

## Summer 2022- 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). At this time, 52 of our 249 families completed the survey. This is more responses than last year and is the greatest response we have ever had although it is still based on the views of 21% of our school community.

**TOTAL SURVEYS RECEIVED at last count: 52**

### 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	Total % disagree
1. I feel that my child is happy at school and enjoys coming to St Catherine's.	0	1 2%	1 2%	17 33%	33 63%	96% +2%	2% (-1%)
2. The school values and attitudes have a positive effect on my child.	0	2 4%	8 15%	12 23%	30 58%	82% -5%	4% (-1%)
3. Any behavioural issues reported to the school are dealt with promptly and appropriately.	1 2%	3 6%	15 29%	16 31%	17 33%	64% -2%	8% (-6%)
4. St Catherine's gives a clear indication of what is being taught. (E.g: termly newsletters, weekly updates on Facebook, newsletters)	0	12 23%	0	22 42%	18 35%	77% -5%	23% (+16%)
5. The school promotes a broad and balanced range of subjects	0	3 6%	4 8%	20 38%	25 48%	86% +4%	6% (-2%)
7. There is a good range of activities outside of lessons that interest all children (e.g. sports festivals, clubs, choir)	1 2%	2 4%	2 4%	17 33%	30 58%	91% +23%	6% (-13%)
8. Each year, every class holds an exhibition to showcase their learning. How positive has this been for you and your child?	1 2%	1 2%	8 15%	22 42%	20 38%	80% +27%	4% (-8%)
9. I feel that my child is adequately stretched at school.	1 2%	7 13%	8 15%	26 50%	10 19%	69% -13%	15% (+12%)
10. St Catherine's supports my child to achieve a good standard of work	0	3 6%	3 6%	24 46%	22 42%	88% +4%	6% (-2%)
11. Reading is taught well at St Catherine's		4 8%	5 10%	19 37%	24 46%	82% -5%	8% (+3%)

### This year we also asked:

	Extremely unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	neutral	Somewhat important	Extremely important
12. How important do you feel reading at home (3x week) is?	4 8%	0	6 12%	10 19%	32 61%

## **Summer 2022 Family Survey Results –**

Overall the feedback is positive with 64% of families agreeing with all the statements.

The majority of responses said they chose St Catherine's because of the positive environment, our values and ethos and because children are happy.

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

1<sup>st</sup> Friends- as one family put it *She says playing with friends but I think it's the environment to build friendships and experiences she loves*

2<sup>nd</sup> Teachers

3<sup>rd</sup> Learning and projects –as one child said “learning is never boring.”

4<sup>th</sup> Swimming

5<sup>th</sup> Extra curricular activities – music, art club, sports.

96% of families agree that their child is happy at school and enjoys coming – this is another slight increase from our previous survey (94%). This has improved year on year since we first introduced the family survey.

This year the greatest improvements have been seen in the positive impact families feel the exhibitions have had on them and their families, which has returned to pre-pandemic values (80%).

91% of families who responded said *there is a good range of activities outside of lessons that interest all children (e.g. sports festivals, clubs, choir)* which is really positive and an improvement on previous surveys.

We are disappointed to see that fewer % of families agree that St Catherine's supports their child to achieve a good standard of work and feel their child is adequately stretched at school then in previous years. This continues to be an area we as a school are addressing through our staff CPD, targeted interventions and school tutoring and we invite families who disagreed to come and speak with their class teacher or the SLT.

This year 8% of families disagreed with the statement relating to behavioural issues being dealt with promptly and appropriately. This is a slight improvement on last year when 14% of families disagreed. Of the 8%, many made reference to behaviour at lunchtimes specifically and the introduction of the Pod at lunchtime and CPD for MSA's looks to address this further this year.

When reviewing the What Worked Well comments, overwhelmingly families spoke of their child being happy at school and the friendly, approachable staff in a 'fab' school, whilst also recognising other strengths in the positive changes to the curriculum, the range of after school clubs, the improved communication for families with SEND needs.

