

P1-7 Parent Survey March 2019 – Additional Comments

Homework

I think there could be more homework - this year is definitely less than usual, and I expected the P7s to get more homework to prepare them for Secondary.

(Refer also to Homework Survey 2018)

After-School Activities

There are plenty of options for clubs and activities it has just been my child's choice not to take part.
(1)

I know that I can ask if I am unsure of anything. The communication about after school activities is minimal? Are there any either offered by the school or council at other sites?

Reporting / Sharing Learning

I find the academic reporting uninformative but I think that's standard across schools now. It doesn't give me any idea as a parent where my child is compared to where he should be etc.

The weekly newsletter is great to hear about the kids week..

I like to read the weekly newsletters but I do find its the same children mentioned week in, week out. I understand some children are more forthcoming than others but it would be nice if some of these quieter children could be encouraged so we were reading about others achievements for a change.

It would be good to receive weekly news which was relevant only to my child's class. e.g through twitter or an FB page, rather than getting news about what other classes are doing.

Support for Learning

I think the additional needs teaching isn't optimum. They don't get enough time with qualified ASL teaching staff and I think this holds them back.

Leadership

Mr Tyson leads by example and appears to care very much about the children and the school. My child's current teacher (****) is excellent and I feel he/she knows **** well and values him as an individual. Communication is good and there is the feeling that the 'door is always open' if there are any problems.

I think we have a fantastic Head teacher and all of the staff are excellent.

Parental Involvement

It's the same families who support school events.

I am really pleased with the level of involvement we are offered to our children's learning.

What Does the School Do Well

A great learning environment, enthusiastic staff, and a positive work and respectful ethos.

I am extremely grateful for and confident in staff of the school. I know that my boys are well cared for and treated with respect. They are encouraged to learn in an engaging environment but know that there are boundaries when it comes to their behaviour.

The school is a nice place to be. Respectful and friendly and usually and pupil issues are resolved appropriately.

The school is very good at ensuring kids with additional needs can participate in group activities and school trips.

I like the approach to homework because I don't believe in excessive homework. I also welcome the opportunities to flexi-school because it best meets my child's needs.

The school is inclusive and well led by the head teacher. The teaching staff are generally very good with a few who stand out as excellent.

Very happy with support for youngest child and opportunities given for other activities.

Both my girls enjoy the positive experiences they are provided with at Castle Douglas Primary. The school is welcoming and the communication is excellent! Everyone works very hard and that shows in the variety of challenging/ engaging learning experiences provided.

The Accelerated Reading scheme is a great way to enthuse readers. My girls are looking forward to the Outdoor Education experiences in p6 and 7.

The school is very mindful of costs and resources that are asked of the parents and do their best to give the kids the most opportunities with ever decreasing resources. We could always welcome more parental involvement in fund-raising, etc but the school and teaching and support staff do an excellent job.

Real feeling of community. Small school where all teachers know all pupils and parents are greeted on first name terms.

Really nice to have informal times to see children's work. School mostly support the additional needs my children have.

The teachers so far for both .. and .. have been fantastic and for me that is a big thing. Kids need good teachers that can connect with them and school certainly has that down. I can't thank the teachers enough, they do the hardest of jobs and make it look easy. As long as your teachers continue the way they are this school will always be the best in the area / region.

What Could the School Do Better?

Perhaps more interaction with outside agencies for more opportunities of memorable experiences - e.g visit from zoolab, school financial learning visit (RBS come and provide a super module on money in the real world), etc.

Continued opportunities for outdoor education and physical activity. PE should be given the same priority as other areas of the curriculum and not cancelled for example if the class' behaviour falls below standard.

The biggest issue we continually experience with our children's schooling is not related to their education and not an issue for the school. We have a lot of issues with the school meals - our children don't seem to get what they ordered (repeatedly), we have had at least 6 instances in the current term when one of our children has missed lunch completely due to none being left. Other issues include what they ordered is all finished by the time they get there, we get asked to pay twice because the money has been lost, their order has been smudged / rubbed out by other pupils accidentally and they end up not getting tokens because their order wasn't clear / readable / or gone completely. we are aware that this is not a school issue, but it does affect their ability to concentrate in the afternoon when they have had no lunch. We like to encourage our children to use the resource of School Dinners, but am finding it increasingly difficult to resist the temptation of letting them take packed lunches, in order to be certain that they are getting fed at lunchtime. Happy for this to be forwarded to the relevant department.

