



15th October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Parent Survey - Autumn 2024

Thank you to those of you who took the time to complete the parent survey. We wanted to share with you the positives and then explain what we are doing to proactively address some of the development areas you have highlighted.

Firstly, we found;

- 97% of parents feel the staff at St Mary's are approachable when they have a concern, worry or an issue.
- 95% of parents would recommend our school to another parent.
- 90% of parents feel their child is safe at St Mary's and the other 7% wrote unsure at this time and 3% saying they did not think their child was safe.
- 96% of parents feel well informed about what their child is learning at school.

Some of the positive comments around the school's strengths

"There is kind and friendly staff that support all the children."

"They have open and honest communication."

"The school has a clear plan that is stuck to, to give the children the best possible experience ready for high school and further education."

"The enrichment opportunities this year look good and I think it keeps children engaged in their learning."

"The adults on the gate know the children by name and are approachable and transparent."

"The teachers and headteacher are all lovely and the secretary is very helpful and kind. The organisation and information provided to the parents by email is very informative."

"The parent friendly AIDP showed a great new side to the school and that they are really trying to improve. Nothing like that seen before."

Thank you for all of the positive feedback, it does help us to identify what is going well and to ensure these things remain at the forefront of our practice.



"They will soar on wings like eagles"



*Nurture. Respect. Responsible. Community.
Compassion. Courage.*



Areas of development

I shared with you at the beginning of the year the parent friendly AIDP which identifies the areas of development the school is focusing on this year so we are transparent with everyone, from you as parents, to St Benet's Trust. We also appreciate other areas you wanted to raise so I have listed these below with the actions we are taking.

Area of development	Actions taken by the school
Bullying	<p>This was the main area of concern from parents. I have shared our new 'Positive Relationships and Behaviour Policy' which outlines our approaches. We will not tolerate bullying at St Mary's and take all incidents seriously.</p> <p>One of our next steps is to educate the children and families on the difference between bullying and friendship fallouts. Bullying is defined as 'behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, which intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally.' We teach this to the children as the 3P's. 'Power' (an imbalance of power), 'Persistent' (happens all of the time on a daily basis) and 'Purpose' (it is intentional).</p> <p>We do not want anti bullying work to be tokenistic and only mentioned during Anti Bullying week so we have planned across the year other ways in which to inform the children about bullying.</p> <p>Here are some of them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct a pupil survey with all children about their experiences each term. The pastoral team are then meeting with those children to work with them to identify if they are being bullied (persistently) or if it is a friendship fallout.• Our student subject ambassadors are leading bullying assemblies across the year to re-focus and educate the children on different aspects.• The police are coming to lead workshops and assemblies with our pupils around the 'criminal age of responsibility' and what action can be taken by the law if children are intentionally harming others.• Schools mental health and community teams coming to work with pupils who have been identified as intentionally harming other children.• Liaising with the National Bullying Helpline and running workshops to empower our young people.• Running the NSPCC Speak out, Stay Safe Campaign and the importance of standing up for your rights.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In years 5 & 6 we run the National Active Bystander Campaign, again reinforcing that children must not stand back and watch unkind behaviour. • We promote kindness in everything we do. • We work with the inclusion team and fair access team when children meet the threshold for being identified as the bully to ensure a multifaceted approach is taken with the support of external agencies.
Homework - could we have homework books or pockets?	We think this is a good idea and although we are going to be working towards all homework being online we are happy to provide exercise books for those families that require them. Please message your child's class teacher on Class Dojo if you would like an exercise book.
Junior school to have better links with Manor Field and Long Stratton High School	This is something we have been developing and all of us are really keen to continue supporting one another. The three Headteachers meet termly to discuss what collaboration events we can do together, such as the Colour Run and school choir at Christmas. We share resources between the schools such as the PA systems, stages, lighting etc to reduce costs. We also have a fabulous PTA that are making excellent links across the three schools to provide the community with bigger and better events. Our transition offer has improved over the last 12 months and our new year 3 and year 6 children have many opportunities for additional transition if required.
After School Clubs - Would like more of a range	This half term we have 4 after school clubs running. We do agree they are all sports related clubs however we are trying to source other people to provide a variety of clubs but this is proving difficult. It is not financially viable to provide wrap around care at the moment.

Kind Regards

Miss L Richardson
Headteacher