Areas for us to address this year, centred around providing families with more information on what their child will be learning and the progress they are making more frequently. Other areas that were highlighted were lunchtimes, responding to aggressive behaviours by pupils, arrangements for Sports Day and how to introduce more music and extra-curricular activities without an additional cost.

An area, that families have identified this year is not feeling *we gives a clear indication of what is being taught*. (E.g: termly newsletters, weekly updates on Facebook, newsletters), we have introduced a termly year group newsletter from the the Autumn term and will ensure that this is repeated in the Spr and Aut term. In addition, some families are being invited in for a year group information session where we feel additional information and support is needed.

When asked if families agree with the school motto 'Aim High; in life, in learning, with God – together', 67% agreed with the statement or in part. 15% agreed with the academic and personal aspirations but remarked on reservations relating to 'With God'.

Comments ranged from;

*It is a positive message for staff and students*

*That you want every child to be the best version of themselves they can be*

*I agree wholeheartedly and for us this means that our child is encouraged to meet his full potential in a positive and stable environment.*

*I agree, you can see this through the teaching.*

*A high standard of learning High standards of behaviour Caring for each other and respect for others (inclusive) Very close links with the local church. I do agree entirely with the statement and feel St. Caths meets this standard.*

*Since starting St Catherine my son has progressed so much in all aspects of personal development. I was also impressed that children in the early years got to participate in the nativity...which is a great opportunity for the children to learn about God's great love.*

*have our own religion but its nice to know other ways of prays*

*Having good morals and socialisation as well as formal education is vital, and St Catherine's are doing brilliantly.*

*I believe it explains why my children are always excited coming to school to*

*I strongly agree with the statement. I believe St Catherine's does aim high to ensure all pupils receive a good education, enjoy learning and invest in preparing the children for life. The term 'Aim High' could be read negatively as not everyone can be an A+ student so each child will have a different understanding of what aim high means. 'With God' could cause reservations with families of other or no faith albeit recognising St Catherine's is a Church of England School.*

*They aim high in their own needs and way not for the children at all this school does not support cultural days or red nose days or children in need they do no other charity event to boost childrens experience in life they only focus on their own schools money what they need*

*I don't really understand that...*

*I am not religious and do not like the religious element of the school. This is the one thing that I would change if I could. I agree to aim high in life and learning but not with God.*

*As an atheist I disagree with the concept of god, therefore find the statement redundant and hollow. It looks rather ridiculous to me.*

**WHAT'S WORKING WELL...?**

Fab school

What works well: great teachers and staff

I think that overall everything works well

Love the school think it is a brilliant so so happy my daughter is there

No problems with the school, my children enjoy it and are both doing well.

St Catherine's staff work well together, with parents and children. All staff are very approachable. A variety of activities after-school. An active push to support and develop children's reading and to build the literature in their library.

I love the way the church is involved with the school. You are great with organising after school clubs. Thank you.

A warm and empathetic approach to all the pupils.

school has great teachers which and where children can easily approach them if needed for any sort of reason..

St Catherine is a good school who continue to work well and really appreciate when children could be at sss on school inset. I hope that will continue Thank you

Communication has improved greatly over the last few years.

The whole team do a great job and I'm loving the "Autism in Schools" pilot scheme! I think every school should do it.

My child want to come to school and he is enjoying learning if he is happy I happy more. Great teachers.

Highly recommended school

My child has had a good year, teacher has been amazing, ARE has dropped this year in comparison to past years but they are happier going in and that's what's important to us as a family. SEN support and understanding has been better since Easter so thank you for that.

The staff are nurturing and passionate about their roles and the children. All staff are happy and work well as a team. Tie this together with the recent changes to continually improve the way the curriculum is taught and I would say that it is already a recipe for success. The investment in the children continues to head in the right direction so to make the school even better The new Newsletter format is a big improvement and is multi-device friendly with good information included.

**EVEN BETTER IF...**

Make it better: electronic learning journeys so I could share learning at home.

