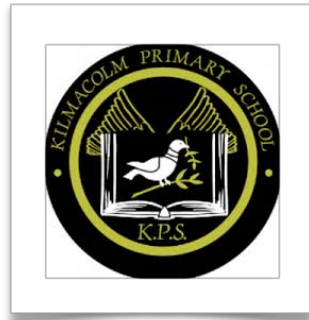


Kilmacolm Primary School and Nursery Class



Parental Engagement Strategy



Parental engagement with children's learning, can have positive effects on behaviour, attendance, engagement with learning and ultimately with children's academic outcomes.
Dr Janet Goodall 2018



At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents.
Jane D. Hull

The engagement of parents and families can help raise attainment for all and help to ensure every child has an equal chance of success.
Education Scotland 2016

June 2019

INTRODUCTION

The KPS Parental Engagement Strategy was created in collaboration with the Parent Partnership and the school as a result of a self-evaluation of parental engagement last session. This was detailed as a target on the School Improvement Plan session 2018/19.

The aim of the KPS Parental Engagement Strategy is to continue to improve the parent/school partnership with the school:

By taking steps to engage parents in a child's journey through school, teachers are reaching out as partners and ensuring that the bridge between home and school remains a sturdy one. Children can thrive when schools and families work together, in partnership, with their values and ethos aligned as far as possible.'

Dr Janet Goodall 2018

The parents/carers were consulted via a Survey Monkey in September 2018. The results are as follows:

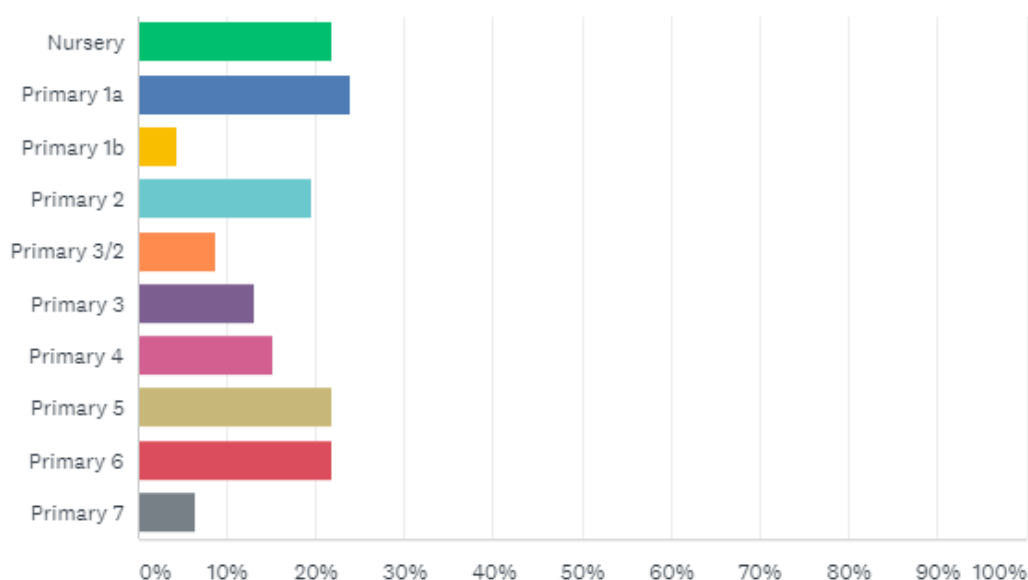
Survey period : 9-26 September 2018

46 respondents (169 school families) = 27% response rate

Q1. Please select which class your child is in. For more than one child, please select all relevant classes.

Please select which class your child is in. For more than one child...

