



Parents' Consultation July 2017 - Feedback

Thank you for your returned questionnaires - we received 111 responses, representing 33% of our families.

We were overwhelmed by the number of positive and supportive comments and really appreciate the time taken to write them.

Thank you also for your many constructive comments. I have tried to address as many of these as possible in my feedback. Comments that are very specific have either been discussed with parents on an individual basis or with relevant members of staff.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you feel that your suggestions or comments have not been addressed.

Questions	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1. My child is happy at school.	80 (72%)	31 (28%)	0	0	0
2. My child feels safe at school.	92 (83%)	19 (17%)	0	0	0
3. My child makes good progress at school.	81 (73%)	28 (25%)	1 (1%)	0	1 (1%)

It is very pleasing to see these responses. We appreciated the many comments that talked about the strong sense of 'community' and 'family ethos'. We have been working hard to redesign our curriculum for September 2017. There are many new, exciting topics planned as well as plenty more opportunities for the whole school to come together. Watch this space!

Our assessment data shows that Abbey Road children attain exceptionally well and are making good academic progress from their individual starting points. This is something that we work very hard at and we do track the progress of each individual very carefully, making sure that interventions are put into place for pupils not making expected levels of progress. I have distributed our 2017 assessment outcomes together with this feedback.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
4. My child is well looked after at school.	82 (74%)	29 (26%)	0	0	0
5. My child is taught well at this school.	82 (74%)	28 (25%)	0	0	1 (1%)

There were many positive comments regarding the quality of teaching and the care and support provided to individuals.

6. My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	40 (36%)	56 (50%)	11 (10%)	0	4 (4%)
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Homework is clearly a subject that continues to divide parental opinion! Comments from parents who were not in total agreement with our homework provision included:

'I feel the homework, along with reading and spellings, is often too much.'

'I'm not sure how much it extends their learning – it's just there for the sake of it.'

'I think for older children, more regular homework would be appropriate.'

'Homework sometimes takes a long time to complete but isn't that challenging.'

'Some homework involves a lot of parent participation. When both parents work, this makes it very hard and leaves the child at a disadvantage.'

'(My daughter) is not getting daily homework, as needed.'

'(Children) could at least be rewarded for completing it and getting it done on time.'

We will be reviewing our homework policy in September and will take all of your views into account when agreeing our whole school approach. We do try to achieve an appropriate balance, taking the age of the children into account, but, as I am sure you will appreciate, it is difficult to get it absolutely spot-on for everybody when opinions are so polarised! We will make sure to circulate our reviewed policy in the new school year so that our expectations are clear.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
7. This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	56 (50%)	50 (45%)	1 (1%)	0	4 (4%)

I am confident that the behaviour at Abbey Road is very good and I am pleased that the overwhelming majority of you also perceive this to be the case. I spend a lot of time in classrooms, popping in and out on a daily basis; there is always a productive atmosphere and rooms are always calm or bustling with happy, busy noise!

'The same couple of names appear on the 'sad side' (of the board) most days and their behaviour does not change.'

We have high expectations of our pupils in terms of behaviour and there is a ladder of cumulative sanctions in place for individuals who, from time to time, make the wrong choices in terms of behaviour. Staff do discuss the application of our Behaviour Policy on a regular basis as it is important that these sanctions are being applied consistently across school. Our whole school policy will be reviewed in September to make sure it reflects our practice and meets its intended aims.

'It took a long time from our child knowing he had enough points for a certificate to actually getting it.'

Our approach to behaviour management is overwhelmingly positive and we encourage children to 'take care and be proud' in all that they do. We believe that rewards have a motivational role, helping children to see that their efforts are valued and our 'Take Care Points' and Achievement Assemblies are just two of the ways in which we celebrate and recognise achievement. Both of these will continue – but systems will be slightly different from September, taking feedback from parents, children and staff into account.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
8. This school deals effectively with bullying.	29 (26%)	25 (23%)	2 (2%)	0	55 (50%)

Many parents who indicated 'don't know' added views such as:

'We have had no concerns about bullying so can't comment.'

'We have never encountered any bullying.'

