



# Cypress Primary School Parent Survey Feedback 21-22



## Dear Parents and Carers,

Many thanks to everyone who took part in our parental questionnaire for this academic year. We are pleased to report that the results were overwhelmingly positive with lots of constructive and kind feedback, thank you! A full breakdown of the responses can be found on the reverse of this newsletter. We received 133 responses and currently have 639 children on roll across Cypress Primary School, including Little Cypress Nursery.

Your feedback has shown that a vast majority agree or strongly agree that their child(ren) are happy and enjoy school (95%), safe (99%), taught well (98%), care about one another (98%) and behaviour is good (98%). Cypress parents also feel that they are welcome at the school (98%) and that our school is well led and managed (98%). 100% of responses agreed or strongly agreed that pupils from different backgrounds get on well together at Cypress.

Here are some of the best things about Cypress you told us. We've also included a few of the lovely comments we enjoyed reading and would like to share with you all:

- Very welcoming, caring, approachable, polite, inclusive and friendly staff who are willing to go above and beyond.
- Promoting a strong emphasis on reading throughout the school.
- All children are known personally by name.
- Great community feel, strong community spirit. Strong school ethos.
- Great PTFA events and support for the school.
- Leadership team are always on the gates, approachable and available to talk. Staff always follow up on things so parents feel they are listened to.
- Great communication, weekly news updates on the website and lots of notice about events.
- Wonderful school grounds, well-maintained facilities, regular improvements and Forest School.
- Great range of opportunities and events for the children. Strong curriculum.
- Good working partnership with parents and school.
- *'All the teachers, TAs, leadership team and support staff! My children are thriving at Cypress even with all the disruption in the last couple of years. It's a fantastic school.'*
- *'The staff seem to genuinely love their work and clearly care about the children in their care.'*
- *'The emphasis on warmth and welcome that is evident right from the school gates. My son has always experienced nurture which has helped him to grow in confidence as he has moved through the school. The foundation of respect for the children I think creates an environment in which they can thrive. I am really happy with the school, thank you!'*

Whilst it is a pleasure to hear that people are happy with the school and the work that we do, we are always focused on what we can do better. In response to the survey, we have already implemented some changes and are exploring other options. For example:

- 98% of parents said 'the school keeps me well informed about events related to school' however some responses identified that the Teacher 2 Parents texting system only sends texts to one parent contact. Unfortunately, this is a limitation of the T2P system as it only allows for one nominated contact, which is taken as the first contact on the school admission forms. If parents would like to change the nominated contact, please speak to the school office.
- Some families want more communications, some say we send too much! We always endeavour to get the balance right and acknowledge that at certain times of the year families receive a lot of texts or letters from us. We are always eager to investigate new and better ways of communicating with our parents, and as such the Trust is currently investigating the use of email as a new method of communication. You also said that you would like Cypress to go paperless, which we endeavour to do at every opportunity by sending out texts with website links to key letters or information. Our 'Parent Comms' group meet throughout the year and the Leadership Team are always happy to receive feedback on how we can improve.
- You will see from the data that homework is a contentious issue. Some parents feel that we should be giving more and some feel that we should be giving less. There is also a question about the type of homework that is given. We recognise that children need to have some free time outside of school but we would encourage children to engage in the creative activities that are set termly which are based around our Thematic topic. Most importantly, if all children are reading every single day we believe they will be developing the required fluency and necessary skills to tackle the rest of the curriculum. If you feel your child should be doing more, your child's teacher will always be happy to signpost you towards useful websites or resources that you can use at home with your child.

- Unfortunately, the percentage score for knowledge of the parent MACs is our lowest score. Parent MACs are volunteer members of the school's Academy Council and they meet periodically to consider standards in the school. Throughout the lockdown it has been difficult for parent MACs to raise their profile in school. However, now we have been able to return to inviting parents into the school for special events and we will ensure that any parent MAC attending is identified. We will also invite our Parent MACs to stand with our Leadership Team at the school gate once a term. Finally, we will also place posters around the school showing photographs of all of our MACs to raise their profiles.
- Whilst 94% of parents said that they were satisfied with their child's academic progress, only 81% of you felt that the school kept you well informed about how your child was doing. A number of parents did share that they would like more opportunities to discuss their child's progress with staff. We have three Parents' Evenings across the academic year, however all of our teachers are approachable and are happy to speak to parents if concerns or queries arise. If parents would like to meet their child's class teacher to discuss their child's progress, please ask them directly for an appointment or contact them via the school office.
- 86% of parents thought that the clubs that the school offered were well organised, but we had some feedback that these should be more varied, include more sports and we should increase the number of places. All of our afterschool clubs are incredibly popular and places are filled quickly. This academic year we also offered clubs to Reception children. Our Extended Services Leader, Suzanne Christopher, continually reviews the club providers and what's available to ensure these are varied and suitable across a range of year groups. We would love to be able to run even more clubs as these are so popular. We have experienced some difficulty recruiting outside providers as a result of the pandemic and also have to consider the physical space we have available in school such as the school hall, which can only be used for one club at a time. We are of course always working to develop and improve our after school offer.
- You said that there should be more opportunities for children to learn a musical instrument. All KS1 and KS2 classes have timetabled music lessons and we also have additional class music lessons as part of our PPA/enrichment afternoons throughout the school year. At the Lower School children can opt to have paid peripatetic violin lessons and at the Upper School violin, piano, djembe, choir and musical theory is on offer. If your child is interested in learning to play an instrument please enquire in the school office. We are exploring options to offer further peripatetic lessons at the Lower School and start a choir next academic year.

If anyone has a comment they raised in the questionnaire that hasn't been addressed here and you'd like to discuss this in more detail, then please feel free to come and see one of us. We'd like to thank everyone who contributed to this questionnaire. We are very proud of our school, children and the Cypress community.

<b>Question or statement</b>	<b>Agree/strongly agree</b>
<b>My child is happy and enjoys being at school</b>	95%
<b>I am sure my child is safe at this school</b>	99%
<b>I am satisfied with my child's academic progress</b>	94%
<b>My child is taught well at this school</b>	98%
<b>The teachers think about the homework they set about the right quantity</b>	75%
<b>The school ensures that children are well behaved</b>	98%
<b>The children from this school care for one another</b>	98%
<b>The school is well led and managed</b>	98%
<b>I feel comfortable approaching the school with questions or problems</b>	94%
<b>The school keeps me well informed about how well my child is doing</b>	81%
<b>I would recommend the school to another parent</b>	98%
<b>As a parent I feel welcome at the school</b>	98%
<b>I am always welcomed and treated politely by the staff in the school office</b>	98%
<b>I think that the clubs that the school offers are well organised</b> <i>(29% said their child hasn't attended a club – figure shown is a % of those who attend)</i>	86%
<b>If your child uses the breakfast or after school club please rate your experience here</b> <i>(46% said they didn't use these services– figure shown is a % of those who attend)</i>	<i>Happy 98% High Quality-27%</i>
<b>The school keeps me well informed about events related to the school (trips, events, school policies etc. via newsletters, text or appropriate website)</b>	98%
<b>I know who parent governors are at the school</b> <i>(46% said they didn't know the governors or have any understanding of what they do)</i>	<b>Know at least 1</b> 42% <b>Know most</b> 12%
<b>I agree with my child wearing school uniform</b>	94%
<b>I believe children from different backgrounds get on well together at this school</b>	100%