Answered: 46 Skipped: 0



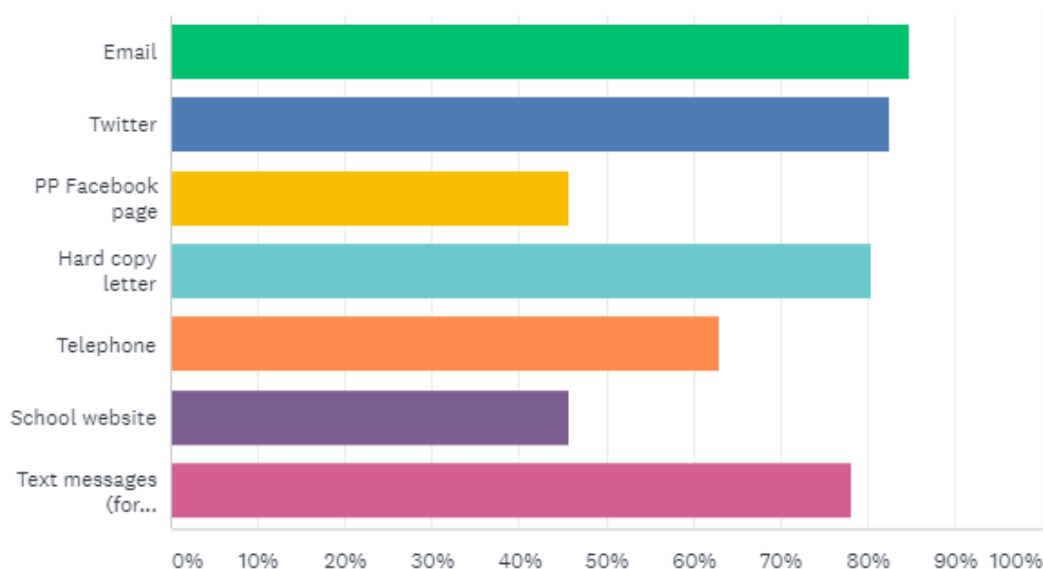
Q2. Below is a list of current events /methods of encouraging contact between the school and parents/carers. Please indicate which you are aware of and/or currently engage with. New parents/carers please indicate those you think you would participate with.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Meet the teacher sessions	82.61%	38
▼ Parents' evening	97.83%	45
▼ Parents/carers annual calendar	52.17%	24
▼ Classroom showcase events (topics)	58.70%	27
▼ Gold assemblies	65.22%	30
▼ Sports day	84.78%	39
▼ Volunteering in the school (e.g. library, garden, cooking, classroom, trips, etc)	45.65%	21
▼ Parent Partnership meetings	50.00%	23
▼ Activity led events (i.e. MUGA mile launch)	56.52%	26
▼ Newsletters (class, monthly, gold achievements)	78.26%	36
▼ Twitter	89.13%	41
▼ Parent partnership Facebook	67.39%	31
▼ School website (new school website is in development)	65.22%	30
▼ Consultation events (e.g. termly profiles, values and aims, etc)	54.35%	25
Total Respondents: 46		

Q3. Listed below are the different methods of communication currently used to keep you informed of school news and events. Please tick those which you use.

Listed below are the different methods of communication current...

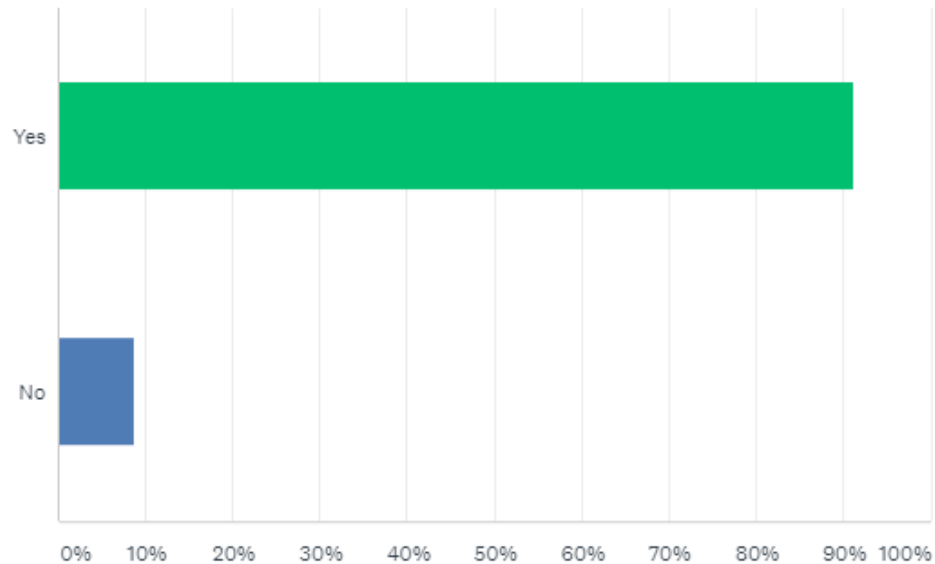
Answered: 46 Skipped: 0



Q4. Would you be interested in a school App? If yes, please respond to question 5. If no, please proceed to question 6.

