parental involvement in pupil progress etc. In response to your comments, pupils are now presented with a small certificate, as well as a special mentions sticker, during Friday's special mentions assembly so that parents can see why their child has been commended. We are looking into how we can keep parents better informed on a more regular basis about pupil progress, including more regular school reports and I will update parents on this in the next few weeks.
- Punctuality can be improved - timings of opening the classroom door at home time in particular and sometimes in the morning - mainly last year.
We do try to ensure that the external doors are opened punctually in the mornings and evenings but I will monitor this carefully over the forthcoming weeks.

- Better management of individual class readers. Prefer more reading challenges to staying one level which provided little challenge – have supplemented his reading so far. *Mrs Hartley, our newly-appointed literacy co-ordinator, has recently carried out a comprehensive whole-school reading audit. We now have a more robust system in place so that all children read on a more frequent basis. Hopefully parents will see the benefit over the next few months.*
- My child is pretty quiet, tries hard and keeps out of trouble (as far as I'm aware). He tells me quite often that children who are consistently getting into trouble often get rewards/stickers if they are good. He tells us that it's not fair as he is good all the time and doesn't get special things like they do for being good just once. *I am sorry to hear that your child feels that he isn't being rewarded sufficiently for his good behaviour when other, less well-behaved children are. When managing behaviour in the classroom, there has to be a balance between recrimination for poor behaviour and reward for positive behaviour. Sometimes children who present with particularly challenging behaviour are placed on reward schemes/targets to help them improve which may sometimes seem unfair. However, experience has told us that such systems do help redress poor behaviour and, over time, other pupils generally understand the reasoning behind such systems.*
- My child has just started in the nursery and is finding it hard being there for full days, I think they should only have to do half days for a few weeks to get them used to being there as some children have only been with parents for the first few years of their lives. *Should you wish your child to attend FS1 for just half a day – on their designated days – then this can be arranged with Miss Hutley or Mrs Pymer. We want to support parents in helping their children to settle into early years education.*
- We fully support reading at home, however a book a night is too much for my daughter. She can read well but I always feel like I am pushing her to read it. As the stickers/stamp reward is only given out if reading takes place 5 times a week I believe and it's too much on top of 10 spellings, maths and English/other homework. They are 6! I feel it is all way too much after school and clubs, etc. *It is difficult to comment on each individual child's homework which, at this stage, is designed to support learning at school and not become an onerous burden. I would suggest that the two parents who made reference to this issue – and any others who are experiencing something similar – speak to class teachers before or after school to try and resolve the problem.*
- Special needs is not addressed – teachers seem unwilling to support parents, leaving them to feel alone and unsupported. *At Bacon Garth we have a particularly strong record for supporting pupils with special needs. In fact, 22% of our pupils are on our special needs register and are supported in school in a highly-structured way. If you feel your child is not receiving the support they need please talk to Mrs Robinson (our school SENCo) or me.*
- It would be nice to see the Head interact with parents in the playground like Mr Clark did. Parents are saying they never see Mrs Fieldhouse. It is so much easier and less stressful if there's something worrying your child to be sorted in a relayed way. *I can assure parents that, providing I am in school and not held up in a meeting, I am on the playground in the morning and in the evening and parents often approach me to discuss concerns they have. What's more, I have now arranged for a member of the Senior Leadership Team in school to be on the playground in the morning too.*
- Playgrounds in a morning are very busy – although I am not sure what you can do about that!

I agree that the playgrounds are particularly frenetic in the mornings and I am considering ways in which we can improve how pupils come into school at this time.

- **After-school clubs.** Compared to other schools, not enough. Breakfast club would be very useful.

Many parents have asked for a breakfast/after school club in their responses. Some years ago, Mr Clark set up wraparound care for working parents but unfortunately it didn't have the take up that was anticipated and became financially unviable. However, I am more than happy to set this up again and, over the next few weeks, Mrs Urry, our School Business Manager and I, will visit other schools in the area to see how they manage their before and after-school care so that we can establish how to set this up.

