



# Hardenhuish School Parents' Survey 2023

Dear Parents

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

The survey was conducted by Kirkland Rowell who are a company that specialises in surveys for schools and are part of the GL Group who conduct our CATs tests and pupil surveys. 298 of you responded to this request, which compares 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.

Parents gave a very good overall performance score of 78.4%, consolidating our position as one of the highest performing schools based on parent opinions amongst schools who conduct this survey. We are incredibly grateful to the large number of parents who continue to support the school and provide us with such positive feedback. The survey has also provided some points for our consideration and a summary of what you told us and our response is below.

Below are the categories that are considered our relative strengths (the top 6 areas based on parent feedback). This takes into account a combination of the areas that parents rated us the highest and the areas that were rated as most important to parents.

81%	Careers advice
77%	Encouraging and listening to pupils' views
76%	School Communication
76%	Caring teachers
75%	Social health education
75%	School facilities
74%	Treating all pupils fairly and equally

Although still identified as good, the relative areas for development (the lowest 6 areas based on parent feedback) are listed below.

69%	Happiness of child
69%	Computer Access
69%	Control of bullying
69%	Appropriate level of challenge on homework
68%	Quality of feedback on pupil work
68%	Truancy control

*The above percentages are the number of parents stating that these areas are either 'good' or 'very good'. The colour codes were defined by Kirkland Rowell, 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'. These colours are also determined by the low numbers of parents stating 'poor' or 'very poor' in each category, with 'don't know' as the other option. As you can see, no category was considered less than 'Good'.*

## The summary from the survey report states that:

- The parents gave a very good overall performance score (78.4%) and 93% of parents would recommend the school to others.
- Of the parents whose children were not in their first year at the school 19% said the school had improved over the last year and 9% thought that the school's performance was worse.
- Of the parents of new students, 26% said the school was better than they had expected it to be and 11% felt that the school had not lived up to their expectations.



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As part as the survey, we also received a large number of comments from parents, which, along with the scores provided, have helped us to finalise our development plans for next year (please see below). We were also very grateful for the large number of positive comments that were provided. These included...

"We are so pleased with the school as a whole. Everyone clearly works so hard and our children are all very happy there which is the best measure we can have."

"Very happy with the school, thank you to all staff that put in that extra that makes all the difference... I love the enthusiasm that our son comes home with that has rubbed off from some of his teachers for the subjects."

"We think that Hardenhuish has been exceptional in everything and I am very grateful for everything Hardenhuish school has done for my children."

## YOU TOLD US...

that some parents think the level of challenge for homework could be improved. While 58% of all parents felt the amount of homework set was about right, 23% felt there was not enough homework, with 7% stating there was too much and 12% stating it was too variable (some commented that some weeks were very light and others very heavy).

## WE ARE...

working with our Learning Managers and Curriculum leaders to examine data from Satchel Show My Homework to identify issues around how often subjects are setting homework and what the level of challenge is with the work set. We will compare the data with the principles of our Homework Policy and try to ensure more consistency in terms of the homework set being meaningful and manageable for pupils.

## YOU TOLD US...

that some parents think we could be doing more to help pupils to understand the impact of bullying and to be kinder to each other.

## WE ARE...

working with pupils from the School Parliament to review and develop our anti-bullying practices. We are also continuing to develop our Equality and Diversity strategy to ensure the key messages of tolerating and respecting others regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation etc. becomes our lived experience as a school community.

## YOU TOLD US...

that some parents think the quantity of and quality of feedback on pupil and student work could be improved.

## WE ARE...

continuing to include this as a significant element of the School Development Plan for 2023/24 to improve both the pride taken by young people in their work and the nature and impact of the subsequent feedback provided by teachers.

## YOU TOLD US...

that, although we have improved with our communication from last year, some parents think the breadth of information shared by the school could be improved.

## WE ARE...

reviewing our weekly Headlines to ensure that a greater amount of information about what is going on in the school is shared with parents.

## YOU TOLD US...

that some parents think the quality of, and access to, toilet facilities could be better.

## WE ARE...

seeking funding to enable us to undertake a schedule of refurbishment for all our toilets across the school over the coming years.

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.