



Oxfordshire County Council

HAILEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hailey, Witney, Oxon, OX29 9UB

Hailey School Governing Body Newsletter

February 2016

Introduction

Welcome to this term's Hailey School Governors' newsletter. In this edition we will be sharing a summary of the results from the recent school surveys. These surveys are very important to the school, as they are our key means of getting feedback, and parent, pupil and staff responses help us ensure that our provision is meeting expectations and delivering against the school's priorities in its Raising Achievement Plan.

We hope that parents and staff have had a chance to read the school's Ofsted report. We are looking forward to seeing you at our Sharing event on the 29th February at 6.00pm. In order to help with child cover, Mrs Davies has arranged for Ignite Sport to put on some activities for children during the event, so we hope to see as many of you there as possible. More details about this can be found in the school newsletter.

Parent and Pupil Survey Results

We pride ourselves on being transparent about the school's strengths and its development areas, and each year we make an action plan to deal with any areas of concern which we share with parents, and post on the website: a practice that is not widespread amongst many schools. In addition to the summary below, a slightly more detailed report is available on the Parent Info section of the website.

Pupil Survey

With pupils, we conduct two different surveys: one for Lower and Upper Juniors, and a shorter one for Infants and Foundation.

I enjoy being at school:

95% of all pupils responded all or most of the time.

My lessons are interesting and fun:

100% of Upper Juniors, Lower Juniors and Infants responded all or most of the time. Foundation stage did not fully understand the concept of lessons, so we will rephrase the question for that group next year.

Other children are friendly:

100% of Uppers & Lower Juniors responded all or most of the time and 97% of Foundation & Infants.

I enjoy lots of different sports activities at school:

90% of Upper and Lower Juniors responded all or most the time, and 89% of Foundation and Infants.

I think this is a good school:

98% of Upper and Lower Juniors responded all or most the time, and 100% of Foundation and Infants.

We hope you agree, these are excellent responses, and we would like to congratulate the staff as these are a real reflection of their hard work and commitment to the children.

School Parent Survey

Thank you to those parents who took the time to complete the parent survey we sent out last term. We received responses from 39% of families at the school.

We asked parents to rate which questions were most important to them. Not everyone did this, but out of those that did, the top four priorities were as follows:

- ***My child is happy at this school:***
100% of parents strongly agreed or agreed
- ***My child is confident that should he/she have a problem, there is someone in the school to go to who will listen:***
88% of parents strongly agreed or agreed
- ***My child feels safe at this school:***
96% of parents strongly agreed or agreed.
- ***If I have concerns, the school responds well to any concerns I raise:***
88% 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. Other highlights were:

- 100% of parents strongly agree or agree the school has a happy atmosphere
- 96% of parents strongly agree or agree that their child makes good progress at the school
- 96% strongly agree or agree the school makes sure children are well behaved
- 88% would recommend the school to another parent
- 88% strongly agree or agree the school is led and managed well by staff and the Head Teacher

The comments section outlined what parents perceive as the school's strengths:

- Caring, happy, nurturing environment with strong values
- Lovely outdoor setting and a good range of school trips and after school clubs
- Approachable, caring staff who know the children well
- Strong leadership
- Interesting topics

Only two questions in the survey scored less than 80%. These were regarding the marking and feedback their child gets on their homework and schoolwork and whether their child received appropriate homework for their age.

These concerns with marking and homework were also raised in the comments section. Other areas suggested for development were:

- More wrap-around care at an affordable cost
- Parent information

Mrs Davies and her team examined the responses from the parent survey and discussed any issues parents felt strongly about, and these have also been discussed with the governing body. Some practices are already taking place, such as communicating with you on how marking of class work takes place (please see the OFSTED report). Other new practices need to be shared. We hope that this information will be helpful in answering and responding to your concerns.

Homework marking & feedback

The head teacher and teaching staff discussed this point and have already made some changes in response to your feedback. Scores are now provided in homework books and folders for ActiveLearn maths, times tables tests (for those years that do them) and spelling tests so you can see how your child is doing and what they need to work on. In addition, last summer a session was held for parents on how children's school and homework is marked and how they are given feedback in class. Not everyone was able to attend and so this will be held again, and will also provide the latest information for parents on the new SATS papers.

