

Wheatfields Parents & Carers Survey 2021

This year we have had a good response to our survey, with 123 responses– Thank you! We very much appreciate the time that you spent and value all your views and feedback. We are very pleased with the high level of confidence you feel in all aspects of the school.

Thank you also to those of you who included additional comments or suggestions. These have been noted for further discussion, as we want to continue improving. In the meantime, thank you for your support and partnership in our shared aim of giving your child the best educational experiences to 'Learn and Grow Together'.

What will we do in response to your feedback?

My child is happy at this school	Agree or Strongly agree 97%
Some comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• My child enjoys the wide range of activities she does.• My son enjoys going to school, he likes the teachers and of course being among other children.• It was my concern how it be when children back to school after long lockdown. They are happy back. I like that positive attitude around them. Thank you for that.	
Our response: <p>It is great to hear that our children have remained very happy at school this year despite all the pressures from the changes the pandemic has caused. Our priority is to ensure that their return is successful and to continue to ensure that our curriculum is as strong as ever in the current restrictions.</p> <p>We will continue to monitor pupil wellbeing this year and we have taken action to improve support for individual children when needed.</p>	

My child feels safe at school	Agree or Strongly agree 96%
Some comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He has always enjoyed his time at school• He never told me he does not feel safe or that he is afraid to go to school.• I asked everyday ... they feel safe.	
Our response: <p>This year had been a difficult year for many pupils but especially for those with social, emotional and communication needs. We make reasonable adjustments for children with special educational needs, as outlined in the SEN Code of Practice. This could look like an inconsistent approach to our policy, but please be assured that our aim is always to ensure the safety and happiness of all pupils and to create an environment conducive to learning for all children. Your feedback helps us to monitor the support that we give to your child, whether or not they have additional needs. Our policy remains the same, and we will encourage any child who feels sad or unhappy to speak to an adult so that they can have help.</p>	

This schools makes sure it's pupils are well behaved

Agree or Strongly agree

94%

Some comments:

- If they are set good examples this shows at school.
- I do believe that all teachers are good and reasonable people and professionals and that they do their best to improve children's attitude and behaviour!
- For my daughter in KS1 this appears to be the case but I do not feel the same about my son's year group.
- Children understand the behaviour that is expected of them but I don't believe misbehaviour is always dealt with effectively or as quickly as it should.

Our response:

Behaviour in our school remains good. Our monitoring of behaviour however, showed the need for a more consistent approach. Because of the pandemic we are yet to see the real impact of our new behaviour policy based on the restorative approach. We regularly train all staff to ensure that we are all using the same supportive language when talking to children about their behaviour. School leaders are kept well informed to provide support.

We will continue to encourage children to share their concerns with older pupils or staff during the school day and not just at home. Whilst we must maintain confidentiality and therefore cannot go into detail regarding another pupil, if parents feel that their concern has not been dealt with or that they have not received any feedback, please let us know. We ask that parents do contact school if you have concerns, not other parents, so that we are able to support individual children better.

The school deals effectively with bullying

Agree, strongly agree or have no experience of this

89%

Some comments:

- I believe there is lack of understanding between bullying and playground misbehaviour. Although the school have run workshops about the topic, I think misbehaviour should be intervened with early before it escalates to bullying. I think the school can deal with bullying well at the beginning but the situation isn't always monitored by adults and they rely on the kids to come forward which isn't always easy for them.
- Never had an incident of bullying so not sure how it would be dealt with.
- I have no evidence that reports of bullying have been acted upon, other than "you need to tell a grown up".
- Fortunately my youngest son hasn't been on the receiving end of any bullying to date. However, my eldest son who is now in secondary school had a couple of incidences whilst at Wheatfields and they were dealt with effectively.

Our response:

We are proud of the fact that reports of bullying are a rare occurrence, and when it does occur, the majority of parents respond positively to the actions we take. Our positive behaviour policy and anti-bullying policy are published on our school website so that you can be clear of our expectations, rewards and sanctions. School leaders are kept well informed and also provide support for the pupils, staff and families.

We are looking to train our pupils as peer mediators and to promote and embed anti-bullying messages across our school community ensuring that pupils are involved in any restorative conversations. Our school must be a place where we support children's individual needs; where their voices are heard and taken seriously.

The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year (and has provided a balanced range of home learning during school closure).

Agree or Strongly agree
92%

Some comments:

- Can't fault the home learning during lockdown and classroom learning
- There was certainly plenty of learning made available, however I do think some learning should have had different levels to account for the less academic children.
- I think the type/range of home learning activities during the recent lockdown was disappointing and below expectations.
- I found the home learning during closure enlightening. Although surely not possible, I wish we had that level of information more often.
- During both my children's time at school before, and during Covid, all the teachers have always gone above and beyond. The website is updated, communication is always good and informative. Thank you
- It's wonderful to have a half term/term curriculum to see what the topics are for the children. It means we can discuss and look at outside resources at home to engage them with the learning.

