



Otford Primary School

High Street, Otford, Kent, TN14 5PG

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.

Head Teacher
Helen Roberts (B.Ed) Hons Primary NPQH

Phone 01959-523145
Email: secretary@otford.kent.sch.uk
Website: www.otford.kent.sch.uk

May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

On behalf of the governors, we would like to thank parents and carers for taking the time to provide feedback. It is reassuring to see that almost all children feel happy and safe in school and that most parents and carers understand what their children will be learning throughout the year. The governors will be discussing the results of the survey at our next meeting and when we plan for the new school year, focusing on behaviour, communication and wider personal development.

Governors work closely with the school on all of these areas and regularly carry out monitoring visits on areas including the curriculum, behaviour, well-being and support for children with SEND. External advisors often comment on the excellent behaviour they see when they visit Otford, and on a recent meeting with Community Leaders we were amazed by the children's enthusiasm at the opportunity to contribute their own and other children's ideas, and how proud they were to talk about their school.

We are looking forward to seeing the new well-being hub when it's up and running, and hope that many of your children will benefit from this fantastic new facility. It has also been great to see the number of wider development opportunities continuing to grow, including the recent Year 5 camp out, Year 1 art walk, forest school, the Disney sing along, and a very successful season for the boys' football team.

The governors would like to take the opportunity to thank all the staff at the school who work so hard to nurture children's curiosity and wellbeing among the packed curriculum. We would also like to recognise everyone across the school community who invests their time in supporting children in different ways, including fundraising for great facilities and resources for the children.

Best wishes

Mrs H Drennan and Mr P Jackaman (Co-chairs of the Governing Body) May 2023

Thank you so much to all the parents and carers who took the time to respond to the recent questionnaire. Your feedback is important to us and helps inform our school strategy moving forward. We had 137 responses; this is 37 more than the previous survey. The results of the survey will be discussed and shared at the next governor's meeting and will also be shared with staff so that we can all contribute to developing the school to be an even better place for children to learn. We are grateful for any suggestions from parents and these are considered as part of our school development priorities for the future.

	Question	Strongly Agree or Agree	Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child is happy at this school	91.97%	6.57%	1.46%
2	My child feels safe at this school	94.89%	3.65%	1.46%
3	The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	71.53%	23.36%	5.11%

	Question	My child has not been bullied	Strongly Agree or Agree	Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
4	My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	67.15%	11.68%	13.14%	8.03%

	Question	Strongly Agree or Agree	Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
5	The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	90.51%	8.03%	1.46%

	Question	I have not raised any concerns	Strongly Agree or Agree	Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
6	When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly	31.38%	43.8%	20.44%	4.38%

	Question	Strongly Agree or Agree	Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
7	My child has SEND and the school gives them the support they need to succeed	37.93%	31.03%	31.03%
8	The school has high expectations for my child	59.12%	21.17%	5.84%
9	My child does well at this school	82.48%	11.68%	5.84%
10	The school lets me know how well my child is doing	74.45%	21.17%	4.38%
11	There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	81.02%	13.87%	5.11%
12	My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school	77.37%	18.25%	4.38%
13	The school supports my child's wider personal development	64.23%	16.79%	8.98%

		Yes	No
14	I would recommend this school to another parent	80%	20%

Our Response

Q1: My child is happy at this school

91.97% of parents felt that their child was happy at school. Only 6.57% of parents did not agree with this statement. It is really important to us that all of our children are happy in school. We will shortly be conducting pupil surveys during term 6 to ask pupils what we can do to improve the school for them.

Q2: My child feels safe at this school

Only 3.65% of parents responded negatively to this statement. Safeguarding is a high priority for everybody in school and we ensure that everybody shares that commitment to our children. There are a variety of reasons why children may not feel safe and all staff take great care in supporting children who may appear or are vulnerable. Our new Nurture Hub demonstrates our commitment to the Mental Health of our children at Otford.

Q3: The school makes sure its children are well behaved

71.53% of parents agreed with 5.11% not knowing. We work hard with children to embrace and demonstrate our core values of Courage, Kindness and Curiosity. Children who demonstrate these qualities are rewarded with praise and certificates. If children find it difficult to embody our values, the school and other children support them in understanding and moving towards this. The weekly Sway communication informs parents of children's achievements and our Instagram page is regularly updated. The school behaviour policy is on the school website and all staff in school will continue to address any behaviour, with children and parents, that does not meet our expected standards. We will continue to work closely with parents and discuss ways in which we can support children in the school setting.

