

Chellaston Junior School

Parents as Partners

Questionnaire Feedback September 2018

Summary

This year we have received 342 responses, compared to 260 in July 2017. This represents the highest return from parents in recent years and gives us some useful feedback to help us improve the school further. Thank you to all those parents who took the time to respond.

The vast majority of returns reveal that the parents are very happy with the school overall. **99.6% of parents would recommend this school to another parent.** They feel their child enjoys school and is making good progress. They agree that children feel safe and well cared for and that behaviour is good. Parents generally feel that the school is well led and managed and the school does take account of their suggestions and concerns. Although the feedback is very positive, there are always ways that we can improve, as we strive to move forward as a school each year. We continue to take parental comments seriously and have changed things as a result of parental suggestions, as outlined below.

The school has taken the following actions in light of feedback over recent years:

- **Communication** – last year we re-introduced a weekly bulletin for parents, to feedback on activities at school, give out information and highlight the main events for the week ahead.
- **Parent Workshops** – last year we planned for opportunities for parents to come into school for workshops, including the Bug Club Coffee Mornings and E-Safety awareness for parents.
- **PTFA** - Some parents felt they could be more involved in helping fundraising activities, so a PTFA was established thanks to the enthusiasm of a team of parents, working in partnership with the school. These efforts have helped to raise several thousand pounds to enhance the experience for pupils at CJS.
- **Playground** - Some parents felt the playground was too small. We have now extended safe play areas to include the MUGA, garden area and a new chill out area with safety surfacing.
- **Behaviour** – the school amended the policy to provide a more proportional response to playground behaviour. Orange Stars are used as a sanction, instead of moving to Red Stars, thus avoiding a more serious punishment for minor issues. This new policy has been copied to parents and is working well.
- **Inset Days** – we have worked with the Infant School to continue to plan the same Inset Days for both schools. We hope this will be better for working parents with children at both schools.
- **Congestion at the end of the day** – the procedure was reviewed and the new routine of using the Children's Centre gates with the parents on the playground is working effectively.
- **Bikes at School** – a number of parents requested that pupils be allowed to bring bikes to school. We have now built a suitable space to store bikes and introduced a bike permit which parents need to complete and sign, before a child is allowed to bike to school.
- **Communication** – text messages are now sent to both parents wherever possible. Last year we planned several updates and workshops for parents
- **Homework** – we amended the Homework policy following parental feedback. Homework is now mainly Literacy and Numeracy, with an option to complete more project-based homework.
- **Sports Day** – we changed the format of the Sports Day in 2016 and planned 2 Sports Days to give pupils more opportunity to participate in more events.
- **Reading Books** – following feedback from pupils and parents, we have invested over £2,000 in new books and an online Reading programme called "Bug Club" launched in Autumn 2017 and will continue to invest.

Questionnaire Analysis September 2018

Question Number	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1. My child is happy at school	60	39	1	1	0
2. My child feels safe at school	70	29	1	0	0
3. My child makes good progress at school	52	47	1	0	0
4. My child is well looked after at school	59	40	1	0	0
5. My child is well taught	61	38	0	0	1
6. My child receives appropriate homework for their age	46	50	3	0	1
7. The school makes sure that pupils are well-behaved	53	45	1	0	1
8. The school deals effectively with bullying	38	40	2	0	20
9. The school is well led and managed	63	36	0	0	1
10. The school responds well to concerns I raise	48	42	2	0	8
11. I receive useful information on my child's progress	44	50	4	0	1

What does Chellaston Junior School do well? (A summary from parental comments from at least 5 parents)

- CJS is very good at keeping parents informed; communication is very good; the text messaging is great, office staff are very helpful.
- The weekly bulletin for parents is great
- The school is very well led by senior staff
- There is a great balance of learning and fun
- The school is very inclusive and supports all needs very well.
- The staff show good support and care for all
- Teaching is of a high standard and there is consistency across the school.
- CJS is a large school with a real "family" feel and helps all children feel they belong.
- The school builds confidence and the children have very positive attitudes
- The pupils have a sense of pride and the school helps them to be the best they can be
- The range of before and after school clubs is very good.
- The school is very well run and senior staff respond well to any concerns.
- The school council is very good and pupils enjoy the fund-raising activities.
- The school provides a very safe and well-disciplined environment; standards of behaviour are very good.
- The curriculum is varied and interesting and motivates children to succeed; the topics and lessons are fun.
- The transition helps children to settle in quickly; transition to the big school is excellent.
- CJS promotes sports activities very well; Sports Days gave pupils increased opportunities to have fun.
- The school dinners are good
- The booster lessons for Year 6 were very helpful and useful to help them make progress towards the SATs

Questions raised by some parents (The school response is in italics)

1. Communication

While the vast majority of parents feel that school communication is very good, some parents feel they would like the newsletter emailed to them or have a hard copy each week.

We are committed to using the weekly Parents' Bulletin to keep parents informed. We will continue to send out a text to alert parents to such communication, but do not plan to return to hard copies of the Bulletin. We will look into emailing the Bulletin, in addition to uploading on the website. We will continue to send texts out to parents to remind you of up and coming events.

2. Homework

The majority of parents feel our homework is useful and manageable. Some parents would like further homework, some would like less homework. A few parents report that there were issues with accessing Bug Club on various different devices.

Homework is always an issue that divides parental opinion. We aim to provide the right structure and support for pupils, while giving them opportunity to be creative. We aim to be consistent and give homework to focus on basic skills and not cause too much stress to families. We plan to extend the use of the school website to provide more links for homework. We will continue to use Bug Club as it has proved to be an excellent resource to support the enjoyment of, and progress in, reading for the vast majority of pupils. If any parents have any problems with accessing Bug Club, please let us know as soon as they arise and we will do our best to resolve things.

3. Parents as Partners

The vast majority of parents feel that we work closely in partnership with you. Some parents feel that we could invite parents into school more to work alongside children and have more workshops for parents.

We recognise the important role of parents in supporting learning and look to plan further workshops for parents regarding Bug Club, English and Maths and further information for parents regarding Y6 SATs.

4. Parents' Evenings for Y5/6

Some parents of pupils in Year 5 and 6 report that they would like further opportunity to meet with class teachers, in addition to English and Maths teachers, on Parents' Evening.

At the moment, the Parents' Evenings focus on progress in the basic skills of English and Maths but will look into how parents can have further access to class teachers.

5. Website

Some parents say that it can be difficult to find information on the school website.

There are many legal requirements of what needs to be on a school website, which explains why it can seem somewhat detailed. However, we plan to re-vamp the website, after consultation with parents, to make it more informative and user-friendly.

6. After School Clubs

The vast majority of parents feel that the school has an extensive range of activities and clubs after school. However, some parents have asked if we could extend the clubs with further sport, art and technology activities.

We plan to work with Derby City and further extend the clubs and activities we can offer for children across the school. Further information will follow this term.

7. Library Books

Some parents feel that we need to update some of the reading books in the library.

We agree! Last year we spent a few thousand on a refurbishment of the library and invested funds in many new books. However, with over 500 children using the library each day, we do recognise the need to continue investing a considerable amount each year to ensure that the books are fit for purpose and encourage a life-long love of reading.

The above will form part of the school plans for this year.

Thank you to everyone who completed a questionnaire.