

Cornerstone Church of England (VA) Primary School

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*Building our Community with Love, Forgiveness and Hope
Growing an Inspirational Learning Community*

22 September 2017

PARENT SURVEY SUMMER 2017

Dear Parents,

Many thanks to everyone who responded to our parent survey at the end of last term (65 responses). This was approximately three times as many responses as we received last year. In this letter I will share a summary of the views expressed and how we as a school will be aiming to respond to the trends that were raised, during this academic year. The tables below show responses as percentages.

My child enjoyed this year at Cornerstone.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
59	37	4	

My child is making good progress with their learning.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
41	59		

Cornerstone helps me to support my child's learning.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
39	57	2	2

My child is well taught at Cornerstone.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
44	51	5	

I've found the information the school has shared with me about my child's learning useful (e.g. Parents Evenings and Reports)

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
41	59		

Cornerstone ensures my child is safe and well looked after at school.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
60	35	5	

The children at Cornerstone are well behaved.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
38	60	2	

"This is a happy school where pupils achieve well in terms of their personal, as well as academic development and are growing up as responsible caring young people." Ofsted 2015

Cornerstone children and staff regularly show the school's values of Love, Forgiveness and Hope.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
45	53	2	

The school's leaders do an effective job.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
54	40	6	

There were a number of suggestions as to how we as a school could further improve during this coming year. Many of these came under two general trends: Home Learning and the level of challenge / not all children working at the same level.

Home Learning

There was a range of opinions about Home Learning. As a staff we will review our policy and practice over this half-term, also taking on board feedback that was shared with our parent governors in the summer term. We will consider how much Home Learning we are giving out each week, and the balance over each half-term. We will also discuss and consider the idea of all having a Home Learning book /folder for your child and how we provide feedback to your child. We will keep you informed of changes we make.

Level of challenge / not all children working at the same level

When the new National Curriculum started in September 2014, the Department for Education decided to remove National Curriculum levels. One of the key ideas behind this new 'mastery' curriculum, is to aim for all children to achieve the end of year standards each year. For those who achieve this earlier in the year for certain objectives, the aim is to deepen their understanding and challenge their application of their knowledge, skills and understanding but within the same objective as other learners in the class. This change of approach was confusing for us as well as for many teachers in many schools across the country. Nationally schools have now achieved greater clarity of understanding of this approach and at Cornerstone we believe we have a firm grasp on this. We understand therefore why this change of approach may also be confusing for parents.

Last academic year, our Hampshire advisor for Higher Attainers led whole staff training on challenge during one of our INSET days. The previous year we worked on a joint project with another Hampshire school developing the use of SOLO (Structure of Observed Learning Outcomes) to assist our planning, particularly for English and Maths. I was very pleased last academic year to see the consistent use of developing mastery understanding for all children in all classes, whilst also challenging the thinking of certain children for certain objectives at different points. We continue to try and build on this good work this year, as raising pupil outcomes further is part of our Strategic Development Plan.

Positive comments

Thank you for the number of positive comments made re. aspects of the school you would like to see maintained. Below are a selection of these:

- Positive encouragement given to the children
- Good atmosphere for learning
- Keeping the children happy, fulfilling their needs and being flexible with their learning to incorporate their interests!
- Lots of learning and events being organised by the school should continue
- Friendly and approachable staff help create such a lovely learning environment. School has a real family atmosphere
- Continue with the excellent trips that consolidate knowledge of projects covered. Altogether a thoroughly enjoyable year. Well done to everyone involved

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- Consistently practising the values in new ways. Maintain excellent manners

In summary, we appreciate that we will not get every decision fully correct and also that it is not possible to please everyone all of the time, particularly as some families have differing views on certain matters. We hope that because of this you also understand we will listen and consider all parental views, but will not necessarily agree with or action every request. We will also consider latest guidance from other external colleagues and advisors, as well as drawing on our professional understanding and experience.

We continue to be committed to working in a positive partnership with you for the best interest, wellbeing and learning of your child. As always if you have any specific questions or queries please talk to a member of staff and we will endeavour to answer you as soon as possible.

Many thanks for your continued positive support and partnership.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Clarke
Headteacher

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