



The Beacon CE Primary School
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Dear Parents/Carers,



In March 2017, you were invited to fill in a questionnaire about your opinion of our school. Thank you to everyone who filled in one of the 75 completed forms: we are really encouraged by your very positive responses to the school's work and we'd like to share them with you.

We will also try to answer or explain what we are trying to do about the things that you think we could improve. Here are your responses:

		Agree		Disagree		Don't know/ Didn't answer	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1	My child is happy at this school.	74	99	1	1		
2	My child feels safe at this school.	75	100				
3	My child makes good progress at this school.	75	100				
4	My child is well looked after at this school.	74	99			1	1
5	My child is taught well at this school.	75	100				
6	My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	69	92	3	4	3	4
7	This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	72	96	1	1	2	3
8	This school deals effectively with bullying.	56	75	2	3	17	23
9	This school is well led and managed.	73	97			2	3
10	This school responds well to any concerns I raise.	69	92	1	1	5	7
11	I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress.	71	95	3	4	1	1
12	Would you recommend this school to another parent?	74	99			1	1

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Parent's Feedback Comments

Here are some of the things that several parents/carers said we do particularly well at The Beacon. We have categorised them into different areas. (The number indicates number of different positive comments.)

<p>Teaching and Learning</p> <p>Teaching of reading and promoting a love of reading (10) Teaching of maths (2) Support for children having difficulty with their learning (2) Good strong teaching (7) Moral teaching being strong High expectations Positive learning experiences for example; trips (7) Progress of children (5) Teaching of music including partnership with In harmony (6) Teaching swimming (4) Rewards for good work encouraging confidence and motivation (3) Broad Curriculum Appropriate homework (4)</p>
<p>Behaviour and Safety</p> <p>Encouraging and achieving good behaviour (10) Ensuring children happy and safe (3) Listening to children</p>
<p>Leadership and Management / Policies / Ethos</p> <p>Good leadership (3)</p>
<p>Communication and Relationships with Parents</p> <p>Keeping parents updated about what is happening (2) Teachers easy to access and talk to (6) Good relationships with parents and children - all staff helpful and friendly (5) Very welcoming warm and friendly school</p>
<p>Other</p> <p>Healthy food Encouraging attendance and punctuality (3) Breakfast and After school provision (4) Affordability of trips Inclusive school Use of rewards (2)</p>
<p>Comments</p> <p>'Teachers are brilliant with any problems.' 'Socially, racially and religiously inclusive.' 'The Beacon monitors the progress of its pupils very well.' 'Makes my daughter look forward to being there.' 'Provides a safe, welcome, enjoyable place of learning that engages with the needs of the children.'</p>

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Areas to Improve	
<p>Access to School Premises:</p> <p>Open school gates earlier (3 parents)</p> <p>Widen gates for easier access (3 parents)</p> <p>Main entrance gate is very heavy (1 parent) (car park entrance)</p> <p>Funerals at home time! (3 parents)</p> <p>All weather shelter for parents (1 parent)</p>	<p>Gates and classroom doors are opened at 8:40, if the weather is fine, breakfast club play outside from 8 – 8.40am so unfortunately for your child's safety we are unable to allow parents into the playground whilst breakfast club children are still outside playing. Breakfast club is open at 7.30am for all children.</p> <p>We are currently reviewing the whole school access with an architect as part of our improvement of the building. The senior leadership of the school agreed that we need to try and improve access, as the school has expanded this is a new problem that we will work on over time. Thanks for your patience over this.</p> <p>We have spoken to the schools building consultant to look at how this can be improved.</p> <p>We have informed Kate that 3 parents have an issue with this. Kate, our vicar is aware and does try and schedule funerals before home time. The crematorium times dictate the funeral time often and Kate also needs to be very sensitive to the needs of grieving families.</p> <p>We will review this along with our architect plans for 2 form entry expansion as children also need shelter and shade.</p>
<p>Allow packed lunches (1 parent 2017) 2 others mentioned school meals but didn't elaborate.</p> <p>1 parent suggested menu could include more world foods as this would support multicultural learning.</p>	<p>Our school policy is that all children have a school dinner at lunchtime to encourage children to eat a range of different foods in particular fruit and vegetables (we aim for at least 5 portions of fruit / vegetables a day). Lots of families are really pleased with this policy as they have commented on how their child is now willing to try new foods and eat a wider range of different meals. In the past, lots of families were providing packed lunches which included unhealthy options which the NHS state should only be eaten as treats e.g. crisps, chocolate. Also children were often given the same food each day in their packed lunches provided by home e.g. ham sandwich and so were not getting the opportunity to eat a range of different textures and flavours. There is a daily sandwich option as one of the choices. Families are welcome to take their child home for their school lunch but currently no families have opted to do this.</p> <p>We have mentioned the feedback re more world foods specifically to the catering company.</p>
<p>Provide transport to the swimming baths (2 parents)</p> <p>Transport to public events (1 parent)</p> <p>School bus (1 parent)</p>	<p>We have reviewed this previously. School pays for EYFS to have a bus as they go to a swimming baths not within walking distance of the school. At the moment, we are very fortunate that Everton Park Swimming Baths continues to remain open.</p> <p>The cost for a child to swim is £4 per child per session. With the bus for a child to swim is £5.50 per child per session We have to buy blocks of 10 so in total the additional cost for a class of 30 to go swimming with a bus is £1,650.</p> <p>The logistics around buses is that sometimes we are waiting for the bus to return to collect children – this is also an additional waste of time.</p>