Would you be interested in a school App? If yes, please respond t...

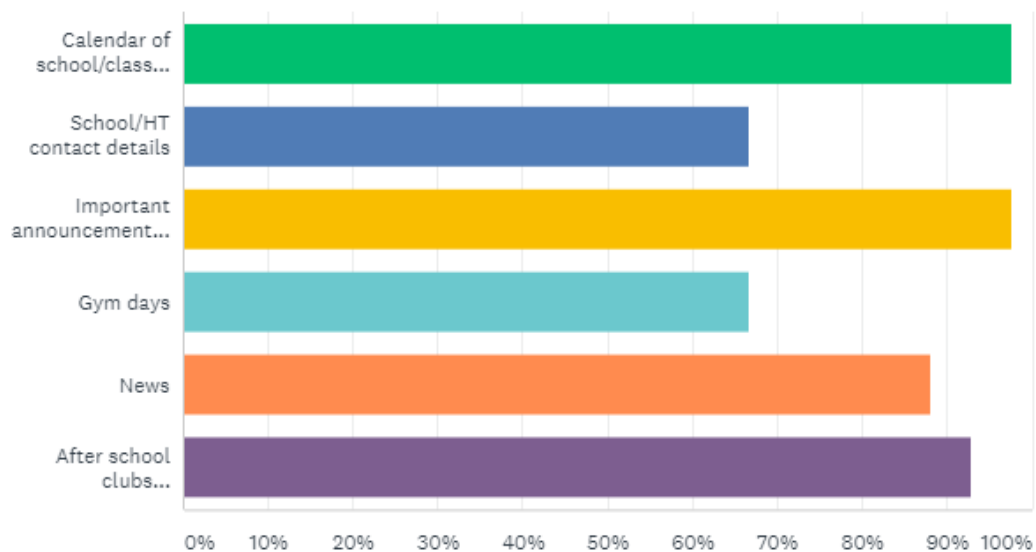
Answered: 46 Skipped: 0



Q5. If you would like a school App, what features would you expect to see on it?

If you would like a school App what features would you expect to ...

Answered: 42 Skipped: 4



Q6. How could we improve opportunities for you to be more involved in your child's learning?

How could we improve opportunities for you to be more involved ...

Answered: 27 Skipped: 19

I think there are already lots of opportunities to engage with learning.

Easier access to teacher. Perhaps via email?

More parent days in school Longer time at parent evening Individual feedback on homework and how we can help improve learning. Loved sumdog- more games for learning we can use at home please.

I feel I am involved. For extra help my child is receiving I would like to be kept more up to date with that. I don't like if we have to go to school a lot as for the working parent this is very hard. Feel at the moment I have enough communication with the school that is required.

Open days where parents can sit in to see how the children are taught

Occasional sessions in class would be wonderful to see how children are getting on.

I would like more feedback given from class teacher about my son, possibly monthly.

How could we improve opportunities for you to be more involved ...

Answered: 27 Skipped: 19

I suggest a hand written note from my child what he was learning about during the class hrs.

We liked the idea of the p1 homework club - very helpful although we couldn't make it due to work commitments. We would be happy to help out in school some days if the opportunity arises, in either child's class.

I think the school does very well at engaging the parent body

Some further guidance on how we can continue current learning in the classroom when the child is at home.

I think KPS excels in involving parents.

Homework club has been a great idea

I'm quite happy with the level of involvement so far.

Currently doing a great job keeping parents involved.

How could we improve opportunities for you to be more involved ...



Answered: 27 Skipped: 19

Written messages or phone calls if a child's behaviour is not as good as it should be even minor issues so these can be discussed at home. I feel I only hear my child's version of events and then have to read between the lines to find out what might have happened really.

