



Oxfordshire County Council

## **HAILEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Hailey, Witney, Oxon, OX29 9UB

### **Hailey School Governing Body Newsletter**

**April 2015**

#### **Introduction**

Welcome to this term's Hailey School Governors' newsletter.

In this edition, we will be covering the following:

- Parent survey results
- Parentview and impending Ofsted Inspection
- Governing body membership

#### **Parent Survey**

Thank you to those parents who took the time to complete the parent survey we sent out with our last newsletter. We received responses from 42% of families at the school.

As we have said, this survey is a really important way for the school to get feedback, and the leadership team take it very seriously. Whilst this is a good response rate compared with many other schools, we would like to urge more parents to complete the survey in future to ensure that as many views as possible are represented.

The responses have been discussed with the school leadership team and staff. The overwhelming message we received was incredibly positive, but a plan of action has been agreed for the few areas coming out of the survey where parents would like us to do more, which will be summarised below.

For the few parents who ticked disagree or strongly disagree, we would ask you to please come and discuss your views with the Head Teacher, if you have not already done so, so that the school can address any concerns you have.

#### **Survey Question Results**

We asked parents to rate which questions were most important to them, and the top four priorities were as follows:

Number one priority: ***My child is happy at this school: 97%*** of parents strongly agreed or agreed

Number two priority: ***My child makes good progress at this school: 91%*** of parents strongly agreed or agreed

Number three priority: ***My child is helped to achieve their full potential: 84%*** of parents strongly agreed or agreed

Number four priority: ***My child feels safe at this school: 91%*** of parents strongly agreed or agreed

We are incredibly proud of these results. The National Governors Association state that according to their research across primary schools, a good satisfaction score would be above 70%; above 80% is outstanding. The governing body wants to thank the staff and leadership team for all their hard work in achieving this.

Other highlights were:

- 100% of parents strongly agree or agree the school has a happy atmosphere
- 94% strongly agree or agree the school makes sure children are well behaved
- 94% would recommend the school to another parent
- 94% strongly agree or agree that their child is taught well at the school
- 87% strongly agree or agree the school is led and managed well by staff and the Head Teacher
- 84% strongly agree or agree the school is led well by the school governors
- 88% strongly agree or agree there is a good range of activities at the school
- 97% strongly agree or agree their child is encouraged to lead a healthy lifestyle

We are very pleased with these responses as they indicate we are delivering on our core values and ethos, and the vision we have for the school, which we developed in consultation with parents and staff.

The comments section on the surveys provided more insights into what parents perceive as the school's strengths and also its development areas.

***Strengths:***

Small, inclusive, kind and friendly atmosphere  
Children are encouraged to do their best/high expectations  
Good staff and leadership  
Lovely outdoor area  
Strong values, which are understood

***Development Areas:***

Homework and Marking Communication  
Knowledge of children's progress  
Extra-curricular activities: broader range of sports/after school clubs  
Managing Parents' Concerns

All of this feedback was discussed with the leadership team, staff and the full governing body. Responses have been agreed as follows:

### ***Uncertainty regarding how the school deals with bullying***

The survey showed that 45% of parents either do not know if the school deals effectively with bullying, or consider it is not applicable to them, with 9% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.

Positively, 97% of parents say their child is not bullied or harassed at the school (3% disagree) although we obviously would want this to be 100%.

The school takes this issue extremely seriously. We hope that the recent Head Teacher coffee morning on anti-bullying and behaviour management, combined with the newsletters and policies recently sent out to all parents, as well as the school's Anti-Bullying week, are providing parents with sufficient information about the school's approach and how the school manages behaviour.

We suspect that the high level of 'don't knows' relates to the fact that 97% of respondents have not had direct experience of bullying in the school and therefore feel unable to comment.

As a result, in future parent surveys, we will try to qualify the question about how effectively the school deals with bullying, by addressing this to those parents who have had direct experience of bullying at the school, as we feel this will generate a more meaningful response, and help us better understand how effective our actions are.

### ***Sports Investment***

In the open comments section, there were several comments asking for a greater range of sports and after-school clubs, although 78% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that the school encourages their child to be active and participate in a range of sports.

As you are aware, the school has received funding to increase its investment in sports over a 3 year period, and the latest sports spend plan and review of impacts will shortly be published on the website so you can see exactly which initiatives have been supported. (The school financial year runs from April to April).

In the meantime we wanted to bring to your attention the following details about how the school is investing in sport, some of which you may not be aware of:

- The school runs sports lessons for each class, 2 days a week. The sports activities covered so far this year have been gym, games, dance and swimming.
- Lunchtime sports activities using school resources have been made available for interested pupils, and the school has been using a sports coach to train our own teaching staff so that they can continue to run sports activities when the sports funding ceases, so the school does not have to rely on external coaches
- The school has taken part in Inter-school competitions in football, cricket, Year 2 Olympics and swimming, and further competitions are planned this summer for rounders and cricket

- After-school clubs have been set up for rugby, football, street dance, quidditch, Boing and Multi-skills. Attempts were made to set up clubs for golf, yoga and tennis but there were insufficient numbers to make it viable for the providers. The school is committed to providing a range of sports activities after school, but unfortunately, the pattern seems to be that after initial pupil interest in new clubs for a term or two, numbers dwindle to the point that it is no longer viable for the provider to run the club. Rugby, football & street dance were therefore discontinued due to low numbers.
- The school continues to search for additional after school clubs. Any further suggestions for clubs or contacts for sports providers are always welcome, and these should be directed to Mrs Liz Jarrett.

