

Parental Feedback 2023

Thank you to everyone who responded to our online survey which was sent out earlier in the summer term.

It has been a privilege to read all the feedback. We always strive for excellence in all we do and we do appreciate your honest and open feedback so we can improve.

Please see below some quotes and strengths identified by parents/ carers followed by suggestions for ways we can improve further.

Strengths/ Quotes

"Great communication, understanding and friendly staff."

"Communication from school is good. Teachers always seem happy to help if you need to speak to them at drop off/pick up. My child loves going to school and seems to find the teachers fun whilst also admiring and respecting them."

"I am always kept updated with what my child is doing at school via Seesaw. We have newsletters to keep reminders on things that are coming up organized."

"How good attendance is rewarded."

"School prioritises attendance and suggests reading books which are good through challenges."

"The teaching standards at school are very good. My child is a high achiever and she is challenged to complete work that stimulates her and helps with her development and education. The extra-curricular clubs offer a wide variety for all children to get involved and feel included. My daughter likes the lunch time sports activities and the variety. The school has a focus on developing pupil leadership to help prepare for high school and improve life chances. I think this is great to get children involved and develop maturity and key life skills."

"Very creative curriculum with plenty fun opportunities for children to learn in a range of ways (iPad, outdoor learning, trips, hands on experiences, visitors). The teachers are very creative. Communication is second to none. Newsletter and updates from the office are timely and informative. Seesaw is amazing and used really well by the class teachers. Office staff respond to emails within a few minutes and are very happy to help. Great range of clubs. All staff are friendly. Ks2 staff say morning to us every day when going to breakfast club and they are arriving at work even though they don't know us very well. "

"Great PTA raising money for the school."

"School has a good culture and properly dealing with any concerns or issue

"Encouragement, support, caring and understanding."

"Happy environment. Diverse. Inclusive."

"LGBT Community."

"Teachers go above and beyond to make children have a nice experience at school."

"Teachers are nice and supportive. Great opportunities for children to participate and be responsible at school."

"Sense of community. Teaches the kids important life skills."

"Excellent teachers and staff."

"Safety of the children."

"There are good teachers at school. My child feels safe at this school."

"Amazing and supportive teachers and staff who are dedicated to supporting the children."

"The children are taught to care about each other."

“Caring and compassionate teachers who create a learning environment that clearly works. My daughter has excelled at this school. As did her sister.”

“The teachers are approachable and genuinely care about the children’s wellbeing. The topics covered reflect the diversity of the community we live in I.e. variety of religious studies, books available that give different perspectives such as LGBT+.”

“Teachers take a genuine interest in what your child does out of school by providing support, praise and encouragement. Every member of staff knows each child. Everyone is so welcoming.”

“Warm and friendly.”

“The children understand the behaviour policy well.”

“The support the school gives is fantastic. My child’s learning has come along so well, we are really impressed on how the school teaches the children in a fun, educational way to keep them interested.”

“That the school has made the children understand the importance of reading.”

“Great for nurturing individual personalities & understanding of different learning methods.”

“Promotes and supports excellent behaviour.”

“Exciting curriculum with loads of enrichment in school to help the children more and understand.”

Suggestions for Development

We are always seeking to improve our school for our pupils, parents and the wider school community. Find below some trends that came from the feedback and how we can address these suggestions in the future

The wider curriculum and enrichment opportunities have always been important at The Gates and in the past children have enjoyed a wide range of opportunities, which is reflected in many of the parent comments. For example this year, we have reviewed how children can sign up to the club to enable more children to get the club of their choice.

Parents said they would like to see more extra-curricular clubs for children in EYFS and increase the range of clubs on offer. We will continue to build on this offer for 2023-2024 and have planned for the following actions:

- We are working in close partnership with Kickstarterz to offer a range of keep fit activities which offer opportunities for all children to participate in an inclusive way. Kickstarterz will continue to offer lunchtime clubs, each day, to children in all phases and there is variety within this – such as boys football, movement to music, playground games, phase team games, netball, girls football
- Kickstarterz will continue to run two afterschool clubs and this provision will rotate across phases over the course of the year
- Increase in after school clubs for children in EYFS, from Autumn 2
- Reach out to other external providers to provide a music offer after school

We are very fortunate with the outdoor environment and space which we have at The Gates and over the years have developed it both structurally and also for purposeful learning.

Parents said they would like the outdoor learning environment to be further developed. We will continue to develop the outdoor environment and have planned for the following actions:

- All the outdoor equipment, which requires repairs, will be upgraded and replaced by the end of October. Other equipment will be refreshed during the summer holidays
- The Eco School Leaders will continue to play a significant role in developing the outdoor area (this year they with other children planted over 1200 trees!) and will further develop, working with the rest of the school, the outdoor gardening areas
- There will be further opportunities for outdoor learning

We have increased the opportunities for parental engagement in school this year through a range of ways, such as: inviting parents in for Stay & Learn across school, World Book Day invitation, incredible events led by the PTA, Harvest festival, LKS2 Performance. We will continue to increase opportunities for parents to come into school and participate in school life which will benefit children through extending the offer of Stay & Learns across school.