



Hardenhuish School Parents' Survey 2018

Dear Parents

In April of this year, as part of our ongoing commitment to school improvement, we sent out a request to parents to complete a Parents' Survey to find out your opinion of the school and to help us consider what aspects we could further develop.

325 of you responded to this request, which was up 8% on 2017 numbers and compares very favourably with other schools' completion rates for parent surveys. Thank you for taking the time to help us by providing this valued and important feedback.

We are very happy to report that, again, parents gave an excellent overall performance score of 85% (last year's score was 82.1%), improving our position as one of the highest performing schools based on parent opinions amongst schools who conduct this survey. It also provided some points for our consideration. On the next two pages is a summary of what you told us and our response.

Relative strengths (the top 5 areas based on parent feedback)

81.4% School facilities (81.2% 2017)

80.9% Caring teachers (78.5% 2017)

79.8% School communication (79.4% 2017)

79.2% Levels of homework (72.8% 2017)

79.2% Social health education (78.6% 2017)

Relative areas for development (the lowest 4 areas based on parent feedback)

74.6% Truancy control (73.7% 2017)

74.5% Happiness of child (74.2% 2017)

74.4% Community spirit (73.7% 2017)

74.0% Control of bullying (72.2% 2017)

The above percentages are the number of parents stating that these areas are either 'good' or 'very good'. The colour codes were defined by GL, who conducted our survey and analysed the results, comparing us to hundreds of secondary schools who take this survey each year. Gold is regarded as comparatively 'Outstanding' and green is comparatively 'Good'. As you can see, no category was considered less than 'Good'. Also, every one of these aspects has improved in the last year according to parent feedback.

The executive summary from the survey report states that:

- 96.1% of parents said they would recommend this school to another parent.
- Of the parents whose children were not in their first year at the school 29% said the school had improved over the last year and only 4% thought that the school's performance was worse.
- Of the parents of new students, only 4% felt that the school had not lived up to their expectations and 39% said the school was better than they had expected it to be.
- The following areas received significantly higher scores than the previous survey: Levels of homework, Teaching quality, Treating all pupils fairly/equally and Encouraging and listening to pupils' views.
- The parents' top priorities for improvement are Careers advice, Developing potential and Appropriate level of challenge in homework.



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Based on the scores provided and the comments that accompanied the survey, we have continued to develop our plans for next year based on what you told us were our relative areas for improvement. For example...

YOU TOLD US...

that Show My Homework has been a very positive addition to the school but the quality and frequency of some of the homework set (particularly at KS3) could be improved/more challenging.

WE ARE...

using the evidence available to us through Show My Homework to review the quantity and quality of homework set; Curriculum Leaders will examine the homework being set (with a main focus on Key Stage 3 homework) and lead their teams to improve this so it is in line with the expectations of the school's Homework Policy. We will also clarify to teachers that they should still give paper copies of worksheets to pupils if needed for homework, rather than expecting pupils/parents to print their own (copies will continue to be uploaded in case the paper copies are lost). Teachers will also review the estimated times stated for completing homework.

YOU TOLD US...

that some parents think the choice of food available from the school's canteens could be wider (including more healthy options).

WE ARE...

benefitting from the fact that Manor Catering is owned and operated directly by the school by continuously reviewing our menus and healthy eating options. Manor Catering have been empowered by the school to research and introduce healthier options (such as low sugar drinks) and has introduced initiatives such as Healthy Eating Week. The team are also committed to improving their choices in line with the Eat Out - Eat Well Gold Award that was recently achieved.

YOU TOLD US...

that some parents think that the way rewards and sanctions are given to pupils and students is inconsistent.

WE ARE...

reviewing our rewards policies, working with a pupil committee to identify the areas where this can be improved. Although the data suggests there are no differences in the number of ACE points/Merits given to certain types of pupils, we will continue to encourage all staff to give rewards more often as part of our drive to secure a positive culture where attention is given for positive behaviour. We are also reviewing the criteria for achieving Governors' Flashes for next year. We are also working hard to improve the skills of our staff regarding behaviour management approaches and this will be part of our School Development Plan and the focus of a number of Inset Training sessions in the coming months.

YOU TOLD US...

that some parents feel careers advice and guidance could be improved, particularly in the Sixth Form where more focus could be given to alternatives to university, such as apprenticeships.

WE ARE...

reviewing the information, advice and guidance we provide in all key stages, including the Sixth Form, to ensure our pupils and students have up-to-date information regarding careers and education options; covering the wide range of possible pathways (including FE, HE and Apprenticeships). To support us with this goal, earlier this year we appointed a Careers and Transitions Manager with specific responsibility to ensure that our pupils and students will be supported to follow Post 16 and Post 18 pathways that are appropriate for them. In line with the National Careers Strategy, further information regarding our Careers Provision will be uploaded to the website by September.

YOU TOLD US...

that some parents think the school's procedures for supporting pupils with bullying could be clearer.

WE ARE...

launching a new Anti-Bullying Policy in September, which has been co-written by a committee of pupils, to ensure that staff, pupils and parents are clear on the school's approach to address bullying. This will include new initiatives suggested by the pupils such as an email address pupils can write to with any concerns and, recognising some pupils do not feel comfortable reporting things to adults, giving appropriate training to selected pupils and students to run a drop in centre where pupils can go for peer support at lunchtimes.

More details of our plans for the future will follow. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments regarding our school or our plans, please do not hesitate to contact us.