



Merridale Primary School

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2018 Parent/Carer Survey Evaluation

Earlier this term, we asked for your opinions and views about how the school performs in a range of different areas. We received 116 completed surveys which is just under half of our school population. All this information was collated and your comments noted and discussed. We have provided a summary of each question area with a selection of comments made, which reflect the views held by the majority of respondents. We have also, in our summary, identified how the school is going to respond to areas of concern raised to improve what we do in the future.

I think you will agree, after reading the summary that the general view of how the school is performing is a very positive one and we will aim to continue to work alongside you to ensure that this is maintained and built upon in the future.

Thank you, once again, for your contribution to this survey.

1. My child is happy at Merridale Primary School

99% of parents/carers agreed or strongly agreed that their child is happy at Merridale. In addition to this, there were many positive written comments highlighting children's enjoyment of school, for example:

- My son is very happy here. He enjoys his school life. We are very pleased with this school.
- My child is always happy at Merridale Primary, he loves the work and trips.
- Feels valued and part of a good working environment.

2. My child feels safe at this school

98% of parents/carers agreed or strongly agreed that their child feels safe at school. As a school, we are proactive in ensuring that all pupils feel safe whilst they are in our care. All reported issues are dealt with and we encourage children and families to let us know whenever issues arise so we can address them. School staff will always make themselves available to discuss any concerns you may have.

- My child feels safe in school and all the teachers care about the children.
- The peaceful multi-cultural atmosphere the school creates is good. The school facilitates freedom of diversity which is unique for every society. Children are well behaved, thanks to the school's professional staff. The school promotes peace and understanding between parents and teachers. The staff of the school are always ready to help where possible.

3. My child makes good progress at this school

97% of parents/carers agreed or strongly agreed that their child makes good progress at Merridale

- I see big progress from my son from his first day at school until now. He is very interested to learn and he loves school.
- Throughout the school years I have seen my child grow in confidence and improve

4. My child is well looked after at this school

99% of parents/carers agreed or strongly agreed that their child is well looked after at Merridale.

- The support provided by the school is excellent.
- She has good teachers. It's a lovely school.
- My child is definitely well look after at school and when he comes home he is so happy.

5. My child is taught well at this school

100% of parents/carers agreed or strongly agreed that their child is taught well at Merridale.

- The school does everything well in my opinion.
- My child learns new things every day and he tells me all about it.
- Seems to be engaged by what he is taught.
- This school teaches my child well and helps him/her with any issues they are having e.g. with their work or any problems they have with other children.

6. My child receives appropriate homework for their age

91% of parents/carers agreed or strongly agreed that their child receives appropriate homework. Some parents stated that they would like more homework for their child. As a school, we are keen for all children to reach their full potential and work hard. All children receive appropriate homework tasks each week which can range from spelling, reading, writing and maths.

- Pupils should be given more homework to encourage them to study more at home.
- I feel there needs to be more emphasis on providing extra-curricular activities for all children. This will help children learn new skills as well as help working parents. Children also need more homework, especially in years 5 and 6 to prepare them for secondary school. There should also be greater emphasis towards sports and science.
- Teachers give homework every week and my child makes good progress at school.

7. This school ensures the pupils are well behaved

99% of parents/carers agreed or strongly agreed that the school ensures that pupils are well behaved. From time to time, children will experience behavioural issues. Merridale works hard to support pupils and their families to overcome these issues quickly and successfully. We are proud of the outstanding behaviour of our pupils, as noted in our last four Ofsted inspections.

- Behaviour at Merridale is very good. When I have attended assemblies all the year groups listen and are very respectful.
- A friendly, inclusive atmosphere, teachers are very engaged and welcoming. Good standard of behaviour. Certificates are good for the children and they let us know what they are doing well.
- The school promotes good relationships between staff members and families. Also creates conducive and peaceful environment for learning.
- Behaviour is very good at this school.

8. This school deals effectively with bullying

100% of parents/carers agreed or strongly agreed that the school deals effectively with bullying with 16% of parents and carers stating that they had not experienced bullying so was unaware of how the school would deal with it. As a school, we have a zero-tolerance approach to bullying – we respond swiftly to all issues that are reported. We involve parents of both the victim and the bully to work with them to reach an effective resolution to the issue. If you have any concerns regarding your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school. School's Anti-Bullying policy is also available on our school website for your information: www.merridaleprimary.co.uk

- My children haven't experienced bullying, I think it is because it is not allowed to escalate.
- The school deals effectively with bullying.
- The school listens to children's concerns and deals with them.

