



Saltford
CofE Primary School

Saltford CofE Primary School
Claverton Road, Saltford, Bristol BS31 3DW
T: 01225 872185 E: contactus@saltfordschool.org.uk
W: www.saltfordschool.org.uk [@SaltfordPrimary](https://twitter.com/SaltfordPrimary)
Headteacher: Dawn Sage
Co-Chairs of Governors: Megan Jackson and Richard Rowland

November 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you so much to those of you who returned your annual questionnaires last term. We had 103 responses to the school questionnaire and 64 responses to the Ofsted questionnaire which also went out in May 2019. This information, along with informal feedback we receive and further reflections as a whole staff, will help us constantly improve what we can offer to the children and our community.

There are always areas we can improve and we are committed to doing so. However, it is important we also recognise and celebrate our strengths and achievements from recent surveys. There were so many positive and constructive comments made – thank you for that and for all you do to support us. Positive comments and themes included:

The school has strong caring values and is also a very happy, welcoming and communicative school. Really well organised.

Exceptional enrichment opportunities.
Broad range of extra- curricular activities and strong PTA.

Teachers and reception staff are friendly, helpful and knowledgeable.
A wide and interesting curriculum.
Always striving to be a better school.

Understands the importance of reading.
Fair and equal opportunities for all. An inclusive school.
School promotes healthy living (food and exercise).

Encouraging a strong sense of community.
Promotes kindness and good values

Sets a high standard of behaviour.
Very strong high quality teaching.
Fun and safe place to learn.



As well as the strengths, there were areas where parents/carers felt the school needs to consider further. The areas raised overall were...

AREAS TO DEVELOP	MAIN ACTIONS SO FAR...
<p>Homework / Home learning</p> <p>My child receives appropriate homework for their age:</p> <p>Results: Agree: 78 Disagree: 12 Neither agree or disagree: 12</p>	<p>This is a challenging area to get right. It is always an area where we have mixed comments e.g. some parents wanting more and some wanting less.</p> <p>We believe Homework / Home Learning plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Some of the actions we have taken so far include:</p> <p>The class letters received at the start of term and the class page on the website outlined homework expectations, and each year group will ensure this is clear for parents.</p> <p>The curriculum review was carried out in May 2019 and revisited in October 2019 on our inset days. Our curriculum is based on a creative and thematic approach to learning. Each topic provides a rich menu of exciting and motivating learning activities that make links between all aspects of our children's learning. Some homework tasks are linked to these topics.</p> <p>Children who carry out great homework are celebrated and we regularly share their work in celebration assemblies.</p> <p>Some parents would prefer there to be more homework linked to maths, spelling and reading. We pay for children to access TT Rock Stars so that they can practise their times tables and we introduced Doodle Maths for all children in the Summer of 2019. We have also established a new link with software called Spelling Shed which we use to support the children's home learning.</p> <p>During 2018/19, recognising that a greater number of reading books were needed for each level, we have invested £10,000 in new books so that children have a greater range of choice.</p> <p>Next steps: We have given every child a Reading diary so that parents/ carers can record reading taking place at home every day. We have moved over to planners for children from year three to year six which will replace these diaries.</p> <p>We will discuss this further with the staff and consider if there is a way to build in additional practice of basic skills without creating excessive amounts of extra work for the staff – their focus needs to be on learning in the classroom.</p>

Behaviour and Anti-Bullying approach

The school ensures that parents are well behaved:

Results:

Agree: 94

Disagree: 1

Neither agree nor

disagree: 8

The school deals effectively with bullying:

Results:

Agree: 45

Disagree: 2

Neither agree nor

disagree: 34

No answer: 22

This is a far more positive response than the previous year and we are really pleased that the perception about behaviour is very positive.

The Positive Behaviour Policy can be found [here](#). All staff and children will ensure this is implemented consistently. The levels of behaviour poster [here](#) will support consistency across the school. The school uses a piece of software called CPOMs which will log all behaviour classed as Levels 3 to 5 and record next steps to aid communication. We have clarified at which point within our levels of behaviour parents are informed and always ensure this is on the day an incident happens.

Please avoid listening to hearsay – if you have any concerns always contact the class teacher or Headteacher. We keep a detailed behaviour log and are always happy to talk this through with you.

Some of our children require extra support in managing their behaviour – we are a fully inclusive school and we work hard to ensure that all our children receive the support they need.

Our Anti- Bullying Policy can be found [here](#). All staff and children (through the newly elected School Council) ensure this is implemented consistently. Children discuss and will sign as a class the new Anti-Bullying Promise (page six of the Policy) at the start of each academic year, pledging as individuals to work together to show respect and kindness to others. In Key Stage Two our two posters can also be found in their new planners.

National Anti-Bullying week was held during the week beginning 11th November and will promote the message 'change starts with us' and celebrate our school community.

Children are regularly invited to discuss and reflect on the theme of difference and to view this as a positive aspect of life through assemblies, PSHE lessons and class circle times.

All incidents of reported bullying are investigated and actions put in place to ensure that situations are dealt with promptly and effectively. The school uses a piece of software called CPOMs to enable effective logging and sharing information with regards to any alleged bullying incidents.

