

**Atwood Primary School
Parent Survey 2023 Findings
A summary for Parents**

Introduction

Thank you to those members of the Atwood community who contributed their views to the Parent Survey. There **were 134 responses** from a potential **of 472** (the number of children on roll at Atwood) **and this is a representative sample of 28% of the parents.**

Schools are complex organisations which aim to provide the best possible standards of education and care to all children, no matter what their background is. The staff at Atwood, which is now part of the Pegasus Academy Trust, try their very best to live up to the high standards set by the Trust, the senior leaders of Atwood and the Members of the Academy Council (governors). It is important to take note of the perceptions of parents and this happens not only through the Parent Survey, but through the everyday interactions the Atwood staff have with families.

Headlines

Question 2

Which year group is your child in?

Broadly, there was an equal spread of representation from all year groups. The average amount of responses was around 20 per year group, with Year 3 parents responding the most with 32. Both Years 4 and 6 had the least responses with 16 each.

Question 3

I am satisfied with my child's academic progress.

83% of respondents reported that they either strongly agreed or agreed to this statement.

Question 4

I am sure my child(ren) is/are safe at this school.

99% of respondents reported that they either strongly agreed or agreed to this statement.

Question 5

My child(ren) is/are happy and enjoy being at this school.

93% of respondents reported that they either strongly agreed or agreed to this statement.

Question 6

My child(ren) is/are taught well at this school.

90% of respondents reported that they either strongly agreed or agreed to this statement.

Question 7

The teachers think about the homework they set and give about the right quantity.

61% of respondents reported that they either strongly agreed or agreed to this statement. A further 8% stated that this was applicable due to the age of their child(ren). **31%** of respondents reported that they either disagreed or strongly disagreed to this statement.

Question 8

The children at the school care for one another

93% of respondents reported that they either strongly agreed or agreed to this statement.

Question 9

The school ensures that pupils are well behaved

86% of respondents reported that they either strongly agreed or agreed to this statement.

Question 10

The school is well led and managed

72% of respondents reported that they either strongly agreed or agreed to this statement.

Question 11

I feel comfortable approaching the school with questions or problems

77% of respondents reported that they either strongly agreed or agreed to this statement.

Question 12

The school keeps me well informed about how well my child is doing

71% of respondents reported that they either strongly agreed or agreed to this statement.

Question 13

I would recommend this school to another parent

85% of respondents reported that they either strongly agreed or agreed to this statement.

Question 14

As a parent, I feel welcome at the school

87% of respondents reported that they either strongly agreed or agreed to this statement.

Question 15

I am always welcomed and treated politely by staff in the school office

99% of respondents reported that they either strongly agreed or agreed to this statement

Question 16

I think the activity clubs that the schools offer are well organised

67% of respondents reported that they either strongly agreed or agreed to this statement. A further 22% stated that their child(ren) had not attended a club this year or was too young to attend a club

Question 17

If your child(ren) uses/use the breakfast or after school club, please rate your experience

57% of respondents do not use these services

15% of respondents stated that it is high quality provision. 27% stated that they were mostly pleased. Under 1% stated they were unhappy with these provisions

Question 18

The school keeps me informed about events related to the school (trips, events, school policies) via newsletters, messaging, texts or the PAT website

73% of respondents reported that they either strongly agreed or agreed to this statement.

Question 19

I know who the parent Members of the Academy Council (MACS) or Governors are at the school

5% knew most of them

37% knew at least one of them

41% didn't know any of them

17% had no understanding of who or what MACS or Governors are or what they do

Question 20

I agree with my child wearing school uniform

98% of respondents reported that they either strongly agreed or agreed to this statement.

Question 21

I believe children from different background get on well together at this school

98% of respondents reported that they either strongly agreed or agreed to this statement.

Questions that invited a written response

Question 22 Best things about the school

It is always great to hear what parents and carers feel is great about Atwood. There were 93 responses with 41 choosing to skip this question. In order to make good use of the responses, the senior management team have identified 5 broad 'themes' which include:

- 1. Staffing**
- 2. Special Educational Needs**
- 3. Resources and facilities**
- 4. Learning and provision**
- 5. Ethos and community engagement, including providing positive role models for the children**

Here is a summary of the key themes:

1. Staffing

From the responses, it was very clear that the staff at Atwood are held in high regard with many parents praising individual staff. Common themes for staffing are that Atwood staff:

- ✓ Staff are great
- ✓ Have a good approach to teaching
- ✓ Staff are hardworking
- ✓ Staff communicate well with parents
- ✓ Staff are great
- ✓ Staff go above and beyond
- ✓ Staff shown interest in children so they can thrive
- ✓ Staff encourage children
- ✓ Staff are friendly and approachable

2. Special Educational Needs

It is clear that Atwood does a lot to support the needs of children with SEND. Here is a selection of some of the positive comments:

- ✓ The SEND support for my son has been good
- ✓ Atwood is an inclusive school
- ✓ The extra tutoring provided by the Atwood team has been amazing

3. Resources and facilities

Atwood is blessed with spacious ground and good facilities. Now that we are part of Pegasus this will only improve over the next few years. Things that parents and carers really like were:

- ✓ Having a forest school
- ✓ A library
- ✓ Having green spaces and areas
- ✓ Ensuring there is safe environment for the children

4. Learning and Provision

Learning and provision is a core element of Atwood. It is pleasing to hear a range of positive comments from parents.

