



Parent/Carer Survey Summer 2026

A huge thank you to all of the Parents/Carers who took the time to complete our recent survey to provide your feedback and give your views on the school. We had 68 responses.

- Most notably:
- 100% of respondents would recommend The Gates to another parent.
- Parents overwhelmingly report that their children are happy and safe at school
- Leadership, particularly the visibility and approachability of the Headteacher, emerged as the strongest theme throughout the survey.
- Staff were repeatedly praised for their commitment, kindness and care for children.
- The school's inclusive and community-focused culture was highlighted by many respondents.
- Suggested improvements were generally minor and centred around communication systems, parking, SEND provision and increasing opportunities for working parents to attend events.

The results, feedback and views from Parents/Carers have fed into many of our School Improvement Priorities and changes to our practices/procedures for next year.

Statement	Response
My child is happy at this school.	97% Strongly agreed/agreed.
My child feels safe at this school.	99% Strongly agreed/agreed.
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	88% Strongly agreed/agreed.
The school communicates well with me about the things I need to know.	93% Strongly agreed/agreed
My child receives the support needed to learn well.	99% Strongly agreed/agreed
Where there is a concern about bullying, the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	100% Positive Response (6/6 responses)
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.	96% (26/27 responses)
My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.	87% My child has SEN and school gives them the support they need to succeed (20/23 responses)
When the school makes decisions, it has the child's best interests at heart.	96% Strongly agreed/agreed
I would recommend this school to other families.	100% Strongly agreed/agreed.

Thank you so much for taking the time to share your thoughts with us — we truly value your feedback.
Your comments will be shared with our staff and Governors to help us celebrate what's going well and identify areas for further development.

Here's a small selection of the lovely things you said:

Question: What do you feel are the strengths of The Gates?

Leadership:

The strongest and most frequently occurring theme was the quality of leadership.
Parents repeatedly referenced the visibility, approachability and commitment of the Headteacher.
Representative comments included:

"The head teacher is lovely and a real strength. He knows all the children by name and knows the parents too."

"The headteacher is absolutely amazing."

"Mr Doherty has been a breath of fresh air for the school."

"He genuinely cares about the children and that doesn't go unnoticed."

Many parents specifically noted the daily presence on the playground, strong relationships with families and the positive impact of recent developments within the school.

Caring and Dedicated Staff

Parents consistently praised teachers, support staff and office staff.

Common themes included:

- Friendly and welcoming staff
- Staff going above and beyond
- High levels of care for children
- Strong relationships between adults and pupils
- Child-centred decision making

Comments referred to staff as:

"Amazing."

"Kind and helpful."

"Genuinely caring."

"Always putting children first."

Inclusion and Family Ethos

A significant number of responses described The Gates as:

- Inclusive
- Welcoming
- Community-focused

- Like a family

Parents valued the school's emphasis on helping every child feel valued regardless of background or need.

Representative comments included:

"The school feels like a family."

"Culture of inclusion, kindness and collaboration."

"Everyone is friendly and enthusiastic with the children."

Enrichment and Opportunities

Parents strongly recognised the school's efforts to provide wider experiences.

Examples frequently mentioned included:

- Trips and visits
- Sports clubs
- Reading Bus
- Community Garden
- Environmental initiatives
- Festivals and themed events
- Outdoor learning
- Leadership opportunities for pupils

Parents appreciated the school's commitment to developing the whole child rather than focusing solely on academic outcomes

Question: How could The Gates develop further?

No major concerns emerged. Suggestions were generally constructive and aimed at further strengthening provision.

Communication Platforms

The most common development theme was communication.

Several parents found the MCAS app difficult to navigate and worried that important information could occasionally be missed.

Suggestions included:

Simplifying communication systems

Improved calendar integration

More reliable notifications

Alternative communication methods for important messages [Parent Vie...2025-2026 | Excel]

Working Parent Considerations

Some parents requested:

Earlier notice of events

Alternative timings for Stay and Learn sessions

More flexibility around parent workshops and celebrations [Parent Vie...2025-2026 | Excel]

School Streets and Parking

Parking and the School Streets initiative generated a number of comments.

