



Denton Primary School

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8th February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Feedback from Ashby Federation Parent Questionnaire 2018 (Denton).

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our questionnaire at the end of last term.

The response rate was at a good level and as we anticipated, the feedback has been invaluable in helping us to understand further the strengths of the two schools and potential areas for improvement.

At the end of this letter we have attached the chart for the full set of results for Denton. We are pleased with this positive set of results.

The chart is hopefully self-explanatory but we would like to highlight a few points:

Safeguarding our children is a priority for both governors and staff and so it is very pleasing to note the 100% endorsements that 'My child is happy at this school' and 'My child is well looked after at this school'. One respondent did disagree that their 'child feels safe' at school. Helpful clarification was given by the respondent in this case and monitoring of ball sports in the playground will be reviewed to alleviate this concern.

The homework level was contentious for a minority of parents. For some parents this means not enough is set and for others the volume is too much. This will be reviewed in school to see if a more consistent approach to homework can be adopted.

It is pleasing to see that most parents think the school deals effectively with bullying. For those who would like further clarification of our policies in this area please refer to the school website where you can find further details, or speak to a member of staff. We will always work hard as a governing body to eradicate the rare occurrences of bullying and to ensure it is dealt with appropriately when it does occur.

A small number of respondents did disagree with the statement 'I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress'. Progress reporting is already being looked at closely to improve both the quality of information and the frequency with which it is communicated to parents. At the heart of this will always be the aim of improving outcomes for your children.

Finally of note for the closed questions, 96% of respondents agreed with the statement that 'this school is well led and managed'. This is very encouraging for us as a governing body committed to school improvement and a great endorsement for Louise Brown, her deputy, Rosie Gibson and the team of staff at Denton. They really are working tirelessly to make the school the best that it can be for everyone.

In addition to the main questions we did ask for your views on the breadth and balance of the curriculum at Denton and any ideas you may have for improvement. Thank you for the wealth of comments regarding the current offering which respondents already feel very positive about. Suggestions for further improvement included areas such as:

- More physical activity and sporting opportunities.
We are constantly striving to offer a wide range of sporting opportunities for the children and have achieved an excellent level of success in recent inter-school competitions in sports such as Football, Cross-Country and New Age Kurling.
- Increased opportunities for the more able.
There has recently been a Maths Morning for the more able in Years 5 and 6 across the Ashby Federation. More sessions like this will follow.
- More focus on the Arts and also non-academic subjects.
The Ashby Federation has established a relationship with Yardley Arts and children from the school will benefit from the opportunity to spend some time with professional artists. The Ashby Orchestra under Mrs Dyson's leadership is going from strength to strength.
- More opportunities for children to learn life skills, build emotional resilience and empathy. **Amongst other initiatives, children now have the opportunity to take part in residential outward-bound education at various stages during their time at the school alongside children from Yardley Hastings Primary School.**

We also asked for your thoughts on how we could 'further support emotional and mental well-being in our children'. Thank you to those parents who have offered their help in this area.

It was very pleasing to see that so many of you would like to see more of some of the activities and support that is already being trialed in school with the teaching of 'Mindfulness' being suggested by many of you. Year 6 pupils have been benefitting from these sessions and the initiative is now being used further down the school. Please see details on the school website for more information about this approach.

In terms of resilience and empathy, we too see these as important life skills and we therefore plan to give the teaching of them a greater emphasis in the curriculum. In the context of E-Safety, empathy and resilience were discussed at the 'E-Safety' training sessions offered to children in school and parents at the evening session earlier in the term and it was clear how essential these skills are for our children making their way in the modern world.

Staff and Governors from the Ashby Federation met on January 4th to discuss the current curriculum offering and ways to improve it for the benefit of the children. Feedback from the parent questionnaire was used to inform part of these discussions and in due course a new school 'curriculum vision' will be in place. Thank you for the role you have played in this by taking part in this survey.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact either Louise Brown, whose 'door is always open', or us or any governor via the School Office. We would be pleased to hear from you. We would also like to mention the school website, which is a growing source of information and we hope you find it useful.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Jackie Burney-Childs in red ink.

Jackie Burney-Childs
Vice-Chair of Governors

Handwritten signature of Sarah Pollard in red ink.

Sarah Pollard
Governor

Ashby Federation Parent Questionnaire November 2018.

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