We hope the above reassures parents that sports is a real priority for the school, as part of our mission to encourage our children to lead active and healthy lifestyles. We have a lead governor for Sport on the governing body who looks at the impact of the sports spend, and we have a sports objective in our Raising Achievement Plan that we monitor regularly.

The results of this increased focus are starting to be evidenced by the results in our pupil surveys: 86% of uppers/lowers and 88% of infants/foundation agree that they enjoy lots of different sports activities all or most of the time.

### ***Feedback on Progress: Homework & Marking***

78% of parents agree or strongly agree that they receive valuable information about their child's progress. However, 19% disagree or strongly disagree. This reflects some of the feedback we received in the comments section around communication with parents on marking, homework and parent evenings.

The teaching staff have discussed this point, and believe this could be partly addressed by explaining to parents how work is marked, and how feedback is given, so that parents can understand the systems used by the school and its pupils. The pupil survey showed that pupils understand how the marking in their books lets them know how they are doing and how they can improve, so we obviously need to do a better job communicating this to parents!

As a result a coffee morning will be held this term for parents with the Deputy Head Teacher on marking policies used in classwork and homework. A marking policy is followed by the school across all year groups. Sometimes feedback on work takes the form of a dialogue between the teacher and pupil to reinforce learning, as homework is a consolidation of work already covered in class, where detailed comments are made. We have a Homework Policy on the website which outlines the school's approach, and this will be referred to at the coffee morning.

It is important that homework is handed in on time, as otherwise, unfortunately, proper feedback cannot be given.

Hailey does have an open door policy: if you have any concerns about your child's progress, and you do not want to wait until the next parent's evening, do please speak to your class teacher as they are happy to make themselves available ( with a bit of notice!).

### ***Managing Parent Concerns***

71% of parents agree or strongly agree that the school deals effectively with any concerns they raise, 13% disagree or strongly disagree, and 16% don't know. The school takes every concern received seriously. Again, we would ask any parents that do have concerns to come and speak to their class teacher or the head teacher as soon as possible, so that they can be addressed. As we have said before, Hailey School has an open door policy, and the school views its parents as partners in their children's education, so it is important that we can work together to resolve any problems quickly, constructively and professionally, respecting each other through the process in line with the school's values.

Whilst the school may not always be able to change practice or policy to suit every individual child, it will always listen to parents, and where possible reach agreement. We do however want to emphasise the need for professional behaviour between parents and teachers; the school is a work environment like any other, and we expect parents to speak to and treat staff in the same way they would wish to be spoken to in their workplace.

If parents are not satisfied with how an issue is being addressed, there is a complaints procedure that is detailed on the website which shows the steps involved, and how to take an issue further.

### **Parentview and Feedback to Ofsted**

As it has been almost four years since our last Inspection, Hailey School is due to be inspected in the next twelve months. After the school is given notice of the inspection, parents will be asked to complete an online survey of just 12 questions called Parentview which we referred to in our own parent survey. You do not need to wait for the inspection; this survey can be completed at any time during the year. Your response will help Ofsted to form an accurate picture of our school and give it a fair judgement. All you need to do is register on the website with an email address and a password at:

<http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>.

Once your login has been activated, it only takes a few minutes to complete the survey.

It would be really helpful therefore if parents could go online over the next week and spend five minutes rating the school across these 12 areas, as although Ofsted will look at the school's own parent and pupil survey results, it is obviously important to the school to also

have a representative sample of parents on Parentview. This is especially the case as Parentview is a publicly available survey that anyone can look at, and which may inform potential future parents' and staff perceptions of the school. More than one parent per household can submit their views if they wish. Thank you.

### **Governing Body Membership**

We are delighted to announce that we have a new Chair of our Finance and Resources Sub-committee and we welcome John Coffin to our governing body. John brings with him a wealth of finance and business experience, and he will be a real asset to our team. It is with great regret that we say farewell and thanks to Isobel Anderson, who has provided us with some invaluable support over the past year, and also to Jeremy Stone who is stepping down as an Associate Member.

We are now looking to recruit a new member of the team, with strong numerical and data analysis skills, to take up the role of Chair next year for our Performance, Church & Community sub-committee. If you do know of anyone from the community who may be interested in becoming a school governor, please let us know. We are always looking for future members of the governing body who can give us the benefit of their skills and experience.

### **Hailey School Governing Body**

#### **Chair ( & co-opted governor)**

Sue Haywood

#### **Staff**

Lisa Bradbury

#### **County**

Marjorie Ottley

#### **Associate Members**

Tom Dyson

#### **Co-opted**

Roger Cantwell

John Coffin

Sorcha Dyer

Ann Gibson

Vacancy

#### **Head Teacher**

Debbie Davies

#### **Clerk**

Liz Jarrett

#### **Foundation**

Anne Marie Fisher

Rev Neil Traynor

#### **Parent**

Eve Smith

Matteo Convento

Nola Kinnear

Matthew Anderson

*We hope you found this newsletter informative. Any comments on how it could be improved would be gratefully received; please email [office.3123@hailey.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3123@hailey.oxon.sch.uk) fao Eve Smith.*