How can I join the parent council?

The only thing I would suggest is to improve the amount of cars in school grounds at pick up and drop off times. Bring in a warden to take control of the grounds again.

I think all cars apart from teachers and disabled should be banned from school grounds, there are so many cars it is a nightmare for walkers and cyclists. Why can parents not park at the Market hail and walk down to school? It's not like it is far and its healthier for the kids too. Care were only supposed to drop kids off an not park but now it's at least two rows right round and it is too much.

Perhaps sports day and the lead up to it, can be more structured to allow for inclusion of more track and field events, for example high jump, long jump, hurdles. The current format allows for inclusivity of all children regardless of confidence and abilities and this inclusivity must be protected. It would be great if opportunities could also be created for those who excel in track and field events and to have avenues for the talents to be developed.

ELC Parent Survey March 2019 – Additional Comments

What is the Nursery doing well

Staff

- Wonderful staff who have an essential role in ****'s development in the school environment
- Experienced, good natured staff. They run the nursery extremely well and always have the interests of the children and their families in mind.
- A welcoming staff and environment with lots of great learning opportunities.
- The staff are wonderful, welcoming, and very obviously passionate about the children they teach.
- Lovely, welcoming staff that provide plenty of formal and informal opportunities to discuss my child's learning and development.
- Although I have mentioned the recent communication issues, this is not a reflection on the nursery as a whole. The staff are excellent and I appreciate everything that they do for my child.
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- I would say the nursery is excellent and the staff do an amazing job.
- The staff are great, friendly, welcoming and always available if needed.
- The team in the Nursery work very well together and they are a strong team leading the learning that is taking place.
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Environment

- *** loves coming to nursery and has progressed so much in the last 6months.
- *** is happy at Nursery and enjoys all of the different activities, engaging with the staff and other children.
- Quality of care and relationships, outdoor learning, our child's engagement with school, learning environment.
- The children are outside learning nearly everyday which I think is amazing
- My child loves everything that nursery has to offer and I feel that she will be well prepared to transition into P1.
- The outdoor activities are great and it's encouraging to see the children out in all weathers.
- My child also loves being involved in choosing what they learn, I think this keeps them interested and enthusiastic about learning. I can't recommend them highly enough!
- Friendly, well organised and nurturing environment. Variety of learning experiences is brilliant.
- The time spent in the Nature Garden is invaluable and is such a good way for the children to learn without even knowing learning is taking place.

Communication

- The communication through news letters, Facebook and on drop off pick up is always friendly, welcoming and informative.
- I thoroughly enjoy looking through the nursery's Facebook page at all the photos and information.
- Child learning logs helpful to see progress that has been made.

What Could the Nursery do better.

No formal information to date about learning/progress (Jan start)

The communication from the nursery has been difficult/lacking recently. I am very aware of staffing, timetabling issues however my son started nursery in August and the first time I was able to discuss his progress was February. Parents afternoon/evening was cancelled twice both at late notice. I had organised cover at my work in order to attend these sessions. The same happened with a stay and play. Information regarding children going to the nature garden has also been difficult to follow. There have been messages on Facebook asking children to come fully kitted out, then on arrival some children have been told to take it all back off again and that they would be going out later. On collection my child was part of the group going out later in which some children did not want to go outside. My son was then very upset about this. It is a lot for a three year old to expect to be going out, then to be told it'll happen later, then for it not to happen at all. I do sympathise with staff, as having a large number of children is obviously making things tricky.

Due to illness and unforeseen circumstances some meetings have had to be changed this year. I am a parent who is happy to discuss anything with staff, at any time and ask questions about my child's learning. Some parents may not be and would perhaps benefit from more opportunities to formally discuss their child's progress.

Some of these questions can't be answered under the categories given. Our child has formed really good relationships with the nursery staff and always enjoys her sessions. My partner is the main contact with the school and without this "at the door" communication we would have no way of knowing what is happening within the nursery. I receive the weekly newsletter but it never features the nursery for an example. (Jan start)

A little more organisation and less last minute cancellations if possible.

We appreciate that it is early in the term but we would hope that there will be sharing of learning/ progress with us. It would be beneficial to us to know what the children are learning so that we can extend and nurture this learning at home. From conversations with our daughter we know a range of learning is happening but this is the only way to know.

Speech and language could maybe go into the nursery a few times a month to help kids who are a bit slower at talking and maybe then take the waiting list down.