

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE 2023

Governors were delighted that there were 78 completed questionnaires and 445 comments and suggestions, some of which were developed at length. All the comments have been read by myself, other school governors and Mr T. It will not be possible to implement all the suggestions made, but all suggestions have been considered carefully and will be implemented where it is felt the change will improve what is offered by the school. What particularly pleased governors was the fact that the vast majority of definite responses to the questionnaire were very positive about what the school is doing and most comments and suggestions were made in a spirit of cooperation. It is important to the governors and to the staff to have got this overwhelming vote of confidence from the parent body.

Governors are particularly concerned when more than 10% of definite responses to a question are negative. This year three questions got over 10% of negative responses. The three questions were concerned with the usefulness of the website; the system of rewards used by the school and the standard of school lunches.

Website. In response to criticisms in previous years, the website has been remodelled, and those parents who had used the new site were very complimentary about it. Governors and the school are confident that, as more people make use of the new website, this will cease to be a major concern.

Rewards and sanctions. In 2021 97% of parents gave a positive response to the question 'do you feel that the rewards system motivates your child?' In 2022, it was 87% and in 2023 it was 77%. This rapid change of attitude took governors and the school by surprise and has led to some decisive changes.

The school has decided to:

- end the certificates for two pupils in each class at the end of the year
- end attendance certificates
- move to a system of more frequent awards of certificates of achievement, but the detail of this needs to be worked out
- retain the legacy trophy for reading in Year 2

Although the traffic lights system of sanctions came in for criticism from some parents, this will continue for the time being. Governors felt that, whatever system was operated, it would be important to keep records of the children who required sanctioning so that patterns could be identified and responses put in place.

School lunches present a more intractable problem, principally because the kitchen is working to a low budget and this imposes significant constraints on what can be achieved. Part of the Healthy School initiative will involve talking to children about healthy eating and how to make healthy choices more popular. It is also hoped that the situation will improve once staffing in the kitchen is more stable.

The annual parent questionnaire is an important way for governors to learn what parents think about what the school is doing and I hope that even more parents will complete it in

future years. Parents can, of course, contact the school at any time during the year with their concerns and the school is committed to dealing with all parental concerns fairly and impartially, and to providing a high quality of service to those who raise concerns.

The vast majority of parents will express concerns in reasonable terms and have reasonable expectations of the school. A very small minority of parents express concerns in unreasonable ways and have unreasonable expectations of the school.

The Governing Body is working to implement a new policy relating to these more regular contacts based on a model from the Department for Education. This policy will be formally adopted in September and it will aim to support reasonable expressions of concern and to discourage the unreasonable.

I hope you have a good summer holiday and, maybe, even get some summer weather.

Allan Boddy
Chair of Governors
July 2023