

Summer 2021- Family Survey



Context

In the Summer term we asked families to respond to an online Family Survey (sent to families via email along with the annual student reports). 27 of our 249 families completed the survey. This is 11 more responses than last year and is 15% of our families.

TOTAL SURVEYS RECEIVED at last count: 38

To what extent would you agree with the following statements...

	Strongly Disagree/ Not at all	Disagree/ A little bit	No opinion	Quite a bit	Strongly agree	Total % agree with statement
1. I feel that my child is happy at school and enjoys coming to St Catherine's.	1 3%	2	1 3%	7 18%	29 76%	94%
2. The school values and attitudes have a positive effect on my child.	0	2 5%	3 8%	14 37%	19 50%	87%
3. Any behavioural issues reported to the school are dealt with promptly and appropriately.	1 3%	4 11%	8 21%	11 29%	14 37%	66% (+ no opinion 87%)
4. St Catherine's gives a clear indication of what is being taught. (E.g: termly newsletters, weekly updates on Facebook, newsletters)	0	6 16%	1 3%	12 32%	19 50%	82%
5. The school promotes a broad and balanced range of subjects	2 5%	1 3%	4 11%	9 24%	22 58%	82%
6. My child has been offered the opportunity to take part in activities/performances involving a wider audience (e.g. Christmas concerts, Church services, sporting events, sharing assemblies)	3 8%	4 11%	6 16%	9 24%	16 42%	66%
7. There is a good range of activities outside of lessons that interest all children (e.g. sports festivals, clubs, choir)	1 3%	6 16%	5 13%	8 21%	18 47%	68%
8. Each year, every class holds an exhibition to showcase their learning. How positive has this been for you and your child?	3 8%	2 5%	13 34%	6 16%	14 37%	53%
9. I feel that my child is adequately stretched at school.	0	1 3%	6 16%	17 45%	14 37%	82%
10. St Catherine's supports my child to achieve a good standard of work	1 3%	2 5%	3 8%	13 34%	19 50%	84%
11. Reading is taught well at St Catherine's Added 2021	2 5%	0	3 8%	19 50%	14 37%	87%

Summer 2021 Family Survey Results

Overall the feedback is positive with 67% of families *still* agreeing with all the statements. 53% of families agreed with all statements. Although this is a dip from the previous year- the changes have largely been affected by COVID and the inability to be able to have face to face exhibitions or the offsite trips and visits as usual.

94% of families agree that their child is happy at school and enjoys coming – this is a slight increase from our previous survey.

84% of families continue to agree that St Catherines' supports their child to achieve a good standard of work and 87% of families consider *the school values and attitudes to have a positive effect on their child and the teaching of reading to be good.*

The greatest dip and difference in results is in areas involving our links with the wider community(Q6,7,8);

- My child has been offered the opportunity to take part in activities/performances involving a wider audience
- There is a good range of activities outside of lessons that interest all children and each year
- Every class holds an exhibition to showcase their learning.

Unfortunately due to the ongoing pandemic, we have not been able to provide the face to face experiences as usual although this term after school clubs, choir and local trips and visits have been able to resume. We have provided whole school performances such as Christmas and the currently Year 6 end of year celebration for a virtual audience but look forward to when we can invite families to these in person once again.

66% of families feel that behavioural issues are dealt with promptly and appropriately which was considered when reviewing the behaviour policy and therapeutic approach introduced in September 2019 – this has decreased by 8% however an additional 21% had no opinion on behaviour (total 87%).

When considering the 14% of families who disagreed, this has doubled since last year (7%) and is an area that the SLT continue to address.

Why did you choose St Catherine's for your child?

- 1st Good reports/Recommendations
- 2nd Positive visit/walk round
Location
- 3rd Christian School
School Ethos

Child's favourite thing about attending St Catherine's...

- 1st Friends
- 2nd Teachers and Staff
- 3rd Learning activities
- 4th Swimming
- 5th After School Clubs

Progress since last year;

Last year, only 67% of families again felt that their child was adequately stretched at school. This was a school development focus as well as national when considering supporting children throughout remote learning and 'catching up' on their return to school. We are pleased to see some of the actions we have taken have had some impact as 82% of families currently agree. We have continued to meet with families termly as part of family conferencing (although not in face to face) and continued to invited families to discuss concerns with the class teacher.

Before the pandemic, 81% of families felt the classes public exhibitions had a positive impact for them and their child. This year, this has continue to decline with now only 53% in agreement. Providing children with an opportunity to express what they have learned to an authentic audience is a key aspect of our project-based approach and the SLT have considered how to address this from September in order to have the greatest impact, including a planned approach to exhibitions from September when reviewing the Curriculum.

Homework

53% of families consider homework to be a positive part of learning.

11% of families think homework should be for older pupils (year 5/6) only.

24% of families do not think children should receive homework although the majority of these response refereed to 'reading' but not as homework.

