

# St. Oswald's Church of England Primary School

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## Learning for all, caring for each other, preparing for the future

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022

### Parent Survey Response

Dear Parents/Carers,

At the end of last term, we asked you to take the time to complete our parent survey and would like to thank you once again for your valuable contributions. Our school vision of 'Learning for all, caring for each other, preparing for the future' was reflected clearly through many of the thoughtful comments made:

*'I'd like to thank you for 8 brilliant years of education for my two. My youngest leaves next month. During very difficult times in recent years the school has been exceptional in my mind and has still managed to prepare my children incredibly well for their future education. You have been supportive and caring, at times firm but fair and have continually fostered a supportive environment for learning. Every single teacher my kids have had has been exceptional. I really couldn't have asked for anything else'*

*'Your teaching staff are brilliant at nurturing and encouraging my daughter. They are the school's greatest strength. I also feel that the topics covered are relevant to everyday life and help my daughter understand different types of people and their customs much better and in a positive way.'*

*'I feel as a parent my child has learnt values that makes him a better person, not just academic skill. I also think the lessons and subjects that are taught are creative and engaging. I love that my son comes home and is proud to tell me the things he's learnt. My son's current phase year 1/2, has brilliant teachers and I can tell they really care about my son's welfare. There has been multiple occasions where my son has come home and told me about things the teachers have done to make him feel comfortable at school. Overall I think the school is great.'*

It was especially encouraging to see that our parent community view our strengths as being: our compassionate staff; the high quality of teaching and learning; the richness of curriculum and activities on offer and the positive communication between school and home.

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
My child is happy at this school	49%	48%	1%	0%	2%
My child feels safe at this school	54%	44%	1%	0%	1%
I would recommend St Oswald's CE Primary School to another parent	53%	41%	0%	0%	6%

Listening to your views has been a vital part of our reflection and development cycle for this academic year. They have helped us to shape our development plan and school priorities for the year ahead, and we have already been able to address some of them. Although we are unable to implement all suggestions, we have identified some key areas for development and areas of our practice that can be refined to strengthen our home-school relationship. We have detailed these below.

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	N/A
Communication from the school is effective and timely	23%	50%	18%	5%	3%	
My child receives the right amount of homework	16%	56%	16%	1%	11%	
My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed	6%	5%	3%	1%	5%	79%

**Communication from the school is timely and effective**

Towards the end of last year, we finally felt that we were able to start reconnecting with our parent community following the many pressures of reopening the school in the wake of the pandemic. We are keen to rebuild our relationships with parents, which has always been such a special part of life at St Oswald’s and would like to signpost you to some of the ways you can engage with us at school:

- Headteacher Newsletters will be sent out half termly. These include key information about how our vision is being lived out in school and what we have to celebrate. The dates for the diary page and information on how to contact your child’s class teacher are attached/updated every time and are a useful way to plan for school events in advance.
- Our school website is currently being reviewed and updated. The calendar tab and curriculum tab with the ‘look what we’ve been learning’ section may be of particular interest to you when keeping up to date with your child’s learning and planning ahead.
- Twitter. We have a school Twitter feed that we invite you to follow. We have become much more proactive at keeping this updated weekly and would love for you to share our news and updates. You can find us at [@stoswaldsyork](https://twitter.com/stoswaldsyork)
- Our teachers are pleased to offer an open-door policy. Your child’s class teacher and Mrs Bland/Mrs Dunne are available every morning at the cloakroom doors before school for a brief chat. Teachers will also be happy to speak with you at the end of the day at their cloakroom door, once children have been released to parents. If you require a longer conversation, please arrange a meeting via email or the school office. Now school is running as normal again, teachers have limited opportunity to check their emails within the school day, but will always endeavor to reply within 24 hours. We thank you for understanding that teachers will not reply to emails later in the evenings/weekends.

### **Children are given the right amount of homework**

We have reviewed our homework policy for each phase of school for the forthcoming year. Phase leaders have worked both as part of the senior leadership team and alongside their phase teams to plan for a good balance of age-appropriate tasks that will consolidate class-based learning and help children to prepare for the next stage of their education. Teachers are able to support where needed, so if your child struggles to access their home learning please do contact them for further guidance.

### **Children with SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) are given the support they need to succeed**

It is vital that all children at St Oswald's are able to access their learning and are given the support they need to be their best. We are proud of the SEND provision we have at St Oswald's and the way all staff support every pupil with care and commitment, but recognise that as need has grown, our in-school resources must also expand.

We are pleased to say that we have extended our SENDCO capacity and Miss Bell is now working alongside Mrs Utleby to fulfil that role in school. We have established a pastoral team of staff who work closely together to monitor the needs of our most vulnerable pupils in school, and Miss Benjamin has taken on a new role as our Pastoral Teaching Assistant (TA) and will be supporting Miss Jennings in her excellent ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support) work. We are also excited to be developing our 'Den' room in school to further meet the sensory needs of some of our pupils and FOSOSF have kindly agreed to help us to raise funds to supply this room with specialist resources over the coming year.

At a classroom level, all class teachers will continue to access regular SEND training updates and specific training will be given to adults in school that support pupils on a 1:1 basis. Each pupil on the SEN register is entitled to a personal provision plan (PPP); that details their support needs and targets. PPPs will be updated termly, and shared with parents as part of our parents evening meetings in autumn and spring term, with a final reviewed PPP and new targets sent home with your child in their end of year report in July.

Staff have received training on 'Zones of Regulation', a framework that teaches children to manage their emotions and behaviour, and have now implemented this in their classrooms. Evidence has shown it to be a very successful programme, and many schools are rolling this out more widely to all of their pupils. We hope that by giving our pupils the tools to be able to self-regulate their emotions and behaviour, it will benefit the wellbeing of all.

Finally, several parents referred to our school dinner provision and wrap-around care offer. We would like to take this opportunity to communicate our response with all parents, as we are aware others may have similar queries.

### **School Dinners**

We take our responsibility to provide our children with a daily nutritious lunch very seriously, and following some recent concerns from parents, we have undertaken a full review of school meals. We are reassured that our meals meet all of the necessary standards, and regular monitoring, both in school and from City of York council, has shown that the meals are of a high standard. Lots of staff choose to buy a school meal and the high

number of pupils taking a lunch each day (considerably higher than in many local schools), reflects the quality of the food served. We will, however, continue to monitor menus closely.

### **Wrap-around Care**

Although parents are very happy with the care offered to children in Early Birds and Night Owls, there were several requests from parents to extend the hours of our wrap-around care. We understand that a five o'clock finish is restrictive to some of our working families, but we don't currently have the capacity to extend this. When we set up Night Owls, our philosophy was to ensure that every child was cared for and nurtured after school hours in the same way that they are cared for and nurtured during the day. We use familiar staff, who also work with the children during the day, and this has been a large part of the success of the 'club'. Unfortunately those staff who have been in school since early in the morning cannot work longer hours into the evening. We will, however, constantly review this and if/when we are able to extend the hours we will do so.

Some parents would also like us to open Night Owls to more children, but again, we don't have the capacity for this. The school is used in numerous ways after 3.15pm, and it has been a challenge to find a suitable space for Night Owls. This September, the club has relocated into a room with direct access to the playground and this has significantly improved provision. There isn't, however, another available space for them to spread into and we need to keep the current children safe. We have therefore set a limit of 30 children, and this is unlikely to change. We have trialed various methods of allocating places fairly, so that working parents know in advance that they have a place booked but shift workers aren't penalised, and we are the first to admit that sometimes it hasn't been as smooth as we would have liked, but we have hopefully now settled on a system that works for the majority of families.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Bland, Headteacher