

# St Mary's C of E Primary School

## Parent Questionnaire February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all your helpful comments. Your views and those of your children are very important to us. They help us move the school forward and are an effective way of checking that we are getting things right. School leaders take them into account when we are planning for the future of our school.

We were very heartened once again by the huge number of positive comments about St Mary's.

### **Themes emerging from parent comments**

Many parents were keen to tell us that their child is taught well and that teachers help their child to make excellent progress in their learning of the curriculum.

There were many parents who commented that the teachers keep them well informed about their child's academic progress and their development of behaviour and social skills.

Parents commented that they found it easy to meet with their child's class teacher and the headteacher. That parents feel welcome and any concerns or questions are taken seriously.

Many parents commented that children are well supported and have their individual needs met; including if their child has any special educational needs.

Parents commented that the school is doing well in teaching children to be responsible and independent; that St Mary's prepares children for a successful future.

Positive comments really help staff to feel that their efforts are recognised and motivate them to continue to do their best for your children.

In terms of what we might do to make the school even better, we had the usual split between a minority of parents who think there should be more homework and another minority of parents who think there should be less homework. We hope to strike the right balance and the survey shows that most parents agree that the school provides appropriate homework.

We had a couple of parents who have requested that the school provide the ability to email teachers or write notes to teachers with questions and concerns. We value good communication between school, parents and the wider community. It is important to us and helps build a community of trust and understanding that is at the heart of a good school. If you would like to share something with us, our staff are always pleased to make time to speak with you face to face. We don't use email for extended communications with parents or carers. Email is a very blunt tool, as are written notes, and it is hard to convey deeper meaning and understanding in words on a page. Good communication and understanding relies much more on body language, tone of voice and empathy than it does in simple words and we want our communication with you to be clear, open and honest and productive.

A few parents have asked for their child to have more trips out of school. We have carefully chosen our visits out and visitors to school to match our high quality curriculum so that every visit will enrich the children's learning. Please take a look at our curriculum map on the website to see the intended trips for each subject.

A parent asked if the school can provide more information about why staff occasionally leave. We work very hard to recruit good teachers and we want to keep our good teachers. Living in London is expensive and often when teachers leave it is because they are moving out of London to raise a family or to travel abroad.

Finally, we are glad to hear that parents find our parent information coffee mornings useful. We will use your suggestions for topics to plan our programme over the next year. We have already run sessions on some of the suggestions but are happy to repeat these. Some parents have requested these to be held in the evenings to enable working parents to attend. Unfortunately, we are not able to hold evening sessions on a weekly basis, however, we are planning to hold one evening information session for parents every term.

Many of you commented that there was nothing for the school to improve on! That is great to hear but we don't pretend to be perfect so if there are things that you think we could do to improve the school, do come to speak to me and let me know.

We try our hardest to be a really good school.

Best wishes  
Mr Webb  
Head of School

## Questionnaire responses

**113 responses**

**Responses below 1% have not been included**

1. My child enjoys coming to school

Strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
66%	33%	2%		

Overall 98% agree

2. My child feels safe at school

Strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
72%	27%			

Overall 100% agree

3. My child is making good progress

Strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
67%	33%			

Overall 100% agree

4. Most children behave well at St Mary's  
 Strongly agree 61%    agree 31%    disagree 2%    strongly disagree    don't know 3%  
 Overall 95% agree
5. Teaching is good  
 Strongly agree 72%    agree 27%    disagree    strongly disagree    don't know 1%  
 Overall 99% agree
6. I am kept informed about how my child is getting on  
 Strongly agree 61%    agree 36%    disagree 2%    strongly disagree    don't know  
 Overall 97% agree
7. I feel comfortable about approaching the school with a question or a problem  
 Strongly agree 67%    agree 31%    disagree 1%    strongly disagree    don't know 1%  
 Overall 98% agree
8. Staff expect my child to work hard and do his/her best  
 Strongly agree 66%    agree 33%    disagree    strongly disagree    don't know 1%  
 Overall 99% agree
9. Staff treat my child fairly  
 Strongly agree 64%    agree 32%    disagree 2%    strongly disagree    don't know 2%  
 Overall 96% agree
10. The school is led and managed well  
 Strongly agree 64%    agree 33%    disagree 1%    strongly disagree    don't know 1%  
 Overall 98% agree
11. The school provides appropriate homework  
 Strongly agree 61%    agree 35%    disagree 2%    strongly disagree 1%    don't know 1%  
 Overall 96% agree
12. There is a good range of activities that my child finds interesting and enjoyable  
 Strongly agree 62%    agree 32%    disagree 1%    strongly disagree 1%    don't know 1%  
 Overall 97% agree
13. The school upholds its Christian ethos well  
 Strongly agree 61%    agree 34%    disagree 1%    strongly disagree    don't know 4%

Overall 95% agree

14. The school provides opportunities for spiritual growth and development

Strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
64%	33%			3%

Overall 97% agree