

Parent Survey – Feedback from Governors January 2024

Dear Families,

Thank you so much for taking the time to fill in and return the parent/carer questionnaire regarding your child/children's experience of Corbridge CofE First School. We especially appreciate you taking the time to tell us how we are doing. Parent questionnaires are an important part of the way in which our school evaluates what we are doing well and where we can improve.

We are really pleased to report that the overwhelming majority of parents/carers are really happy with their child's experience of school. This is so brilliant to read as governors, and we are really grateful to our staff and wider school community for their continuing support. What was remarkable this year, was the number of parents/carers who used the questionnaire as an opportunity to say thank you to CFS staff for their support, dedication and friendliness this year and governors would also like to take this opportunity to echo this thanks.

We've enclosed the numerical data (apologies: it makes for cheerful but dry reading!) but have also summarised below the qualitative responses from the feedback box at the end of the questionnaire. The responses have also identified some areas in which we can do better and, in addition, we've received some helpful suggestions as to how to improve in specific areas. All of the praise, advice and suggestions will be taken on board, carefully considered and acted upon.

The survey was completed across the Federation of Broomhaugh and Corbridge CofE First Schools. If you would like to see the results from the BFS survey, they can be viewed here:

http://www.broomhaugh.northumberland.sch.uk/website/parent_view/249566

Thank you.

Summary:

- 59 responses were received.
- 98.3% respondents agreed/strongly agreed that their child was happy at school.
- 98.3% respondents agreed/strongly agreed that their child felt safe at school.
- 94.8% of respondents said school made sure the children behaved well.
- 74.1% children had not experienced bullying (with a further 3.4% respondents "unsure"). 96.5% of remaining respondents reported that they agreed/strongly agreed that school had dealt with bullying effectively.
- 96.6% respondents agreed/strongly agreed that school made them aware of what their child will learn during the year.
- 39.7% respondents hadn't raised concerns with school. Of the remaining respondents, 90.6% agreed/strongly agreed that school had effectively dealt with concerns properly.
- 81% respondents reported that their child did not have special educational needs. 100% of parents of children with special needs agreed/strongly agreed that school gives their child the support need for them to succeed.
- 93.1% respondents agreed/strongly agreed that school had high expectations of their child. 100% respondents agreed/strongly agreed that their child does well at this school.
- 96.6% respondents agreed/strongly agreed that school lets them know how their child is doing.
- 93.1% respondents agreed/strongly agreed that there is a good range of subjects available to their child at school.
- 96.6% respondents agreed/strongly agreed that their child can take part in clubs and activities at school.

- 96.6% respondents agreed/strongly agreed that school supports their child's wider personal development.
- 100% respondents agreed/strongly agreed that they would recommend this school to another parent.

Information shared from the Federated Governing Body of Broomhaugh and Corbridge First Schools.

Compiled by Elisabeth Charman and Gayle Baty.

On the following page please find some responses from Mrs. Hart and Miss. Florek.

Parent Survey – Responses collected Autumn 2023

What we are doing well:

- XXXX loves going to school every day. We are so pleased we chose Corbridge First School for him.
- My child is very happy at the school, everyone does a fantastic job. Great work.
- I think Corbridge First School is a kind and welcoming school where both my children have been happy, confident and have thrived! I think the new leadership have injected a new approach and energy.
- I can see much more involvement with the wider community and learning opportunities outside the classroom.
- I think the all the current teaching staff are very strong.
- My child always comes home happy from school.
- XXXX is fantastic at her job and is a credit to the school. She has supported my child so much this year.
- My child is only in nursery so some of this form doesn't seem entirely relevant, but they are happy and enjoy school and love the teaching staff which is all I can ask for at this stage.
- Overall my child is happy and well cared for, any issues are as a result of government policies/funding (lack of) rather than the school itself. I would like to thank the staff for their hard work.
- Generally very happy with the school.
- Amazing school. Sad that this is the last year!

Thank you for all the positive feedback and words of thanks. It really is appreciated.

What we could do better:

- We would like more homework to help him with his reading and spelling.
We are so grateful for support from home with home learning! The children currently receive an optional learning menu to enhance what they are studying in school. There is also the option of visiting our online subscriptions, such as Busy Things and Times Table Rockstars. We try to achieve a good balance that suits all learners without placing demands on families. Curriculum overviews are always shared on the website each half term and staff are more than happy to talk through additional resources available.
- My only concern and I've mentioned this several times previously before, is despite the new yard (which is a big improvement) I still feel the exterior of the school looks a mess. There is fencing broken, the school gate needs painting, as do the goal posts, the nursery garden is repeatedly flooded and can't be used and things are generally untidy. We are really blessed to have such a big site with lots of green space, but I just feel it needs attention to maximise its potential and to create a more professional impression.
Whenever a maintenance issue arises, we aim to address it as quickly as possible, giving immediate priority to anything that may present a health and safety concern. Mr Gardner works hard to keep the school and grounds presentable and in working order. We have a number of tenders out to local contractors to complete the work mentioned. However, getting quotes back is difficult and time is wasted chasing these. The Nursery garden issues

have been booked in to be addressed in January and the whole area will be levelled off. The remainder of the work mentioned will be addressed in spring when the weather improves.

