



Beulah Infant and Nursery School

Friday 19th May 2023



Dear **Parents and Carers**,

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to complete our online parental questionnaire. This year, we had 33 responses. The survey is important to us as it allows us to find out what you think of the school and what we can do to improve. I am pleased to say that responses were overwhelmingly positive with lots of lovely comments identifying what you like about the school.

For every question except two, all of the responses were over 97% positive with many cases where only one or two respondents didn't agree with the positive statements. For example, 100% felt their child is taught well at Beulah, 100% felt their child is happy and enjoys being at the school and 100% believe children from different backgrounds get on well together at this school. A common theme from the vast majority of responses was that people feel welcome at the school and that all staff are friendly and approachable. The two questions which had a less positive response related to homework (*The teachers think about the homework they set and give the right quantity* = 89%) and the visibility of our academy council members. (*I know who the parent MACs are at this school* = 61%).

Every year the homework question appears to stir some strong emotions. Many people feel that primary-aged children should have no homework at all and that children should have time outside of school to play and enjoy non-academic activities. Others feel that children should be given work to complete at home. As ever, we are driven by the research. A recent study by the University of Hull says that 'The available meta-studies – research that combines and analyses the findings of a number of studies – suggest that homework has little or no positive benefit for the academic achievement of children of primary school age. A central reason for this seems to be the inability of children to complete this homework without the support provided by teachers and the school. What's more, homework may actually have a negative effect if parents set unrealistic expectations, apply pressure or use methods that go counter to those used at school. Homework may also increase inequalities between pupils.' All we ask is that children read to an adult every night. However, we also set optional project homework each term which is linked to the current thematic topic. This is sent out at the start of each term with the year group termly newsletter.

Although the visibility of the Members of the Academy Council (MACs) had a less positive response with 61% of parents knowing at least one member and 10% knowing most members, this percentage is 20% greater than last year's parental questionnaire. I have recently sent out a newsletter to introduce all three of our parent MACs and this included their photographs so they should be easy to recognise. I will also be asking the Academy Council to consider other ways in which they can make themselves more visible.

A number of parents commented on their concerns regarding a very small number of car drivers that regularly put our children in danger by causing an obstruction when double parking or make 'U' turns in front of the school entrance. I will now be looking into the possibility of Furze Road becoming a 'School Street' where a temporary restriction on motorised traffic will be in place at school drop-off and pick-up times.

A few parents mentioned the school meals and what is provided. The current catering contract is up for renewal and your comments and suggestions are informing the discussions with the new companies tendering for the contract.

Overall, we are pleased that the vast majority of you are so happy with the school but we always take our commitment to improvement seriously, so if you have any ideas, concerns or suggestions please speak up. We are always happy to listen and even if we can't change things we may be able to explain why things are as they are.

Debbie Butler
Head Beulah Infants and Nursery