Whilst some parents strongly supported the initiative, others raised concerns about:

Parking arrangements

Walking routes

Road safety

Additional travel time for working families [Parent Vie...2025-2026 | Excel]

SEND Provision

Although many parents praised inclusion and support, a small number suggested:

Greater SEND communication

Further SEND staff development

Additional emotional wellbeing support for older pupils

More support following diagnoses and during transitions

Quotes:

- The head teacher is lovely and a real strength. He knows all the children by name and knows the parents too. He is present on the playground every morning and often after school. He has brought a lot to the school in terms of community links, the reading bus and much more. He's all for the children and their education and experiences. Staff are lovely and go the extra mile to ensure the children have a great education. The office staff are lovely and communication about things ahead are second to none!
- Inclusiveness.
- Friendly, brilliant outdoor space supportive.
- Very helpful, professional and friendly school.
- The head teacher is very approachable, my child thoroughly enjoys going here. There is always a welcome and happy atmosphere.
- Being green, positive with everything, caring each other and happy school.
- The teachers all genuinely care about the children being happy, healthy and doing well. There is a strong focus on education and attainment whilst also allowing children to be children and have fun.
- All the children know each other and the older ones support the younger ones
- I feel that communication has improved using the new app and seesaw is also effective.
- Children are given lots of opportunities to get involved in different activities and experiences.
- Effective leadership.
- The teachers are amazing and genuinely care about the children.
- Open door policy. Good curriculum. Large outdoor space.
- The head teacher is amazing, I have a child at another school in Westhoughton and to see the head teacher chatting with all children and parents every single day is amazing, you can tell he loves the school. All the staff are very child oriented and encouraging, and it's nice to see a school put pupils and happiness above test scores.
- Can clearly see that all staff love their job, which reflects on how the children are treated. The school is great, they are constantly finding new things for the children to do, and making memories not just teaching.
- Outdoor play. Muddy Mondays. Community feel. The headteacher is warm and friendly and really gets involved.
- The children are always a priority. Parents views are always taken into consideration and put into practice if possible.

The fact that the headteacher is so involved with the children and takes time to do things with them.

- Both my kids are thriving at The Gates - it has a great culture of inclusion, kindness and collaboration. There are so many enrichment activities and opportunities for children to take part in events, try new things, and even develop leadership skills. Teaching staff put their trust in the children, there's a good balance of maintaining discipline and good standards whilst giving the children enough freedom to have fun and be themselves.
- Child focused. Varied extra-curricular activities. Appropriate stretch and challenge to help students achieve.
- All the teachers know all the kids by name. All the children always seem happy!
- I love the addition of the school reading bus and the community garden space. I've always mentioned that they need more forest school type learning. I think the school is great, Mr Doherty has made some good changes within the school since taking over. The teachers are lovely and supportive and I feel like they are always doing their best for my children.
- I think the children all appear to be happy and supported and the teachers are all great.
- Friendly and welcoming school for my just-turned-3-year-old son - his first experience in a nursery environment and he has shown so much growth, both in his education and social skills from his time there. Everything seems to be geared towards the children, whether it be reading initiatives, safety practices or well-organised festival days. Couldn't be happier to have our son at this nursery and hopefully the remainder of his primary education.
- The headteacher is absolutely amazing. The teachers I have met who have taught my daughter are amazing. She has made life long wonderful friends here at the gates. The only regret I have is not bringing her to this school sooner if we had lived in the area then. The gates is a very friendly school and my daughter has come on leaps and bounds since starting not just educational wise but also in her confidence. The gates has made a massive impact on my daughter in only 2 years in a very positive way and i will forever be grateful for that. I would recommend this school to anybody 100%.
- The head teacher. The way the children's actual accomplishments inside and outside of school are celebrated. The way the school tries to involve parents in learning.
- The school fosters a supportive and inclusive learning environment, promoting student success and well-being.
- The good behaviour of staff.
- The school feels like a community. We are so sad that our youngest child will be leaving The Gates this year to go to high school. Both of our children have flourished at The Gates and the opportunities offered to them like sports clubs and trips have been outstanding. The rewards and positive praise that the children receive really does push them to be better, hard-working and lovely individuals. Well done to the whole team at The Gates!
- Inclusive school.
- 100% the staff they are absolutely fantastic towards the children, also the ability to let the kids do outdoor learning, this was a great factor when choosing the gates.
- Strive to improve in any way possible and not just in the building but in making the children believe in their self and be more aware of the world. Knowing you can change the world but being the best version of themselves is changing the world in a good way.
- Regularly updating about things happening within school.
- Mr Doherty- he has turned this school around everyone loves him and I feel he does them back.
- The focus on the children as individuals.
- All children feel important and are praised and encouraged regardless of ability. Strong emphasis on inclusivity and diversity.
- Lots of opportunities offered outside the classroom for children with different interests such as the environment, sports and music.