Moving forward: We will continue to prioritise outdoor maintenance and budget allocations through the premises governor's audits. We will reach out to community to help us to tidy/refresh the grounds – and explore fundraising ideas with the children to help us achieve some goals. We want the school to look the best it can so children will be proud of and respect it.

- I feel that in regards to "how my child is doing" the school focuses more on the behavioural side of things on a more frequent basis rather than my child's school work (other than the parents evening and the odd sticker)

At CFS, we focus on the whole child, reporting on their academic and personal development. We have recently introduced a new relational approach to behaviour management, which has been our focus, so a lot of attention has been given to praising behaviour and sharing this with families. Parents' Evening provides a termly opportunity to speak to staff as well as the formal, full-length report at the end of the academic year.

Moving forward: We will continue to hold class-based workshops termly to invite families in to share learning with their children. Reading, STEM and DT workshops have already been scheduled with more opportunities planned. Staff are always available to talk to families about each child's progress, either in person or on the phone.

- Feel a little bit concerned with how many teachers my child has in reception when it feels like they should have consistent staff in their crucial first year. My child struggles with change and their teacher has been absent without anyone being told if she is coming back. I'm guessing this is for personal reasons and I hope she is ok but it would have been good to mention that she was just going to be off for a while to parents to help us explain this to the children.

We try our best to strike a balance between families being well informed and not sending out too many messages. Families have been informed of any staffing changes as they have taken place but apologise that the nature of this information means this can be at very short notice or not shared immediately due to personal/private reasons. Social story work always takes place with the children when there are changes and children who find change difficult are supported by known adults.

Moving Forward: All staffing updates to be shared via ParentMail at the first opportunity (when unexpected) or on the weekly newsletter (when not time-sensitive).

- I don't really have any idea what my child does at school every day as they are sent out of the door with no handover and barely any photos on tapestry. A bit more communication would be better.

We will always take time to listen and respond to all concerns and provide information about the children. Partnership working is vital and we value the relationship between home and school greatly. We have an open-door policy in school and are always happy to talk to families, either in person or at a convenient time via telephone.

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- I'm not sure the focus is quite right around toileting. My child is very independent with the toilet, but equally takes her time and in my opinion shouldn't be rushed. I understand there are a lot of children to get through a small amount (?) of toilets at key times in the day however I think the messaging is creating stress that can be avoided (no more than two pieces of toilet roll?)

We are sorry to hear this! Our core value of respect is always adhered to in school and children are given time, space and privacy to use the facilities.

Moving forward: Staff will remind children that there is no pressure and no hurry when using the toilet. School Council to conduct a pupil voice around school facilities and discuss findings with the SLT.

- It would also be good to know what topic is coming up next in the newsletter so that we can discuss and apply at home eg children in need or remembrance as sometimes only find out afterwards through tapestry. The level of communication about other matters is too high. Advertising for external events (including messy church) could be flagged differently in Parentmail.

We try our best to strike a balance between families being well informed and not sending out too many messages. This is under continual review.

Moving forward: The school's enrichment calendar will be added to the website. Key dates and events will continue to be added to the calendar section of the newsletter, in advance, for information.

- My child's year group is particularly disruptive which is disappointing. The staff do try to intervene but I think more sanctions are required - although I acknowledge achieving this is a difficult balancing act.

With the support of the Governing Body and the Behaviour Team from Northumberland County Council, we have reviewed and updated our behaviour policy. This now takes a relational approach following feedback from children, staff, governors and experts. The policy is available on our school website. This seeks to address and improve any low-level or disruptive behaviour.

Moving Forward: Use pupil voice surveys from Autumn 2023 and Spring 2024 to seek feedback from the children about their feelings towards classroom behaviour and act upon findings. New policy to continue to be a focus in class discussion and during assembly/worship time.

- I have had concerns that children need to be better supervised at break times. This could hopefully avoid fights / nasty potentially bullying behaviours that go on without observation by teachers.

As detailed above, we have new behaviour and relational policies in place to support children throughout the school day. Playground Buddies were trained in Autumn Term and will now be on the playground to offer peer support. Staffing levels outdoors are high.

Moving Forward: A twilight staff training session has been booked in for January to address concerns regarding playtime and to make a plan that works for all children. Zonal playtimes with a range of activities on offer will be used, with clear supervision for each area. School Council to conduct a pupil voice around school facilities and discuss findings with the SLT.

Once again, we thank you. We have an open-door policy at school and are always available to answer questions and provide clarification – big and small! By working together, we can ensure we are always the best we can be here at Corbridge CE First School.