



Cottesmore St. Mary

Catholic Primary School

THE DIOCESE OF ARUNDEL AND BRIGHTON



Headteacher: Rachel Breen

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20th July 2024

Dear parent/carers,

At the end of the summer term, parents and carers were invited to provide feedback on a range of aspects of school life. This feedback is a vital part of our ongoing self-evaluation and helps to inform both future planning and areas for development, as well as identifying what is working well.

Approximately 140 families took part in the survey and we are extremely grateful for the time taken to share your views. Your responses are helpful when shaping our School Development Plan. The survey covers areas including learning, health and wellbeing, behaviour, anti-bullying, homework, enrichment, communication and equality.

We are pleased to share the many strengths identified, with a high proportion of parents/carers agreeing or strongly agreeing with the following statements:

- My child is happy at school – 96% (133 families)
- My child feels safe at school – 98% (136 families)
- My child is well looked after at this school – 97% (136 families)
- My child is supported to form healthy relationships – 95% (132 families)
- The school supports pupils to behave well and make positive choices – 98% (135 families)
- The school promotes children's spiritual and moral development – 95% (131 families)
- My child is taught well – 95% (132 families)
- My child makes good progress – 94% (128 families)
- The school is well led and managed – 97% (135 families)
- I would recommend this school to another parent – 97% (135 families)
- The school teaches kindness and the importance of equality – 96% (134 families)
- The school offers a good range of extra-curricular activities – 94% (130 families)

Please see attached for the full survey results.

Following analysis of the results, the Senior Leadership Team has identified next steps which feed directly into the School Development Plan. Results are shared and discussed with Governors as well as next steps.

Particular attention has been given to responses scoring below 90%, alongside all parental comments.

It is important to note that a number of parents/carers selected 'neutral' for some questions due to having no direct experience of that area. For example, in relation to bullying, 16 families selected 'neutral', largely because they had not encountered bullying at Cottesmore whereas it was a small number who disagreed (4). If there are any outstanding concerns, we strongly encourage contact with the school so we can work together to resolve these.

We welcome any additional ideas or feedback on how we can continue to improve. Your partnership and insight remain highly valued. The full survey results can be accessed on our website.

Kind regards,

Rachel Breen (Headteacher)

Key areas for further development

Homework

79% (109 families) agree/strongly agree
8% (13 families) disagree/strongly disagree
12% (17 families) neutral

We recognise the importance of ensuring that homework does not place undue pressure on family life. Homework will be manageable, clearly explained and designed to fit naturally into family routines. Daily reading, times tables and spelling practice will remain the core weekly expectations, with any additional activities optional. Where optional online platforms such as TTRS and MyMaths are used, alternative paper-based resources are available on request. Homework sheets are available via Seesaw. Homework can also be given as a paper copy if preferred/on request.

Communication with parents/carers

89% (125 families) agree/strongly agree
4% (5 families) disagree/strongly disagree
7% (10 families) neutral

The main point of note for families was the volume of Pings. School messages will be streamlined with key information and dates shared primarily through the weekly newsletter and termly communications. We will work to reduce the number of Pings sent. Pings will only be used when providing information regarding trips relevant to specific year groups, individuals or families who have outstanding balances for Breakfast Club or school lunches.

Information about pupil progress

87% (121 families) agree/strongly agree
5% (4 families) disagree/strongly disagree
8% (11 families) neutral

We offer Parents' Evenings twice a year and provide end-of-year reports. If there are any concerns regarding a pupil's progress, parents and carers will be contacted by the class teacher. We also operate an open-door policy, allowing parents to contact the class teacher with any concerns or to request additional time if a Parents' Evening appointment does not feel sufficient.

Response to concerns

90% (121 families) agree/strongly agree
4% (4 families) disagree/strongly disagree
8% (11 families) neutral

We welcome feedback from parents and carers and operate an open-door policy. In the first instance, parents should contact their child's class teacher. If the matter is not resolved, they may contact the relevant SLT lead for the year group or email Anna Mullans (SENCo) or Cath McLoughlin (Deputy Head). If concerns remain unresolved, parents may contact the Headteacher, Mrs Breen. Members of the SLT are also available on the playground daily before and after school to discuss any concerns.