We need to work on a shared understanding of what constitutes bullying with both parents and children - the new STOP poster (see page 5 of the policy) has been introduced to children this year and will hopefully add clarity to this.

*Several Times On Purpose
Start Telling Other People
Stand up to the Bully/ Take appropriate action/ Open Up/ Protect yourself and help others.*

<p>Responding to concerns raised: Results: Agree: 74 Disagree: 4 Neither agree nor disagree: 16 No answer: 9</p>	<p>The most important message is always let us know if you are concerned that a child is been bullied. If we don't know about it we can't act on it – always bring your concerns to the class teacher or the Head teacher.</p> <p>Parents overall do feel we respond well to any concerns raised and recognise that the leadership team, teachers and other staff try to be as flexible as possible to meet parents. If you do feel you haven't been listened to or that the outcome of a meeting is not what you were hoping for please do talk to us and we can revisit any discussions again.</p> <p>The office have access to my diary and unless I am out of school that day – my aim would always be to get back to you the same day to either meet up or plan a meeting.</p>
<p>Communication and supporting your child.</p> <p>The school keeps parents/carers well informed about what is happening in school, including how and what my child is taught?</p> <p>Results: Agree: 93 Disagree: 4 Neither agree or disagree: 6</p> <p>I feel welcome when I come into school</p> <p>Results: Agree: 94 Disagree: 4 Neither agree nor disagree: 5</p>	<p>We are working hard to streamline our communication systems. We continue to communicate in a range of different ways so that you can hear as much as possible about the life and activities of Saltford School – see Communication Summary here. It is tricky to get the balance – some parents request more information, others are finding there is already too much shared. We share information in a range of different ways including school gateway, email, twitter, the website and hard copy etc.</p> <p>We have taken on board all comments made with regards to the communications at school and we will continue to work on this area. You can also support us by noting important dates in your diary – especially deadlines for payment (we have a section on the newsletter too called letters sent and payments due). It is very time consuming to contact parents/carers for dinner money payments etc – we all need to do our bit and work together.</p> <p>We aim to respond to queries as quickly as possible and the Headteacher will always make herself available should her advice / support be needed. We have restructured the office roles and responsibilities so that Mrs Rich has the opportunity to focus on her role on the front desk and address queries as quickly as possible. Please be mindful though that we are a large school. Encouraging your children to build their independence to remember to bring their kit etc on the correct day is very helpful and takes pressure off the school office.</p> <p>We have offered a range of workshops, meetings and other events for parents throughout the year which are detailed a year in advance – see diary dates for parents. We have an online system for booking consultation evenings to ensure you can book a slot with the teacher and enabled parents to have more time looking at their children's work and discussing their child's progress.</p> <p>Information about progress, attainment and attendance is shared with parents/ carers on consultation evenings as well as on the annual report.</p>

<p style="color: red; text-align: center;">IN THE SURVEY YOU SAID... (number of parents who said it below.)</p>	<p style="color: red; text-align: center;">WE DID...</p>
<p>School dinners are of a good standard for taste and nutrition.</p> <p>Results: Agree: 61 Disagree: 12 Neither agree nor disagree: 23 No answer: 7</p>	<p>Due to the size of our Hall and the 429 children we need to accommodate we do not currently have the space during lunchtimes to offer the opportunity for parents to come in to taste the food for yourself. However, we are working on opportunities to offer this at other times should you wish to do this. Ideally we need a second school hall to create more lunchtime space and for use at other times also and we are continuing to explore the viability of this albeit we would need to raise the money ourselves – if you would like to get involved in this project do send us an email.</p> <p>We are now in the second year of working with the catering company called Zest – click here to read their approach to our menu and the menu itself. They came along to meet our new parents whilst their children were at story time – which gave parents an opportunity to do some tastings and talk to our school cook about the menu etc. Zest also came along twice to meet our school council to discuss the new menu and do some tastings with them.</p> <p>Zest is open to suggestions and we have raised with them comments from parents about the sugar content in the meals and possible next steps which they have responded to in their new menu. The School Council will be continuing their work on the “Sugar Smart” project also. We will keep working to improve this area and the quality of school dinners.</p>
<p>The school keeps parents/carers informed about what is happening in school, including how and what my child is taught.</p> <p>Results: Agree: 93 Disagree: 4 Neither agree nor disagree: 6</p>	<p>We were really pleased that 99% of parents/carers feel that their child makes good progress and is well looked after at school and that 98% felt that children are well taught at school.</p> <p>Every year group holds either wow workshops or access mornings twice a year (dates are on the school diary) so you can visit the classrooms during the school day and look through work with your child. Appointments with the class teacher can be made to do this outside the school day if you are working.</p> <p>We offer a range of workshops, meetings and other events for parents throughout the year which are detailed a year in advance – see diary dates for parents.</p> <p>In addition sessions were delivered and are planned again this academic in year groups to provide ongoing information about how we teach basic skills: EYFS Literacy and Maths workshops, welcome to Key Stage Two meeting etc.</p> <p>We have held meetings about end of key stage assessments (Y2 & Y6 SATs) as well as the Y1 phonics workshops – we will run these again and broaden the content to include more general information to help you support your child.</p>