Q4: My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively

67.15% of parents said that their child had not been bullied with 8.03% stating that they didn't know. 13.14% disagreed with this statement. We take any form of bullying within school extremely seriously and will always deal with the complaint. We teach all the children to be tolerant and kind but are aware that there are rare occasions when this is a challenge for some of our children. We encourage all children to speak to an adult about anything that they are worried about and encourage parents to get in touch with the Senior Leadership Team if they have any concerns, however minor. We will always respond. We will continue to share our goals and help children to see that other's different beliefs, practices or lifestyle should be valued even though they may be different to their own. Assemblies celebrate and educate this diversity.

Q5: The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year

Only 8% of parents disagreed with this statement. The curriculum plans are regularly updated and shared with parents. Class Dojo is a well-used communication platform for teachers to share their plans and topics moving forward. We do share our curriculum plans with parents via Sway and update parents regularly on Teaching and Learning. We also hold workshops for parents to demonstrate how the children are learning and how parents may support them. Should parents have anything that they would like to know about the learning of their child, we are very happy for parents to contact the school and make an appointment.

Q6: When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly

20.44% of respondents did not agree with this statement. As a school we want to deal with any concerns as promptly as possible. It is very important that we make sure that we establish all the facts and have as much information regarding any concern raised in order for us to address the issue appropriately. We do appreciate that some not all parents will be happy with the school's response but do take time to work with the parents to explain why the decisions have been made. We follow school procedures when dealing with complaints and do our very best to meet the needs of the children and parents.

Q7: My school has SEND and the school gives them the support they need to succeed

22% of parents who responded had children with SEND. 18 parents felt that their children were not getting the support they needed. Every child in school is unique and some children face more challenges than others. Our Inclusion Manager works tirelessly to ensure that every child with additional needs has the access to the resources they deserve. Our priority is understanding the individual needs of the children and ensuring that these are met. Mrs Williams is available to meet parents every Monday after school and has organised an on line booking system on the website for ease of reference.

Q8: The school has high expectations for my child

Over 59% of parents felt that the school's expectations for their child were high with 5.84% who did not know. The school has high expectations for all pupils and supports children in achieving these. These are communicated through school newsletters, Open Classrooms, Parent Consultations, school reports and the school website. We seek to ensure that all children reach their full potential with the high standard of teaching and learning throughout the school. The standard of teaching and learning is regularly monitored by the SLT and if necessary, training delivered to further develop and improve this. We are always looking to developing practice in school and will continue to ensure that this remains a priority as we move into the next academic year.

Q9: My child does well at this school

Only 11.68% of parents disagreed with this statement. Whilst we are highly focused on the academic achievement of all our children we are equally focused on all other elements of the children's wellbeing. For children to succeed it is vital that we take care of their mental and physical health to facilitate their

achievements. The school has many activities that stimulate and engage children. Children are encouraged to be physically active and to participate in sports but also to take time to reflect and to think about their needs. When mental health is good children are motivated and able to take on challenges and new experiences, increasing curiosity and learning. The school actively cares for the mental health of the children and the staff in school with bought in professional services such as counselling and conducting well-being surveys for both children and staff.
Q10: The school lets me know how well my child is doing
21.17% of parents did not feel that they agreed with this statement. We regularly hold Parent Consultation evenings meetings for teachers to discuss with you the progress that your child has made that term. Parents can speak to the teachers at the beginning or the end of the school day and teachers will often share how well children are progressing. If the school has any concerns about the progress of your child, the teacher will contact you to make you aware we are concerned and if necessary, work together to address this.
Q11: There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school
Over 81% of parents agreed with this statement with 5.11% who didn't know. We review the school curriculum every year and look to see if it can be adapted to improve. The school offers a broad curriculum designed to stimulate curiosity and excitement in children. A broad and balanced curriculum provides children with the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to develop into well-rounded, informed individuals. We have seen at first hand the positive impact the revised curriculum has had on children across the school, we are recording their views and noting areas for future development.
Q12: My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school
The school offers a wide range of clubs and activities to children at school. We carefully review the offer to make sure that there is a good choice across all subjects. We gather feedback about the clubs and activities through surveys to children and parents. The most recent survey was conducted last term and feedback was very positive. We do aim to provide as much variety as we are able.
Q13: The school supports my child's wider personal development
The school provides opportunities for wider personal development through a range of activities in schools such as: trips, team building activities, camping, school journey, sports competitions etc. All these activities help children to develop the skills to become responsible, respectful and active citizens. The school actively promotes equality of opportunity and highlights this around the school with posters and assemblies and lessons. The focus on mental health supports children in being confident and resilient so that they have the qualities needed to flourish in society. Children are carefully supported as they prepare for the next phase of their education.
Q14: I would recommend this school to another parent
80% of parents would recommend Otford to another parent. This is not as high as we would like this to be and we would encourage parents to talk to teachers or the SLT if they had any issues. We are constantly trying to improve the offer for children and to make Otford a happy, safe and exciting learning environment for all our children.