



Our Vision:

An inclusive learning community where everyone is welcome. Children are curious about and engaged with the world around them; grow into kind and respectful young people, who have the courage and confidence to thrive as global citizens.

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Dear Parents & Carers,

Parent Survey January 2022 - Governors Response

I would like to thank those of you who took the time to complete the Parent Survey earlier this year. Your views and comments are of great importance to our teaching and leadership teams, as well as the board of Governors here at Otford Primary School. As you know from our Strategic Plan, it is a priority for us to ensure there is strong communication with our parent body at every level.

We had approximately 100 responses to the survey, so whilst the results are not reflective of you all, they do offer a proportionate indication of your views.

The Board of Governors have discussed the results in detail with Mrs Roberts and we would like to take this opportunity to pass on some thoughts and comments to you all.

When we compared responses to last year's survey, there was an overall improvement, which is very positive. Parents are more positive/happier than they were a year ago, despite the challenges of COVID.

The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved

Almost 9 in 10 parents felt that this was true, which is encouraging. To the few who disagreed, we would note that behaviour forms one of the core pillars of our School Improvement plan and therefore remains an area of key focus for everyone involved with the school. We have a policy on behaviour, the focus being on rewarding positive behaviour with the use of colour charts in each class. Over the past few months, our senior leadership team have spent an incredible amount of one to one time with children discussing behavioural issues. Moving forward, all our teachers and leaders will continue to work with you and your children within this integral area. Behaviour will always be a controversial area because it is subjective. Not all children respond the same way to discipline.

There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school

The Government sets the National Curriculum, and whilst we as a school body have the flexibility to teach it in the most effective way, we cannot control the content. Otford is lucky to be able to offer extensions to the curriculum such as Forest School, Art and Music. The restrictive nature of the subjects that the school is required to teach and be assessed on means that whilst there are other curriculum opportunities we would like to offer, we are not always able to. We will continue to strive to offer as wide a range of subjects as possible within the constraints imposed on us.

The School has high expectations for my child

The response to this question was noteworthy due to the relatively high percentage of responses who neither agreed nor disagreed. The school will endeavour to improve our communication of the high expectations we have for our children. We aim to ensure that each child at Otford fulfils their potential and makes at least good progress throughout their time at Otford Primary School both socially and academically. We understand that children learn at different paces and need to feel that they are in charge of their own learning journey. We offer a challenge-based curriculum whereby children are able to self-select their learning challenges, within a comfortable stretch zone, during their independent learning time. If a child feels that, the learning is too "easy" they are encouraged to take an extension activity. We positively encourage children to be challenged and feel that they are empowered to learn new skills and acquire new knowledge each and every day. As always, our teachers are happy to discuss your child's individual progress with you.

Whilst the vast majority (95%) of respondents said their child felt safe at school, we will always endeavour to eliminate any child feeling unsafe.

In terms of the support we offer our children with SEND, we appointed Mrs Williams as our Lead Inclusion Manager last year. Mrs Williams has over 25 years of experience in this field and has made incredible progress with our children. She has made herself available for one to one sessions with parents each week, put in place provision maps for every child within her care and we have received numerous emails from parents who have been so grateful for her positive impact. Unfortunately, with the lack of SEN support children can now receive from the NHS, and the damaging impact of COVID on our children's mental health, we have more children than ever who require additional support. Our aim for children to reach their full potential remains a priority.

My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school

The recently updated Clubs & Activities timetable is attached for your information. We are delighted to be running more clubs than ever before. We will always aim to use the space and resources we have to include more as and when this becomes possible.

Next steps

The feedback we receive from parents helps us to define priorities for our ongoing School Improvement Plan, and helps us to understand the progress we are making towards them. The current plan is available on the school website, and will be updated for the start of the new school year.

Governors will also refer to the results of the survey when planning their visits to the school, which they use to observe that changes and challenges are being effectively addressed. They will pay particular attention to the areas described above.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to our staff. The overwhelming majority of our children here at Otford Primary are happy and feel safe. That is down to the care, experience and dedication of our wonderful teaching and leadership team, so thank you.

As always, if you have any concerns or issues you wish to discuss, you are most welcome to contact Mrs Roberts, her senior leadership team or myself.

Kind Regards,

Pippa Taylor
Chair of Governors
on behalf of the Governing Body