I think it would be helpful if important events such as meet the teacher (very important to me) could be offered as a drop in with several sessions or Monday - Friday before and after school for 1 week . Sometimes it comes across that the school May forget that a lot of parents work

A guide on what they will learn - sometimes difficult to know if your child doesn't tell you particularly if they have difficulties themselves

Faster feedback from teacher if child hasn't fully grasped a topic before they move on to the next topic. Even just a post-it note asking parents to work more on this topic at home would be sufficient.

Just being kept up to date with any changes in the curriculum

Ask me about stickers. I'm sure the kids had this before and it started a conversation. E.g. ask me about the artist I learned about today

Variety of times of events due to us both being full time working parents Activities directly after school we can't attend.

Create an App. Not all parents use Twitter.

More notice for things happening if possible

Vary events to have them on different days so working parents can attend

Doing pretty well - at a previous school we had classroom representatives who acted as a go between between teacher and parents- that parent would run a Whatsapp group which would communicate any thing the teacher needed and vice versatility- saved the teacher from being bombarded with a loads of similar questions

Teaching parents how to teach things like maths the same way they are taught at school

Q7. Please provide any other feedback on how you would like the Parent Partnership to better represent your views?

Please provide any other feedback on how you would like the Par...

...

Answered: 12 Skipped: 34

Already doing a great job.

Can't think of anything

n/a

N/a

-

Maybe a social event once a year for parents

Surveys would be good as we can't all manage to the meetings.

Not sure

No issues, happy parent

I think it represents views of those who engage well, it's a shame more parents don't come along

None

ACTION:

As a result of the survey, the following actions have been put in place:

SURVEY RESULTS	ACTION
97.83% of parents said they engaged with Parents' Evening -this is the highest form of communication	Parents' Evenings will continue in the school.
89.13% of parents said they engaged with Twitter, the 2 nd highest method of preferred communication with the school	The school, nursery, class and STEM Club accounts will continue to be active.
Email, Twitter and text messages were recorded as the preferred methods of communication	Email, Twitter and text messages* will continue to be used to communicate with parents. *more messages will be sent to parents via the school app (as they are free of charge, Groupcall text messages will be sent in emergency situations)
Over 90% of parents/carers said they would be interested in a school app	The school app launched on 1st May, the parents/carers were asked for feedback at the Parents' Evening on the 16th May. The feedback was extremely positive.
The parents said that the following would be the most important features of the app: Calendar of school/class events, important announcements	Calendar of school/class events, important announcements have all been included as features on the school app.
The highlights from comments from the parents/carers: 'open days for parents', 'occasional sessions in class to see how the children are getting on', 'further guidance on how we can continue current learning when the child is at home', 'teaching parents how to teach things like maths the same way they are taught at school'	The school plan to continue with 'showcase events' where parents/carers can spend time in the class/school to see the 'learning in action'. The school plan to introduce more 'advice' re learning at home/school via videos on Twitter and the school app (via a school You Tube page).
'I think it would help if important events such as Meet the Teacher (very important to me) could be offered as a drop in with several sessions or Monday-Friday before and after school for 1 week. Sometimes it comes across that the school may forget that a lot of parents work' 'Variety of times of events due to us both being full time working parents, activities directly after school we can't attend' 'Vary events to have them on different days so working parents can attend'	The teachers have a Working Time Agreement, which protects their working week. Parent/carer events that are held out with the core school hours are agreed at the start of the session. This ensures that the staff are not working beyond their 35 hour working week. The school has tried where possible to vary the days/times of events, however, we appreciate that this will not suit all parents.

A Parental Engagement Session was held in the school on Tuesday 19th March 2019, with the school and the Parent Partnership.

Ideas were discussed and shared.