EBI, lunch time seems to be the only time there are issues, my child is very settled in class and happy but anytime there has been something happen it is at lunchtime. Whilst I appreciate staff should have a lunch break mid day supervisors are not the same as an actual teacher being visible at lunch. I would like to thank all of the staff for the job they do.

One thing I think Would help would be a newsletter for each year group at the beginning of each term or half term with what is going to be learnt or themes etc so we can talk about it more at home and help with the learning I find when we ask what have you been up to today the answers is always can't remember and then it will come out in later conversations oh we learnt this the other week when it would be nice to support the learning at the time they are doing it apart from that brilliant school thank you xx

I would like to take a moment to mention sports day. As lovely as it was bring able to see field events as we have never seen them before I found it a little more stressful trying to keep up with where each child was.

As they were both doing things at the same time. I much preferred simply watching the races. I also usually enjoy watching their friends in their races but did not get the chance do to so. I know a lot of parents complained about having to move around and found it difficult if they had more than 1 child. Also when my child was invited to a rugby tournament we were given less than a week notice and asked to get our children there and back. This actually resulted in the tournament being cancelled. People need to give notice on having a day off to be able to this. If we had known in advance we may have been able to work it out or given the opportunity I wouldn't have minded my child going in a coach. Thankyou.

More school trips. I feel let down that so far they have not been on any.

Communication between staff needs to be a bit better

I mentioned above but the level of violence that is used is not acceptable and I don't feel enough is being done to deter certain individuals that are repeat offenders

More explaining what is happening/ what is expected from parents- I have not attended the school in UK hence I am not aware of activities brought from school to do at home (donations from friends and neighbours for example)

More activities clubs would be better.

They had bicycles in the playground

If there were more frequent one to one meetings with the teacher on how the children are progressing It would be good to have more use of the library eg. Open sessions during lunch breaks again with pupil librarians, events in the library to promote books and the pleasure of reading eg pupil book swaps, a pupil book club etc. Older children sharing books and reading to the infants. More music please! All children to have the opportunity to learn how to play an inexpensive school instrument eg recorder. A music club.

Musical visitors/assemblies.

Music lessons, free after school activities, not asking for money all the time!

I do feel to make the school better, communication could be better with the teacher and parents, maybe like doing termly info sheet on what we could do to help their learning that term something. I would love to be more involved in my child's school life but also any areas they are struggling with I would happily do work with them to help them meet their potential.

To make St Catherine's even better, I suppose a little extra information regarding how your child is developing throughout the year. If there is anything extra parents can do at home; or if there is a child who falls behind, making the parents aware quickly, to help support the child more at home with reading/writing/maths. Possibly a few more days where parents can pop in to the child's classroom to see the work their year group has been doing .

What would make st Catherine's better: Multi cultural event days Supporting charities ie Red Nose Day let the children experience and dress in red , jubilee day let the children dress up ( why are they only allowed non uniform for the schools days and not national holidays?) Children in need, let children dress up and raise money World book day, this is the only school I know where they don't allow the children to get creative and create their own outfit or have the choice to dress up or not This school gives too many invalid excuses why they don't support any of this and it's un heard of

There is a great amount of extra-curricular activities on offer and the wrap-around childcare/Playschemes etc available. I wish there had been more places/opportunities for this in reception plus more availability of activities for the arts for the lower key stage. I have always felt out of the loop with what my child is learning, how they are doing, and how I could support them more, I feel the school/teachers could do more to include parents in this. Whilst my child hasn't experienced bullying or concerns about other children's behaviour towards them, I am aware of other children that have and their parents haven't been pleased with the response of the teachers/schools and felt it hasn't been taken seriously enough or responded to well enough.

The dinner ladies should be more involved in what is going during the lunch breaks and report to the teachers , not just say it....actually do it.... Some activities in class should be thought better cause some children could feel left aside. Groups made for different activities in class should made with more attention, cause some children likes to respond in behalf on others and it's not fair ...

Communication could still be improved with more notice of special events e.g. jubilee event. More notice of information regarding next year's teacher/class etc.