- Great communication with parents via MCAS and Seesaw.
- Facilities are excellent, especially the reading bus and the outdoor areas.
- The staff! The fun things they do!
- Fantastic head who genuinely cared about the children and will go the extra mile to help parents.
- All the additional opportunities, trips and activities to enrich my children's education. The effort of the staff who work so hard for the children.
- Mr Doherty the headteacher, I think he has been a breath of fresh air for the school and you can see he is very passionate about the school and children. Allowing a water fight for all the school to reward great behaviour in the heatwave was amazing.
- Parent partnership. The head teacher knows each child and family. Teachers are happy to talk and give feedback and the end of every day. You can see it's a happy environment for both staff and children.
- Communication and overall engagement.
- Brilliant school.
- What an amazing headteacher- rare because he is so present so open and knows us all by name- he genuinely cares! We are so lucky to have him and his heart. He genuinely cares about the children and that doesn't go unnoticed. We can see how he wants every child to be valued no matter what their needs are.
- The school feels like a family.
Education always challenging them to know more about the world and to push harder and do better.
The morals and behaviour they teach to the kids is spectacular.
Physical and mental activities are amazing.
- Warm and engaging, activities have improved this year, receptive to parents' concerns/ feedback.
- Inclusive ethos and celebration of differences. Kindness of staff. Presence of Headteacher.
- Safe learning environment, excellent resources and facilities, and a commitment to extra-curricular activities.
- No bullying, everyone friendly, kept in the loop with child's learning.
- The amazing staff team from the wonderful Office team who are so friendly and welcoming, to the amazing adults who support the children and the teachers who genuinely care and listen. Nothing is too much for this school and we really appreciate it.
Mr Simpson and Mr Doherty are available every day and listen and act too.
Mr Doherty is so approachable unlike other heads accordingly to me friends- he knows every name and the children adore him.
- Community-How you celebrate every student.
- Now has strong, caring leadership. My child has surpassed my expectations in his learning, progress and behaviour because of the well-established supportive culture and great staff.
- The school feels extremely personal. Everyone is friendly and really enthusiastic with the children.
- Creating a culture and environment where you get the best out of children without pressure or being punitive.
Children and teachers both like and respect each other.
A sense of community where both academic achievement and other aspects of life are prioritised.
- Makes every child feel included. Helps every child reach their full potential. The staff all go above and beyond. They are always keeping things interesting. Great communication. Mr Doherty knows each child and cares about them.
- It's hard to say one thing. The school goes out of its way to ensure everyone's need is met. Driving inclusion, ensuring every child is seen, ensuring they are celebrated which makes

them want to do much more. The Gates has ensured that my child stays motivated as he was before joining. That makes me happy.

- The people that work there truly care about the children and their future and they enjoy what they do.
- The clubs and environment and friendly staff.
- The Gates' greatest strengths are its caring and supportive staff, its strong focus on children's wellbeing and safety, and its commitment to helping every child reach their full potential.
- Amazing leadership that cascades down throughout the whole school team, which is wonderful to see. Positive values shine through every member of staff that I have met and the children are always put first as they should be.
- Values and the strengths I believe are the community feel and the teaching staff, I can't thank Mrs Jarrett enough for everything she has done for Arabella as a parent of a shy child I did worry about Arabella's progress. Mrs Jarrett has managed to get the best out of Arabella and really build her confidence around school she is far from the girl she was when she began. Can't thank Mrs Jarrett enough for everything she has done for Arabella during the last 2 years.
- The teachers are very respectful
- The headteacher is amazing and has brought some amazing changes into the school to promote learning and achievement. All children love the rewards for behaviour and achievement. The head teachers SEND background and knowledge can be seen and felt especially advancing the knowledge and skills the SENDco was long overdue. It could be better though but improvements can be seen.
- Staff are welcoming & friendly
Cater to every child's individual needs
Always put the child learning first
- Inclusive environment. Nurturing and caring. Exciting place to learn. High standards. Children achieve their full potential.
- They're welcoming, know the kids by name, adapt and make use of the outdoor spaces and provide fun learning experiences. Inclusion and welcoming atmosphere.
- Getting Parents views. Keeping parents up to date.
- The caring nature of all the staff. You can tell inclusion is at the heart of the school. Behaviour of the children - they get so many rewards.
Mr Doherty cares for everyone- he knows all of the children so well and the families too/
- The school culture, values and level of education.