Families said;

'fun optional activities could be set as an alternative to homework'

'in a small amount is okay'

'can keep an eye on what level they're at'

'every now and then'

'prefer online'

'just not too much'

'proportionate to age and ability'

'prepares them for Secondary and managing time'

'good when relevant to learning in class not set for the sake of it'

'especially in these times, easily distracted by devices'

'we only get readin'

'weekends should be family time'

'homework is okay as long as it's not reading and writing too much'

'not during half terms'

Of the 24% who did not agree with setting homework, the majority made reference to the number of hours in the school day learning and the quality family time of families working long hours.

Thank you again to all those that responded.

Specific feedback received:

WHAT'S WORKING WELL...?

-St Catherine's has had a very positive effect on my daughter. I feel the staff have supported her emotionally, when at times she's struggled settling in to the school routine. I was aware before sending my daughter to St Catherine's, that they have the children's best interests at heart and encourage learning through play, especially in the early years. They are a very warm and welcoming school, and inevitably the children will flourish in this type of environment.

-Head teacher and deputy are always available to parents.

-During covid the school were extremely supportive and did a great job considering the circumstances and ran their online learning well.

-Generally I like the school my opinion is because of their ages they open to learn and discover potentially anything its really critical this could effect them in good and bad ways I think they should be approach gently and friendly and I have no doubt about that my daughter had problems with swimming she didn't want to go she was scared and crying I talk to teacher about it and he was friendly and helpful and now she's not scared anymore am very happy for my daughter because she's in safe hands

-Great to have swimming.

-Had to comment as it has been a Very odd first year but I think the school have Handled the situation brilliantly.

-I think the school is brilliant

-Google classroom is very good.

-WWW - community feel, caring ethos, lovely staff, good teaching, core subjects

-My child has been incredibly happy and has been lucky to have had great teachers every year and made great progress.

-St Catherine's is a wonderful school and Mrs Wallis is an amazing headteacher. We've always felt as though the staff really care about each individual child and my son has thrived throughout his time there (he's yr6 so feeling very sad we're nearing the end of his time there!) As far as we can see the school works incredibly hard to provide a wonderful space for children to learn, and my son had always felt supported and encouraged even though he may not be the top of the class. Thank you to all the staff for your amazing work, especially over this last season.

-I don't know if it's possible to do anything better.

EVEN BETTER IF...

- We personally find that the biggest issues are generally at lunch times. Mid day supervisors lack massively with regards to communication, care and support to the point of us considering other schools because of this so it is a real shame that they let St Catherine's down so much.

- Being able to talk to staff face to face again would be better but we understand why we cannot do this

In my opinion I think the younger children such as year two should finish early time instead of year 6 for example who finish a lot earlier than them considering they have sats I would of thought to catch up and help them with that that they finish later where as year 2 are still quite young and a long day learning and late finish can be daunting for them

- I really don't have an idea of how my child is being extended other than a parent teacher conference which felt like ages ago. Would like examples of how he is being pushed in subjects such as reading that he excels in

- More contact with teachers to see how they are doing

- I would like to see more school trips being offered, I have heard from other parents that there are hardly any put on anymore. I also would like to see their school work displayed so we can look at it once restrictions have eased.

- More communication when something has happened at school.

- I feel like because my child has had issues in the past sometimes it's easier to just believe another child and my child is told off. Most of the time it needs a teacher to ask my child what has actually happened and what caused them to react in such a way because my child doesn't speak up for themselves all the time. Just a little conversation is needed at times. Overall it's a great school and I feel in general they deal with issues as they arrive.

- More Facebook updates. More school events and school trips.

- More outdoor activities is better.

- EBI stronger PE /sports and music offer, wider development opportunities (social and emotional learning etc, oracy)

- I feel I have had very little information about my child's learning in terms of what they are doing in class and how they are progressing, hence my "no opinion" answers to questions 8, 9 and 10. There has also been a lack of consistency with reading books coming home.

- My only one area for improvement is lunchtimes, any slight issue that has arisen seems to start at lunchtime, I don't know if it because there is a lack of teacher's on duty or if the children are not respecting the mid day supervisors, it is the only concern I have had with the school throughout my child's time there.

- It would be better if you actually opened the gates at 8:35 or as close to as possible as my partner is late for work nearly every day.

- Better communication with the school. not each parent grow up in UK, and not each parent experience UK education. Assuming we all know short version of activities/ things etc. Also, like christmas cars temple- it was not explain to me, it was assumed I know what to do.

- I know it is hard with 30 kids, but more one to one time with kids on learning

- The only thing that would make it better for me personally is getting feedback from teachers more frequently about how my children are doing with work/behaviour etc because sometimes getting information out of the children themselves is liking getting blood from a stone.

- St Catherine's would be even better if we was able to get term new letters of what the children will be learning (written by the teacher).

Certificates to praise the children's hard work to give them a extra boost

- Cost of living today is so expensive, I talk with other parents and say the same things... ie the quality of the uniform, should have a cheaper option for kids to attend extra fun days ect.