	<p>We publicise information about the curriculum on our website and regularly celebrate learning on our Twitter feed.</p> <p>We are exploring other workshop ideas including information about our new maths scheme and resources. We are also developing more class assemblies with the idea that we can open these up to the class parents so celebrating some of the excellent achievements taking place across the school.</p>
<p>Comments made about the children that are always being chosen.</p>	<p>We are a large primary school (429 pupils) and our aim is to offer opportunities to as many children as possible. Our groups such as equalities team, green team and travel ambassadors are open to all volunteers. School Council, House Captains and Digital Leaders are elected roles.</p> <p>We are very mindful that many of our parents now work – so that if there are opportunities at school it is important to do “names out of a hat” rather than first come first served – for example cycling proficiency.</p> <p>We always make sure we keep records of children who are chosen in our celebration assemblies so that over the academic year all children will be chosen.</p> <p>We have also set up a record system for sporting opportunities so that we can keep track of who takes part etc. and make sure we share out the opportunities. For example – we made sure that every child in Year Six had the opportunity last year to represent the school in a sport.</p> <p>On the topic of teams and trials we do aim to run trials when we feel they are necessary. However, we don't always have the time, space and staff to do this for every event. With regards to the swimming gala for instance – Mr Lye and his assistant teach the children to swim on a weekly basis. He is well placed to choose a team as opposed to carrying out a trial which we would have to pay him to do out of an already stretched budget. Teaching staff also deliver PE twice a week and are well placed to let us know who would represent the school well. We put teams together that are both competitive and also mixed ability. The recent gymnastics squad was made up of a team who didn't attend a club. Dance Umbrella is also an example of a dance team of volunteers. We feel there is also a place for our most able children in the area of sport to have the opportunity to take part in league fixtures and tournaments and progress through to county opportunities.</p>
<p>Academisation and joining the Wellsway Multi Academy Trust (WMAT) has strengthened the school.</p> <p>Results: Agree: 22 Disagree: 10 Neither agree nor disagree: 61 No answer: 10</p>	<p>At Saltford we aim to understand and welcome change because change is learning and learning is our main focus. We feel that it is important to be an outward looking school – hence why we are very involved with Bath Spa University teacher training for example. The opportunities for our staff to work outside the school to develop their expertise is an advantage because staff continue to develop and learn and bring new ideas to the school. These opportunities for professional development will ensure we retain our staff because they have the opportunity to continue to develop whilst maintaining their role in the classroom.</p> <p>Joining a Multi Academy Trust has been a huge learning curve for the school. Now we are three years in we will make sure we regularly share the benefits of working in a larger team so you have greater awareness.</p>

	<p>The WMAT are also developing a bulletin to share the work and news of all the schools in the team.</p> <p>We regularly flag up the opportunities we have had because we are part of the trust in the newsletters. We have had significant investment financially from the trust into our buildings – an example of this are new boilers, gas cookers in our school kitchen, new external panels on our main building – which we are very grateful for.</p> <p>We have also had access to support and specialisms from other schools in the trust. For example we have support example a Science specialist leading whole school assembly, Year Two visiting the IKB studio school and Year 5 visiting Wellsway school for a science lesson. We have a number of projects planned with our partner schools moving forwards also.</p>
<p>The role and responsibility of the Governing Body and how to contact them</p> <p>Results:</p> <p>Agree: 65</p> <p>Disagree: 14</p> <p>Neither agree nor disagree: 21</p> <p>No answer: 3</p>	<p>The Governor section of the website is fully up to date – click here for pen portraits about our Governors. The weekly newsletter carries details with regards to contacting the Governing Body. Our new termly launch letter also has a Governor news section also to keep you up to date.</p> <p>The Governor run parents’ forum has offered a great opportunity for parents to gather together, share views and generate ideas to develop our school further. The format for this is going to be reviewed to make it more accessible to all.</p> <p>We will continue to work on raising the profile of the work of our Governors using all our communication systems.</p>

The above table is only a summary of how your views are listened to and acted upon. We have read all the comments and suggestions which have been made and will take this into consideration moving forwards. The graphs in the appendix show a useful pie chart for each of the questions asked.

Thank you also to the two parents who gave their time to come along to our Parents’ forum on the 1st May 2019 chaired by our Chairs of Governors and the two further emails we received which gave their thoughts. Our aim is to listen to your views and do our very best to accommodate when we can. We will relook at the forum frequency and timings to see what we can do as so few parents were able to attend and try something different this academic year.

Some of you commented that we do a great job but we need more staff. We would love to have additional staff but we also have to work within our budget. As a school we have been very vocal in the campaign for fairer funding for schools and our unions continue to lobby the Government for extra money for our children. Without the support of the PTA and yourselves our school would not have the resources and opportunities it has – so do please support the PTA.

Please remember that you are always welcome to email or call in with your views and suggestions. The office have access to my diary also should you wish to make an appointment to see me.

Mrs D Sage, Headteacher