- ✓ Access to physical activity during the day
- ✓ Academic focus and rigor
- ✓ Clubs, trips and visitors

- ✓ SAS
- ✓ Interesting learning activities

5. **Ethos and community engagement**

By far the most positive thing about Atwood was the feeling of ethos and community engagement. Often, this was summed up as 'the community feeling'

- ✓ The community feeling
- ✓ Supportive atmosphere of the school
- ✓ Welcoming and friendly
- ✓ Sense of community; events organised by the FOAP
- ✓ Friendly parents on the playground
- ✓ Calm school for my child
- ✓ Academic focus for my child
- ✓ Valuing the whole child through music and the arts
- ✓ A demonstration that the school listens to parents concerns
- ✓ A positive atmosphere
- ✓ Atwood 'goes the extra mile'
- ✓ A sense of pride in the school
- ✓ Happy children
- ✓ Valuing safety and happiness for the children
- ✓ Lovely community
- ✓ Camaraderie
- ✓ The community feeling it gives families, including those from abroad
- ✓ Nurture

Question 23 What do we need to do to improve?

Atwood strives to be the school of choice for Sanderstead. It is important to listen to the concerns of parents and carers in order that actions can be put in place to improve the education, care and ethos of the school. There were 96 responses, of which 6 stated either 'not applicable' or 'nothing' with 38 choosing to skip this question. In order to make good use of the responses, the senior management team have identified 3 broad 'themes' which include:

- 1. Communication, including updates on academic progress and how homework is communicated**
- 2. Stretch and challenge for the higher attaining pupils**
- 3. Inclusion and diversity**

Communication including updates on academic progress and how homework is communicated

The majority of respondents stated 'communication' as single word, however others gave some insights as to the aspects of communication that they felt could be better. These included:

- Accuracy of term dates
- Keeping parents informed of the any changes
- Communication around homework
- Parents' evenings are too short
- Letting parents know how their child is progressing
- Providing feedback from homework
- Not being able to communicate with teachers
- Timeliness of communication around trips and events- often feel last minute
- Consistency of communication- it should match across the year group

Stretch and challenge for the higher attaining pupils

Some parents felt that Atwood does not provide enough stretch and challenge, especially for the higher attaining children. These comments included:

- More work activities to stretch the more able
- More urgency for the children to make progress
- Challenging and extending the 'brighter' children
- Are the more able being stretched?

Inclusion and diversity

Atwood serves a diverse and multicultural community. Despite 98% of parents indicating that children get on from different backgrounds get on with one another, it is important that all members of that community feel welcomed and respected. The comments made by parents will enable Atwood to critically think about its school ethos and culture in the coming year. Comments about inclusion and diversity included:

- Diverse leaders appointed on merit
- Make ethnic groups feel more included
- Extra-curricular sports provision is biased towards boys
- Too much emphasis on Christian holidays over other religious events

Summary and next steps

The senior managers at Atwood, its staff and its MACs (in tandem with the Trust) will use the feedback from the parent survey to continue to:

- ✓ Nurture, value and develop its staff, knowing that this is a school's most precious asset
- ✓ Continue to nurture children who have SEND
- ✓ Build upon the excellent resources and facilities that Atwood has
- ✓ Continue building upon the excellent learning and wider curricular offer for the children at Atwood
- ✓ Cherish our feeling of community- know that we strive to be the school of choice in Sanderstead and that we all strive to build a community together

The senior managers at Atwood, its staff and its MACs are committed to listening and responding to parents' concerns and suggestions. Over the next 12 months, Atwood is committed to:

- ✓ Considering how we communicate with parents, including finding out what specifically can be improved and put in reasonable steps to do this
- ✓ Put in place more opportunities for the staff to communicate how well the children are doing in school, in terms of their academic progress
- ✓ Critiquing the learning for our more able children and seek ways to ensure that they are adequately stretched and challenged
- ✓ Building upon the positives around Atwood's community spirit so that inclusivity and diversity permeate the life of the school.
- ✓ Increase the presence of our parent MACs

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