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Areas to Improve	
	<p>The finance committee will review these costs at their next meeting and we will inform parents of our decision.</p> <p>School budgets are tight but as we have stated in the past, we would like to have our own mini-buses if we can afford it. We would need 2 to transport a class. The finance committee will report on this following their next meeting.</p>
<p>Communication:</p> <p>More notice for activities e.g. school nurse</p> <p>2 parents both mentioned: working – one asking for activities to be at end of week</p> <p>Give out letters in class not at door</p> <p>Notice board in reception or outside classrooms to inform of events.</p> <p>More pictures – (parent did not specify so we have presumed the parent means on website (1 parent)</p> <p>Access to SENCo (2 parents)</p>	<p>Teachers have been informed and are aware that parents need to be informed well in advanced for special trips and events. Most events are displayed on the school website calendar.</p> <p>The school nurse visit dates are on the website well in advance and a text is sent out before hand as a reminder. It is the last Monday of every month.</p> <p>We are aware there are working parents who need notice to attend events. We try and rotate things round so different events are on different days at different times but unfortunately sometimes it is availability of space in school or limited choice of dates on offer.</p> <p>We are working on operating a paperless system where we send everything by e-mail. Please ensure the office has your most up to date e-mail address. Staff sometimes resort to handing letters out at the door so that the child hands it to a parent. Some parents unfortunately don't check book bags regularly and then complain they did not get the letter in time!</p> <p>We are aware that not all parents collect at hometime so the most efficient way of informing all parents we have found is via text and e-mail. This is now normal practise for lots of schools. We have to find the most efficient ways of communicating to free up staff to focus on learning in the classroom.</p> <p>Photographs of special events are regularly updated on our school twitter account. This twitter feed is incorporated into our website.</p> <p>If you have any concerns regarding SEN the first port of call is the class teacher. The class teacher can then pass on these concerns to our SENCo who will then contact you to discuss your concerns or to make an appointment. All teachers need to have an expertise in SEND to support children in their class. There are 3 teachers who have specific SENCo qualifications. There are also 6 other teachers who have SEND intervention qualifications.</p>
<p>Teaching or following Biblical values and morals more effectively (1 parent)</p>	<p>We follow the Liverpool Diocesan Board of Education Syllabus for RE. The distinctive content of the RE Curriculum reflects our foundations as a Church school.</p> <p>Christian Values are embedded throughout the daily life of our school. We focus on a key value each half-term and this value is explored primarily in Collective Worship but also in Religious Education and other aspects of the curriculum.</p>
<p>Homework:</p>	<p>Our whole school homework policy states that the teachers handout</p>

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Areas to Improve	
<p>More homework/change books more than just once a week (1 parent)</p> <p>Only allowing homework weekends for homework (1 parent)</p>	<p>homework on a Friday for children to bring in on the Tuesday. This helps parents who have more than one child in the school as it is easier to track when they have homework as opposed to siblings bringing in homework on different days. Homework also includes daily reading and learning spellings. If there are any parents who would like to support their child more at home with their learning, please speak to the class teacher who will advise you on what you could do at home.</p> <p>Reading books are changed once a week as the child needs to be very familiar with their home reading books before they change them. This also includes the children developing their comprehension skills. As well as reading, the children should be encouraged to answer questions about the book. The green reading record books, where you date and make comments on your child's reading, has suggested questions, activities and top tips (pages 2 and 3) which you can do with your child at home. If a child is reading a longer book e.g. a novel, it may take them more than a week to read it all. Children reading using book banded books (reading scheme books) should be given 2 books per week. Research has shown children gain confidence and improve their fluency if they re-read books at the right level. Children should find the book challenging but not too challenging!</p>
<p>More after school activities (1 parent)</p>	<p>Currently we have Music and Sports clubs after school. We review the timetable each half term and change it in response to intake of clubs and the needs of the children. If your child has a particular interest in an after school activity and we don't provide it at the moment, please let us know and we will certainly consider it when we are reviewing our after school provision for the term. We are limited by inside space during the Winter for sports clubs.</p>
<p>More play areas in yard (1 parent)</p>	<p>The school council have recently met and have made a list of new sports equipment that we will be ordering to be used on the school playground. This equipment will be used during lunchtimes.</p>
<p>Children losing belongings (1 parent)</p>	<p>Unfortunately, on occasions, children do lose things. In order to try and reduce this problem please make sure your child writes their name clearly on their coat, uniform and book bag.</p> <p>Staff have been informed that this issue was noted on the parent questionnaires and therefore will try their best to reduce this problem.</p>

Whole School Priority 2016 - 2017

To promote a love of reading within the whole school community and raise standards.

We hope you find this information interesting. We will do our best to keep on improving.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

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