You will note from my recent newsletter that the number of clubs at school is increasing after half term. I am also in the process of arranging for an external provider to set up an after school cookery club.

- **Football seems to be an issue at lunch and dinner times.**
- **Bullies – they should be dealt with.**

I have received a number of comments about bullying and poor pupil behaviour, which can impact on others' well-being. Bullying will not be tolerated at Bacon Garth, which is generally a happy, friendly and positive place to be and pupils, governors, staff and parents inevitably wish it to remain that way. I work closely with parents of pupils who display challenging behaviour as well as our school's behavioural psychologist, Chris Garland, to try and eradicate poor behaviour. Our School Council have also recently updated the school's behaviour policy and have stated how they feel poor behaviour should be managed. In addition, we have revised our school PSHCE curriculum this year so that it now focusses more closely on pupil well-being and the effects of bullying on others.

- **One consistent issue is that my child wishes she was taught solely by her classroom teacher.**

I agree that younger pupils benefit from consistency in teaching provision. However, as teachers are entitled to Preparation, Planning and Assessment (PPA) time during the working week, as well as management time for senior leaders, there will be periods when a substitute teacher or TA takes the class. In addition, a few of our staff are employed on part-time contracts which means that I have to accommodate their working hours when timetabling. In the majority of classes, English and Maths are taught by the same class teacher throughout the week.

- **Better communication about when PE days are etc**

There was a delay in sending out the year 2 class booklets, which contain this information – my apologies for this.

- **School uniform policy needs to be enforced.** Suitable shoes not always worn, ties would look smarter with white shirts.

This term the School Council will be looking at how we can improve the school uniform. Many children would like to wear a tie and I agree that pupils would look smarter. We do ask parents to adhere to the school uniform policy and I make a point of speaking to parents if pupils are not dressed appropriately.

- **Although the website is very well thought of for information and pictures/videos of the pupils, from experience I feel it may be a little 'too open' for outsiders to look at and get things from. Just a personal opinion.**

We take our safeguarding responsibilities very seriously and have a list of pupils who cannot be filmed or photographed for wider publication on the internet. If there are

any parents who believe that there are specific safeguarding issues in relation to the website, then please let me know immediately.

- There have been a number of texts about children not being allowed to play on the outside equipment over the past 2 years. I can understand the health and safety reasons behind this, yet there is never a member of staff stopping them. It doesn't send out the correct response to parents/children.

It is inevitable that children will want to play on the outside equipment before coming into school in the morning and this is difficult for staff to oversee, particularly if they are engaged in conversation with parents at the same time. This issue needs to be reviewed and I have asked a Local Authority Safeguarding Adviser to visit school this week so that he can advise us on how we look at this problem.

- Better balanced sports day. Spent a long time watching our child sat on a chair, not engaged with the event.

Arranging two separate sports days for Key Stage 1 and 2 could prove to be difficult in terms of school management and working parents having to find extra time to come to both if they have a child in each key stage. I do feel that our school sports days move at quite a pace and usually only last around an hour and a half from start to finish. Part of the enjoyment for pupils is watching others compete as well as taking part.

- I would like my child to learn a musical instrument - is this something the school offers/could offer?

Many years ago pupils were offered individual music tuition but some parents failed to keep up with payments for this, which then had to be funded by the school. As there were only a number of pupils who played instruments, Mr Clark decided not to continue with this service. If parents would like their children to have music tuition, I am more than happy to contact the schools' peripatetic music service on your behalf.

- Could there be additional parents 'evenings for children who need extra support? Or additional after school clubs for them to read/write etc.

This is something I will discuss with our school SENCo, as I think this is a good idea and would be helpful for parents and pupils alike.

- I don't like my child staying for hot dinners every day due to sugary puddings.

Bacon Garth prides itself on being a healthy school and we follow the Local Authority's guidance on cooking healthy meals for our pupils. There are fruit, fruit salad and low fat yoghurt options available in addition to the more traditional puddings.

Thank you once again 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.

Best wishes,



E Fieldhouse
Headteacher