Our response:

In this exceptional year, it has been more important than ever that parents understand what children should be learning. We are pleased to see that our curriculum maps are well used to look at future learning and our weekly learning reviews enable past learning to be discussed at home. All of the Wheatfields learning expectations can be found on our website.

There are many positives that we have found from the high level of communication with parents during this year and we will continue to promote this with class emails in addition to our usual methods of communication. We look forward to welcoming parents into school again for our curiosity cafés and shared reading times that have proved very popular.

When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly

Agree, strongly agree or have not raised any concerns
91%

Some comments:

- Any concerns raised have gone through my daughter's class teacher who has been very efficient and understanding of the issues.
- Sometimes responses are not reassuring enough but generally OK.
- I believe that these are dealt with correctly some of the time but not always.

- Staff take on board concerns and usually deal with them well.

Our response:

Staff take time to understand your concerns and the majority of parents seem pleased with the way that the concern has been dealt with. Please get in touch as soon as possible if you want to raise a concern with us and we will always get back to you. If escalated to school leaders, there is a written record of any outcomes which are followed up. If you have a concern, please see our school website for information on how to raise a concern.

My child does well at this school and school has high expectations for my child	Agree or Strongly agree 96%
Some comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• They have gone from strength to strength over the time they have been at Wheatfields.• A particular concern throughout his years at Wheatfields so far has been the lack of support with handwriting. That has come on lots during lockdown however.• I feel there are areas that my child could cope with learning in greater depth but isn't given the opportunity.• Sometimes he tells us that he can become bored in certain subjects as he finishes quickly and is waiting for others to finish or catch up. Is there an opportunity for additional work? He is often told to read a book but is there anything more challenging?• I appreciate all their efforts and patience they have with my son and all the children. Hopefully my son is doing well and they can see a result of their work. Thank you!	
Our response <p>It has certainly been a challenge to pitch the amount of support and expectation during the national lockdowns this year so it is very pleasing to see a high percentage here. We have continued our parent meetings, and had weekly phone calls during lockdown, however if you feel you would like more information on how your child is progressing, please do speak to your child's class teacher who will be happy to give you more information.</p>	

The school lets me know how my child is doing (and how I can support my child's home learning).	Agree or Strongly agree 95%
Some comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This has been especially good throughout 'lockdown' due to the Google Classroom feedback on home learning submitted and also the weekly telephone calls.• We are informed very briefly how our children are doing but often parents evenings are more about how the child is settling in rather than academic achievement and I respect the fact that parents evenings shouldn't run over but we used to get 10 mins twice a year and that has now been reduced to eight minutes.• I find school communications very limited and feel that school should be more proactive in engaging with parents. For example in checking how parent and child were getting on with home learning - and offering more support for those children that were struggling to engage, thus putting working parents in an impossible situation.• Again difficult with Covid. I used to like talking to the teachers, I have also emailed the school for ideas on what I can do more of at home.• this has improved massively recently	

Our response

Our open door policy where all staff are happy to speak to you at any time has had to take a virtual nature this year for obvious safety reasons. It has certainly been hard to keep contact with our parents although we have established both Google Classroom and Tapestry to support with this and to allow you to contribute to assessment too. In addition there have been class emails and weekly phone calls. We are pleased that on the whole this has been very well received.

We will continue to provide many informal, and two formal opportunities for you to meet class teachers with a termly progress report. A comprehensive annual report in the summer term provides feedback against the expectations for your child's year group in each subject area.

The school supports my child's wider personal development (confidence, resilience and independence)

Agree or Strongly agree
96%

Some comments:

- I think my kids have been particularly challenging on this point, and I appreciate the school's continued engagement.
- I think the school do try and support the children at the school with their personal development, but I think there are still some areas to improve in how they support a child's mental wellbeing.
- This year both my children's teachers are very good at supporting my children's development and emotional wellbeing and other teachers also helped with this in Lockdown.
- If this is happening it is not widely visible, maybe this is one of the things school could include in communication about how my child is doing.
- Wheatfields instils a good all round ethos towards learning and behaviour.

Our response

We provide opportunities for all children to experience their local community and wider world; giving our older children residential opportunities to develop their confidence, resilience and independence. All children get an opportunity to perform to and for their school through concerts, performances, sports competitions and visits to the local community. We always get positive responses from the public and other schools and businesses when our children have been to visit which is celebrated as a whole school.

Our pupils' attitude to learning and our 5 R's which state the 5 key learning attributes are central to the learning and development of the pupils. There is weekly and daily recognition of these learning attributes in school. We will continue to consider ways to make this information clearer and more useful for parents.

I would recommend this school to another parent

Agree or Strongly agree
90%

Finally, we would always welcome any further feedback you have about any aspect of school life. We are always very keen to hear from parents with suggestions for improvements in the way we are operating. Please feel free to catch us at school, to email us or to call if you have something to contribute.