9. This school is well led and managed

95% of parents/carers agreed or strongly agreed that school is well led and well managed with the other 5% stating that they didn't know.

- Head teacher has very good interpersonal skills and ensures a well-led school.
- The school provides extra tuition classes for children that are struggling, giving them extra support. The school does not neglect the children who are under-achieving they provide many opportunities for them to catch up
- Very well-managed, ensuring progress and procedures are adhered to by all.

10. This school responds well to any concerns I raise

100% of parents/carers agreed or strongly agreed that the school responds well to issues and concerns that they raise.

- Teachers are accessible and Mrs Morgan deals well with lots of things.
- Any concerns raised are always addressed.

11. I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress.

100% of parents/carers agreed or strongly agreed that they receive valuable information about their child's progress from the school. This information comes in the form of informal conversations/telephone calls, certificates for achievements, parent consultations as well as written reports at the end of each term. School staff will always make themselves available to discuss pupil attainment and progress with parents and carers.

- It would be useful if more feedback could also be given outside of the parent consultation times.
- Yes we receive letters regularly with helpful information.

12. I would recommend this school to another parent.

100% of parents/carers agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend Merridale to other parents and carers.

- Merridale is a very welcoming school. Staff are very friendly and approachable.
- Merridale school is an example to other schools achieving best results and putting child's progress first. All teachers are very approachable and supportive.

Parents and carers were also asked what the school did well and how the school might be improved. We have summarised some of the findings from this below, along with our response:

What the school does well

- This school teaches my child well and helps him/her with any issues they are having e.g. with their work or any problems they have with other children.
- Excellent support network.
- Deals effectively with bullying.
- Good assemblies.
- She has good teachers and a lovely school.
- The school does everything well in my opinion.
- The support provided by the school is excellent.
- My son is very happy here. He enjoys his school life. We are very pleased with this school.

What the school could improve

- More choice of after school clubs – We respond to feedback from the School Council to ensure that the clubs we provide cater to the interests of our pupils. We are proud to offer a wide variety of after school clubs to all year groups across the year but are limited, due to the cost for parents and families, as to how many clubs we are able to run each week.
- School uniform – 12% of surveys returned mentioned that parents/carers would like to see the school introduce a school uniform. This issue provokes a range of different viewpoints with a small number of parents and carers indicating that they would like the school to introduce a uniform whilst other parents and carers indicated that they are happy with the current no-uniform policy of the school. Can I remind parents and carers that they are welcome to send their children into school in uniform-style clothing if they wish (as some families choose to do).
- I would like more homework for my child – The school follows the recommended guidance for the amount of homework for each year group provided by the Department for Education. Learning Logs provide a wealth of home learning opportunities for children across a range of curriculum areas as well as our termly curriculum newsletters, which detail ways in which families can support their children at home. In addition, there are a number of identified learning opportunities, provided online via the school e.g. TT Rockstars, MyMaths etc.
- One of the most valuable area of focus for home learning is for parents to spend some time everyday reading with their child (our Reading Challenge).
- School needs improved traffic rules because sometimes there are too many cars on the front of school and the access is not clear – we share the concerns of our school community regarding the traffic and parking issues around school as we feel this often compromises the safety of our pupils. The best advice is for parents and carers to walk to school whenever they can or to park their cars further away from the school building. We have raised this issue with parents and carers as well as parking enforcement officers on several occasions. For the safety of our pupils, please do not park on the staff car park or in front of any drop-down kerbs or where there are zig-zag road markings/yellow lines.
- More trips – school is committed to providing at least two educational visits each year. We are mindful of the cost implications of these visits which are placed in families and, for that reason, we try to ensure that other visits across the year as ones which are within the local area and can be provided at a much lower cost. We review and evaluate out educational visits each year to ensure children get to enjoy a wide variety of experiences across their time at the school.

The winning raffle ticket number from the prize draw was number 89 which has been claimed.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete and return this survey. Your feedback is important to us and will help us to continue to improve our school.