ACTIVITY	ACTION
1. Parent Partnership & PTF	The Parent Partnership and the PTF will be merged from August 2019, to encourage more parent/carer attendance and involvement.
2. 'Meet the Teacher' event and Parents' Evenings	These events will continue into next session.
3. Termly Profiles	Feedback from parents/carers is very positive - these will continue into next session.
4. Nursery Induction Programme (including 2 induction days)	This programme will be reviewed and implemented each session.
5. New school website	Feedback from parents/carers is very positive - the school website will become the 'core' of information, with Twitter and the school app being the most up to date method of communication.
6. Monthly School Newsletter and GOLD Newsletter	Feedback from parents/carers is very positive - these will continue into next session.
7. Termly Class Newsletter	Feedback from parents/carers is very positive - these will continue into next session.
8. School Noticeboard	Feedback from parents/carers is very positive - information will continue into be posted on the noticeboard next session.
9. Monthly reports in the Gryffe Advertiser and regular stories in the Greenock Telegraph	The school and nursery will continue to send in reports/stories to the Gryffe Advertiser and Greenock Telegraph to maximise school publicity/promotion.
10. School Twitter (for school and teacher/class/nursery accounts)	Feedback from parents/carers is very positive - these will continue into next session.
11. Annual Calendar (on the website - Parents Evenings highlighted in blue, updates in newsletter)	The calendar of events will now be posted on the School App only - the Annual Calendar will no longer be published. The school will update the app as soon as events are organised.
12. Parent Consultation (eg Termly Profiles, Pupil Equity Fund, School Vision, Values and Aims, Curriculum Rationale)	The school will continue to consult with parents/carers via the Parent Partnership, newsletters and surveys re key school plans.

13. Masterclass Art Gallery, Showcase Events, Christmas Show, Christmas Service, School Shows (eg Rats, Scottish Opera), Easter Service, P7 Graduation, Fundraising Events (eg PTF, Sponsored Woodland Walk), Seasons for Growth, P1 Homework Club, P1 Grandparents Afternoon	Feedback from parents/carers is very positive - these events will be organised again for next session.
14. Review Meetings and Individual Parent/Teacher Meetings	These meetings will continue next session.
15. Links to Agencies (eg Barnardos, Educational Psychologist, Skylark, School Health, CAHMS)	The school will continue to advise parents about the agencies that are available to support them and their children. A weekly drop-in coffee morning has begun, parents/carers can come and speak to the Barnardos worker re concerns/issues.
16. Parent Librarians, Parents Helpers on School Trips and in the cooking classroom/garden	The school is very grateful to the parents/carers who dedicate some time to the school to help with activities and events.
17. 'Open Door' Policy (HT email address, welcoming office/school staff)	Feedback from parents/carers is very positive - the school prides itself on a positive ethos is has established for the children, staff and parents.
17. Link to Parentzone (on the school website)	The school will continue to put links on the website that will be helpful to parents/carers.
17. STEM World of Work Week (April 2019)	The event was very successful due to the number of parents/carers who spoke to the children about their STEM careers - the school plans to hold another event like this for next session (with the focus on Science).
17. STEM Challenge Parents/Carer Afternoons (April 2019)	The event was very successful due to the number of parents/carers who attended these events - the school plans to hold another event like this for next session (with the focus on Science).

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, THERE WILL BE SOME ADDITIONAL ACTION POINTS FOR SESSION 2019-20

1. School Improvement Plan	A target linked to Parental Engagement will be detailed on the School Improvement Plan for Session 2019-20 for each priority.
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1. 6 Week Targeted Support	A new model of support will be put in place from August 2019 - the parents/carers of the children who will be receiving targeted support will be invited in to attend sessions with the Support for Learning teacher and their child. The aim is to give the parents/carers advice/strategies on how to support their child at home with their learning.
2. Parent/Carer Support re activities/ events	The school staff will continually review and plan new events and activities, ensuring the best learning outcomes for the children. Parents/carers will be notified and assistance requested when necessary eg cooking demos, STEM Week.
3. Educational Advice for Parents/Carers	The school will continue to offer advice to parents/carers re their child's learning and education targets. The new focus will be on offering advice via the school newsletters, on the website, via Twitter and the school app, with videos being posted on a school You Tube Channel
4. Showcase Events	The school will continue to offer the parents/carers opportunities to see the 'learning in action' throughout the school year. If parents/carers are unable to attend these events then the videos/photos will be posted on Twitter.
5. Self Evaluation	The school will review the KPS Parental Engagement Strategy and the action points before the end of June 2020. The KPS Parental Engagement Strategy will then be updated for Session 2020/21.

*Please note that the action points relate to the nursery class and the school

Kilmacolm Parent Partnership
Simone McCredie (Head Teacher)
June 2019