I can only stress to you that we take any allegation of bullying very seriously and always investigate very thoroughly. Although incidents of bullying are incredibly rare at Abbey Road, we are never complacent and the theme is discussed in assembly as well as in the classroom to ensure our children recognise different types of bullying – including cyber-bullying - and know what to do should they have any concerns. Any bullying incidents are logged in detail and we always work together with parents to ensure all parties are aware of incidents and outcomes.

We continue to urge parents, as well as children, to report any behaviour that is causing concern – dealing with incidents early, means that behaviours are less likely to escalate.

We have recently signed up to become an 'All Together School', a programme developed by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. During the year ahead, we will consult with children, which will provide us with more information about levels of wellbeing and bullying among our pupils and allow us to monitor progress over the course of the year.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
9. This school is well led and managed.	76 (68%)	35 (32%)	0	0	0
10. This school responds well to concerns I raise.	56 (50%)	34 (31%)	1 (1%)	0	18 (16%)

2 parents left this question unanswered (2%)

Teachers are present before and after school and are happy to arrange longer appointments at a mutually convenient time to discuss any concerns you have. I am also very happy to meet with parents to discuss concerns and can be contacted directly by email - head@abbeyroad.notts.sch.uk. Please don't hesitate to get in touch – we would much rather know about issues that are worrying you or your child and resolve things early.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
11. I receive information from the school about my child's progress.	50 (45%)	53 (48%)	4 (4%)	0	0

4 parents left this question unanswered. (4%)

'I would like more information about my child's progress throughout the year – not just reports and parents evenings.'

'I would like to formally hear about progress more often.'

'A formal appointment to discuss the end of year report would be welcome.'

'I question the use of a detailed report at the end of the school year.'

Currently, there are termly occasions where parents receive information about their child's attainment and progress on a more formal basis – via autumn & spring term parents evenings and then through detailed end-of-year reports in the summer term. We do invite parents to arrange an appointment with their child's class teacher if they wish to discuss any aspect of the written report. Additional meetings can always be arranged at other times during the year, should parents or teachers raise a concern.

Sharing achievement information with parents is important and we do try to achieve an appropriate balance of reporting in a meaningful way whilst being mindful not to take too much of teacher's time away from their class and from planning, preparation and assessment. Feedback regarding our end-of-year reports this year was overwhelmingly positive but we do plan to evaluate our systems for reporting progress as well as exploring other ways in which we can communicate this information with you – eg: via homework diaries/books and reading records.

12. Would you recommend Abbey Road Primary School to another parent?	Yes 106 (95%)	No 0
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1 parent indicated in between 'Yes' and 'No' 1 (1%)

4 parents left this question unanswered. (4%)

(Questions 11 and 12 were left unanswered by the same four parents – I presume this is because these two questions were on the back of the letter and parents had not realised the questions continued overleaf.)

Communication was mentioned by a handful of parents in their additional comments. Two parents requested a move towards a paperless system and this is something that we are exploring - although we know that many parents still appreciate receiving paper copies of key letters, particularly those with a form to return to school. We are certainly looking to make more use of our email/text service and to reduce our use of paper. Please make sure to let us know if you change your email address or mobile phone number.

One parent asked about how children are selected to represent the school in sporting competitions as the systems for doing so are not always clear. The Rushcliffe Sports Partnership arranges many events during the course of the year and the selection of children has been discussed and agreed by PE leaders from the different schools within the borough.

Where events are advertised as being for mixed years – eg: years 3 and 4 or years 5 and 6, we tend to select children from the older of the two year groups – this is a policy shared by the larger schools in Rushcliffe. Where an event is billed as a ‘tournament’, children are selected who show an aptitude for the sport and are nominated by teachers and sports coaches. Where an event is described as a ‘festival’, then we select those who show an interest in the sport, particularly trying to include children who have not represented the school before.

Although we keep track of children selected during each year, we could improve our tracking of participants as they move through school and I know this is something that Mrs Dussek, our PE Co-ordinator, is keen to do. We do have a large number of keen children and we do want very much to be able to provide opportunities for all during their time at Abbey Road.

We remain committed to looking at ways to improve and being the very best we can be – many thanks for all of your feedback.

Many thanks,

Ly Toom