Amount of homework and appropriateness for age

There have been mixed responses from parents about whether the homework is too challenging or challenging enough. The reality is that the curriculum has changed considerably and that there are much greater expectations of every child from an earlier age as the government aims to raise standards in its revamp of the national curriculum. The only way our school will be able to deliver against these expectations, and achieve the progress we all want for our children, is by reinforcing their learning at school with age-appropriate homework.

We recognise that there are increasing time pressures on parents, and that children are often busy in the week with after-school activities. However, this is a balance, and the staff believe the amount of homework set is reasonable, and necessary, if we want our children to thrive. The amount set for each year group is in line with other schools in the local area and our policy was endorsed by the Ofsted Inspector in our recent inspection. We thank parents for your support with this, which is crucial. If you have any questions about particular aspects of the homework then do please speak to your class teacher.

More wrap-around care requested at an affordable cost

Based on feedback from parents about pre and post school requirements, there was no real demand for after-school clubs that ran later than what we already provide. However, there was demand for an early morning club, which was started this term, and the feedback so far has been good.

Parent information

There were some requests for more information about different aspects of school life. Although most people use the website which does contain a lot of this information, we recognise that it has not always been easy to navigate, so we have improved the layout and navigation of the site which is now mobile-friendly and includes a search function. We have also increased the feedback on homework as outlined above.

In addition, Mrs Davies and her teaching staff continue to welcome appointments made by you with them to discuss any concerns about your child's progress or schoolwork.

Progress on Action Plan from 2014/2015 Survey

We reviewed our actions from last year's survey, and in 3 out of the 4 areas highlighted by parents as areas for development, there have been good increases in satisfaction. (See web report for details).

Parentview

We would like to thank those parents who took the time to give feedback in the online Ofsted Parent View survey prior to the inspection. Whilst many of the responses were positive, we were concerned to see a marked difference between the responses for some questions, and responses to the same questions asked in the school survey which was completed three months prior. Since the comments section in Parent View is not available for viewing by the school, we are unable to analyse the reasons behind these responses further.

Neither the leadership team nor the governing body have been contacted recently by parents about specific concerns raised in Parent View. The Ofsted Inspector was explicit in both her report and in her verbal feedback to the governing body that she had found no evidence during her inspection that supported those concerns.

The school and governing body encourage feedback from parents, and the leadership takes the results very seriously. We would like to remind parents however that if you have concerns about any aspects of the school, you should raise these with your class teacher in the first instance, and then with the head teacher if necessary. Only if the school are made aware of issues can they do something about them, and it is in everyone's interests to resolve any issues or areas of misunderstanding as quickly as possible.

Code of Conduct

As you are aware from the school newsletter, Hailey School has adopted the new Oxfordshire Schools Code of Conduct for Parents and Carers, setting out how parents and schools should work together and clarifying the types of behaviour that are considered acceptable (we already have a Code of Conduct for staff, governors and pupils). Whilst Hailey School prides itself on the partnership it develops with parents and the community, it is very concerning that a growing number of schools across the country are experiencing issues with offensive language and behaviour to staff and offensive comments about the school, its staff or pupils on Facebook and other social media sites. Comments on these public sites can be highly damaging and upsetting to the individuals affected. Content that may be posted in a moment of frustration stays up on social media indefinitely for all to see, and can be viewed by a huge range of people, not just other parents.

We are lucky at Hailey School that incidents of this nature rarely happen, although there has been an increase over the past year, and this is being monitored closely by the governors and leadership team. Such behaviour is unacceptable and if it occurs, the school will take swift action, and work with the appropriate authorities to address it.

Governing Body Membership

We are delighted to announce two new members of our governing body who have joined us from the local community: Reka Balogh and Mary Anderson. They bring a range of valuable skills from industry and education, and we would like to welcome them to our governing body.

A full list of governors can be found on the school website or in the foyer.

We are always looking for future members of the governing body who can give us the benefit of their experience, so if you know of anyone who might be interested please get in touch.

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 fao Eve Smith.