

## St Paul's School Governors' Parent Survey: July 2019

Thank you so much for the time you spent completing the parent surveys this year - particularly as we received 57 surveys in total, which was more than those received over the last two years. Be assured that we have read every survey, and valued all of your responses. As always with a community of people with different ideas and opinions, the results reflected a range of views; e.g. from those parents who felt the school communication had been too much, to those who felt it had been too little. Below is a summary of the main feedback we received. and how we plan to take the results forward.

### Results

The vast majority of parents were happy with their children's schooling experience at St Paul's School, including their education, care, and experience within the classroom. This positive view spanned across all years of the school. For example, a parent of a Reception student stated being:

*"Extremely impressed with the school thus far...."*

And a parent of a Year 6 student described how:

*"....my child has loved their time here".*

There was also an ongoing theme of parents' children enjoying being within St Paul's School. For example, one parent described how:

*"My children always report that they have had fun and learnt lots on any given day".*

The majority of parents reported finding staff approachable and that they responded well to their concerns. For example, one parent stated:

*"All teachers / staff / Mrs Butler are approachable and deal with issues quickly."*

Finally, the quantity and quality of sporting and extracurricular pursuits within the school was frequently mentioned. For example, one parent reported:

*"Extra-curricular activities have been great - my child has done lots of after school clubs this year and enjoyed them all. It's nice having Premier Sports in school too".*

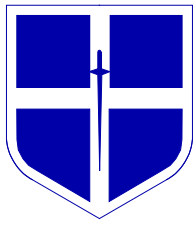
We agree that Premier Sports has been really beneficial to the students within St Paul's School, and they have introduced a wide range of sports, outside of the 'traditional' football, netball and rounders; including: racket skills, basketball, archery, dodgeball and POP lacrosse.

### Growth Mindset

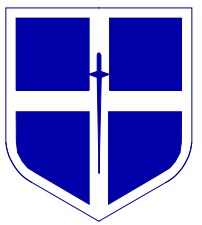
The majority of parents reported that they had seen a positive improvement in their children's ability to employ Growth Mindset ideas into their work (e.g. having a go at work that they perceive might be difficult, and working independently).

### Christian Values

The vast majority of parents believed that St Paul's School promotes strong Christian values and ethos in the students. Many parents chose to write comments about what their view of the school's Christian ethos is, and areas such as: respect, Christian values, kindness, tolerance and hope, the Church and school links, and the



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opportunity for the children to have prayer space seemed to be some of the key aspects that parents most appreciated.

## **Feedback on Academic Progress**

Parents were keen to have more information on their children's academic progress around the midpoint of the school year. Therefore, in response to this feedback, the school will now be sharing detailed assessment information mid-year based upon the robust and nationally standardised assessment materials St Paul's has been using during the academic year. This information will be available to parents in advance of the February parents' consultations, to allow relevant discussions to happen during these meetings if needed.

## **Notice**

We received feedback from some parents, outlining how it would be helpful for them to receive greater notice of school events. Therefore the school will endeavour to give two weeks' notice for any trips / visits / school events. However it is important to note that all school trips need approval from Bucks County Council, and the school is not allowed to send out parent letters until this approval is returned. Therefore there may be occasions when this two weeks' notice is not possible.

## **Term dates**

Parents were keen to have as much information as possible regarding future term dates. For your information, these are detailed on the school website, under the 'Parent' menu, through the 'Opening times and term dates' tab. They are kept up to date well in advance, so are a helpful reference point for parents.

## **Sports Day**

Parents suggested having a back-up Sports Day date to allow for inclement / unsafe hot weather. Therefore next academic year our planned Sports Day is Friday 3rd July 2020; and the reserve Sports Day date will be Friday 10th July 2020. We hope that this means parents are able to make arrangements well in advance.

## **Class Assemblies**

There was a query for class assemblies to start at 9.15am rather than 10am, due to parent work commitments. Unfortunately this is not possible, due to the children needing the first part of the day to practice the assembly, set up the hall and props, and get into costumes (where relevant). One option would be for class assemblies to be at 2.45pm occasionally instead. We would welcome any feedback as to whether this afternoon time would be more convenient.

The school will also send out dates for class assemblies the term beforehand, in order to give parents as much notice as possible to manage their work commitments, etc. However it is worth noting that the further dates are given in advance, the more likely they may need to be changed, due to events beyond the school's control.

## **School grounds**

A minority of parents asked about the plans to develop the school grounds. The PTA is currently working extremely hard with local charities and businesses, and with school PTA events to gain the funds to allow a regeneration of the school grounds, including: the environmental area, the playground and the Nursery garden. Hopefully there will be more updates on this over the next academic year!