



GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

July 2018 Edition

2018 Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey this year. It continues to be a very important way of ensuring voices from all members of the school community are heard.

We had over 85 responses, which gives the Governing Body and School a really good sense of how you and your children view Charles Kingsley's School. Particularly the new style questions included towards the end of the survey, which provided further opportunities for you to share areas where you feel we are doing well, and of course those focus areas you would like to us reflect upon a bit more.

Parent Views

The first part of the Survey was based around the twelve 'Parent View' questions, which OFSTED use in the event of an inspection. These give us a broad sense of how people think the school is doing and allow us to make year on year comparisons.

Results are very positive, following the return of stable senior leadership

The results are very strong with over 90% of parents agreeing with the statements below:

- Children are making good progress
- Children are well looked-after
- Children are taught well

These are up across the board by 5 or more percentage points from 2017.

In addition, 97% of parents agreed that their children were happy and felt safe at Charles Kingsley's School, which is a wonderful

testament to the nurturing environment all the staff work so hard to create.

An important barometer for the school is the question, "would you recommend the school to another parent" and again we are pleased to report that this has gone from 85% to 91% in 2018.

Huge thanks must go to Mrs Charlton and her team, for bringing back stability to Charles Kingsley's School. This positive impact can be seen across the Survey results, both in terms of the numerous individual positive comments made but also in how you perceive the school in responding to concerns you raise and in how the school is well led and managed.

- "The school is well led and managed" 68% to 93% in 2018
- "The school responds well to any concerns I raise" 73% to 88% in 2018

Pupil Behaviour and Effective Bully Management

Following the 2017 Survey there were a few areas that the school picked out as wanting to focus on: pupil behaviour and bullying, and we are really pleased that both of the scores have made positive improvements since last year.

Both "The school ensures pupils are well behaved" and "The school deals effectively with bullying" have both improved by 16% points, taking them to 96% and 92% respectively.

Most notably was the introduction of the new Behaviour Policy, in the Autumn term which appears to be having a positive impact on pupil

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Behaviour. However, we also picked out some comments about consistency of application of the policy and the need, in some situations, for a proper investigation into the circumstances before making a decision.

As with any new policy it can take time to embed in but also to get the balance right. Mrs Charlton will be covering behaviour management and a review of the policy with staff at the September Inset.

Understanding Your Child's Progress

2017/18 also saw the introduction of a new style progress report, aimed at providing clearer information on individual pupil performance across each of the three terms

However, a survey comparison over the last two years gives a consistent view for 'I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress' at 74/75%.

Reviewing the comments, some parents, particularly in KS1, have different expectations regarding frequency of progress updates; with some hoping for weekly updates, and so we are considering producing a smaller survey to focus on parent's expectations around frequency of progress updates as well as formats. This will be on our focus list for the autumn term. So more to come on this next academic year.

Homework

Homework will remain an area for review, as we continue to find the right balance between those parents who feel there is too much versus those wanting more!

We have seen a 5% decline in positive

responses to the homework question, with 72% of parents now agreeing "My child receives appropriate homework for the age".

Given this, the Curriculum and Standards Committee will review the role, purpose and appropriateness of homework in the Autumn term.

Feedback is always welcome and helps the School and Governing Body take different views into account, so please do not wait for the next annual survey. If you have thoughts about homework you would like to share, do feed any such thoughts into the class teachers and or Mrs Charlton.

Wonderful character and values makes Charles Kingsley's School such a special place to be

Finally on a really nice note to end the survey overview, is the array of wonderful comments that we received regarding the special nurturing character, embedded values, Christian ethos and caring environment that all the staff work hard to create.

As we approach the end of another school year, we hope you will join the Governing Body in expressing our thanks to everyone who works so hard at Charles Kingsley's School.

More Thank You's

Continuing our thanks, we would like to acknowledge the hard work that everyone involved in organising and selling the school uniform and those from FOCKSA who put such a huge amount of effort into the Summer Fair.

Each are big contributors to school funds, and so we are hugely grateful to everyone involved.

School Fencing Project

Many months ago we identified the need to address a Safeguarding and Security issue with the fencing and gates around the school. The school boundary runs across private property (mostly gardens), pathways, roads and fields with a very varied degree of security. Our gates are not lockable and it is very easy to get onto school grounds.

This summer a major project will go ahead to address these issues. New fencing and a lockable gate will mean access to school grounds will only be possible if you have been 'buzzed in' through the security gate. This type of gate and mix of fencing between 1.5 and 1.8m high will bring the school in line with expected levels of school security (and hopefully far less footballs going over the fence too).

It's a major project costing in excess of £120,000, the vast majority of which is being funded by the Diocese. The safety of everyone in school is paramount and so we are delighted that we have been given such significant funding to make these improvements. Work will start (with all the requisite planning permissions in place) on the 23rd July as soon as school breaks for summer and will finish (we hope) on the 24th August. Residents affected have also been informed.

The good news does not stop there. In addition to security improvements we have also been given funds by the Diocese to resurface and level the playground to take out some dangerous lumps and bumps, and improve the surface generally. This will also give us opportunity to renew the markings on the playground where we will re-map the sports related, playtime and educational markings. This will happen a few weeks after the new playground is installed (it needs to dry).

The playground marking improvements will be paid for from the Sports Funding Grant and FOCKSA. Again, thank you FOCKSA for helping with this very valuable improvement.

IT Improvements

And in more exciting infrastructure news we also thought you should know that the school IT system is being massively improved with a new server, hardware and latest Windows software for teachers and pupils.

Our current server is on its last legs, which means slow or crashing computers that need constant reboots and software that's long out of date.

This project will also happen over the summer, and so staff will return to faster and more reliable computers with spangly new Windows software. They are not the only ones to benefit, as new computers are being purchased for the children with contributions from (you've guessed it) FOCKSA, plus a donation from the Rotary Club. Thank you all!

Summer!

Lastly, we wish everyone happy holidays and safe travels or staycations.