I dislike the lack of communication, I dislike being told to use an app which is hardly used by the school. I dislike how when parents speak out senior staff take the comments to heart. It doesn't matter what I think would make it better, I feel that St Catherine's doesn't listen to feedback either way.

the school can Have a way to make a child know when they are wrong

Please I will like the school to have reading club it will help the children to be more focus in learning. And also to be given them writing homework.

A little bit more notice on communications such as swimming days, PE days, etc would be appreciated as a parent, and my child says more art and more computing would be good!

I believe communications and relationships need to be improved between the school and the parents. Communications are sometimes late and unclear.

Further to discussion with other parents i'd say emails get lost or missed and another form of providing the document would prove beneficial. Arbor has been introduced as a communication tool and is good to review your childs information but as an instant messenger it is too bulky as you have to log in to read messages. I believe an instant messenger similar to 'WhatsApp' with one way messaging would improve school communications immensely and would help as a quick reference tool for parents too. Having helped with various school projects and the PTA I would say it's been difficult to get involved, create two way dialog and assist. Communications need to improve to encourage parent participation and work in partnership to retain interest and enthusiasm. Information on what your child is being taught would be well received, even if this is a generic lesson plan for the year. The home schooling videos provided a great insight for the parents to understand how their child is taught and enabled them to actively take part in their childs education. These videos may be of use too if made available to parents. Once this is achieved I believe the school will hit another level and be an even greater school, possibly 'Outstanding'.

Do you have any comments about your child's recent RSE (Relationship & Sex Education) sessions? I am so glad they are introducing this as I wouldn't know how to start the conversation off with our children

He found it informative and felt he could ask questions. He seemed to find it interesting and was happy to ask more questions when he came home.

I found year 1 was good and my child come Hope very positive! My year 5 child as the week went the feed back from her was more positive but quite strict at the beginning I do believe that as they are so young learning such grown up information it could have been done with a little light heartedness and I think that wouldn't have made her dread the lessons as much because it is quite an embarrassing subject especially at 10.

My child has come home with an age appropriate level of knowledge about the subject

Not been mentioned by my child so no comment really

Very informative. I feel parents were made well aware of what their child would learn in the different age groups. My children have learnt a lot. I am happy that both girls and boys have learnt about puberty and what happens to each gender as I feel its important for them to know what the opposite gender goes through.

Seemed appropriate for the different age groups

It is needed for children

I accept this as part of the curriculum and would not interfere or complain, however, I believe these topics should be left for responsible parents to discuss at home in KS1.

None they didn't speak about it at home

She seems interested in the lessons

My child does not want to talk about this subject and I am pleased that appropriate topics are covered in school.

My daughter enjoyed learning about the differing body parts; she had a giggle when we were talking about it, but overall felt happy and confident to tell me about what she had learnt- a positive experience.

My child hasn't mentioned them to me, so I'm not sure

I do not think this applies to my child who is in early years.

I do have a few comments, I have been told that private parts are being shown and naked babies but I like the way children have been taught that boys and girls need to be treated the same way. When I was in school I got taught sex education in year 6 not year 2. I understand they need to get taught rights and wrong but children are way too young to be seeing mens and womens private parts.

Never too late to tell kids in todays generation about the birds n the bees.. save us parents red faced when asked.

I feel it would have been more helpful if parents had a greater amount of information as to what they were learning so that I could have a proper talk with them afterwards as all that came out of it was giggles about the names of private parts.

Good coverage of topic

No i believe it was dealt with and explained properly

Yes , my child has asking some questions which I think he's still young to understand

From time to time i try to ask small questions but it is not like i specifically ask about the sessions

Not particularly. I am happy with the information we've received regarding this - as long as it's not too detailed and explained to them properly, i'm happy.

Was very valuable to have these lessons, even for year 3. It gives us an opportunity to reinforce that our daughter shouldn't be embarrassed or ashamed to ask us any question about it, or talk to someone else about it.

He's only in reception, but is learning about friendships and what's appropriate

The information provided to parents prior to the sessions starting was very good and the structure appeared age appropriate. The children have used the terminology learned for various body parts well, confidently and with a matter of fact approach which is great.