

Parent Questionnaire Responses – October 2018

	AGREE	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not applicable	DISAGREE	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My child enjoys coming to school	98%	72%	26%		2%	2%	
My child is safe at school	99%	82%	17%	1%			1%
I am happy with the nurturing of faith that my child receives	94%	78%	16%	4%	2%	2%	
The school's ethos fosters love and cooperation	97%	71%	26%	2%	2%	1%	1%
The school understands and responds to my child's needs	92%	54%	38%	2%	6%	5%	1%
My child receives an appropriate amount of homework for his/her age	88%	46%	42%	1%	11%	9%	2%
My support of my child's learning is crucial to their educational outcomes	96%	77%	19%	2%	2%	2%	
My child enjoys a range of extra-curricular activities that school provides	78%	40%	38%	18%	5%	4%	1%
The school communicates with me effectively about my child's progress	92%	49%	43%	1%	7%	7%	
The school communicates with me effectively about how to support my child's learning	90%	53%	37%	2%	7%	5%	2%
The school communicates with me effectively about school events and activities	96%	57%	39%	1%	4%	2%	2%
My child is taught well at school and is making good progress	97%	67%	30%	2%	1%	1%	
My child is encouraged to work hard and do their best	98%	67%	31%		2%	1%	1%
The school seeks my views and listens to my concerns	91%	40%	51%	2%	7%	5%	2%
There is a good standard of behaviour at St Mary's Primary school	96%	77%	19%	2%	2%	2%	
If your child has experienced bullying, was it dealt with effectively	30%	17%	18%	63%	1%		1%
The school is welcoming and there are opportunities to get involved	94%	48%	46%	1%	5%	4%	1%
I think the school is well led and managed	98%	70%	28%	1%	1%		1%
School encourages my child to lead a healthy lifestyle	97%	58%	39%	1%	3%	2%	1%
School encourage my child to respect children from other backgrounds	97%	72%	25%	3%	0%		

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My child is encouraged to positively contribute to the wider community	94%	58%	36%	7%	0%		
I would recommend St Mary's Catholic Primary School to another family	97%	83%	14%	1%	3%	2%	1%

Comments:

You Said...	We say ...
"I am happy we got our 1 st choice in St Mary's."	Thank you, we are too!
"My son is in Y5 and I have been very happy with the school for the whole time he has been there. He has made excellent progress and I feel that the staff know and nurture my child."	Thank you for recognising the hard work and determination we have to support all of our children in making best progress. This is most successful when parents share in and support us. Thank you for your support.
"We are extremely lucky to have such a wonderful school on our doorstep. The Head, Deputy, senior management team and all the staff work extremely hard for the benefit of all – often under very difficult circumstances! I wouldn't contemplate sending my children anywhere else. The standards and values they hold reflect my own."	Thank you for your encouraging comment. It inspires us to be appreciated and the uplift inspires us to work even harder for all our children. This is a true 'heart print' for our staff team.
"Poor communication from Headteacher regarding incident last year, when children were told not to run, not to use the astroturf. To this day still don't know what happened. Not acceptable that rules change depending on something we don't know about, children were scared and still no one understands the incident. Too much time spent on hymn practice and mass and very few children in Y6 passed 11+ - could have concentrated on learning more.	For the purposes of clarity, the children do and have always been able to use the astro pitch. They have been stopped from running on mass down the sloped road incline into school (at beginning of school day and at lunchtime when returning to playground from dining room/hall). This was/is purely for their health and safety. We make decisions all the time in school when we regard a change is required, but this is always in the interests of the children. I hope that helps. We have hymn practices as and when we need to, usually just before a school or class mass. We are a Catholic school and this is part of our remit. We do not teach children to pass the 11+ nor do we encourage this. There are hugely successful Catholic Secondary Schools in our area. The 11+ is not a 'performance indicator' for our school.
"What could be improved: Homework: would be interesting to get <u>optional</u> homework interactive with individual challenges like www.activelearn.com Lack of feedback - Why the homework never returned? Could we have a notebook instead of a simple sheet in the bag?	We agree that some aspects of homework are really important to support children's overall learning – reading and timetables are crucial. We like the idea of providing web based learning sites and will be looking into these. It's important we know their quality before we circulate them as a recommendation. Given the time dedicated to feeding back within the school day's learning, there is not time to provide individual feedback on every piece of homework. Children who complete 'power projects' are always encouraged to present their project to their class – this has many benefits for the children. They receive much praise and feedback from teacher and peers in this situation. Teachers are aware that not all completed homework has been done by the child, does not reflect their ability and is therefore of limited benefit to them.

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<p>“The standards are too high and there needs to be more praise and opportunities in performing.”</p>	<p>We make no apology for having high expectations for all of our children. We affirm our children and give praise accordingly. One could argue that this results in our high standards – the children are confident and happy in their learning environment. This is true regardless of where a child is in their learning. Opportunities for performance occur within every classroom and more often in role play situations in the learning day (where appropriate/planned).</p>
<p>“I think too much homework is given, let a child be a child. I strongly agree with spellings and reading but anything else I don’t agree with.”</p>	<p>According to research, homework has little impact. The key support required for all children is reading and times tables. The impact of reading at home with a child is crucial to their academic success – we see this time and again with children who are not reading at home. Further research states that if a child read to from birth, they gain an extra 3 years in academic performance. Spelling – word lists are ineffective in and of themselves and are in short term memory only. Spelling rules are what children need to learn.</p>
<p>“There is too much homework.”</p>	<p>Crucially, we only ask that reading and times tables (or number bonds in KS1) are fully supported at home.</p>
<p>“I think for year 4, there is not enough homework given. Also, weekly reading books should be brought home.”</p>	<p>Children should be reading nightly and books are sent home every week. All children should have a class library book to read daily, this is changed when finished. They also have two school library books that are replaced every fortnight. I hope this helps.</p>
<p>“Keep on doing the good work and increase inclusion of pupils more in activities i.e. concentrating on all children equally.”</p>	<p>Thank you! As we get to know our children, we know how and when/why they are ready for certain events or activities. We aim to treat all children according to their readiness to take on certain roles or responsibilities. We would never place a child in a position that they were not ready for as this could damage their self-esteem.</p>
<p>“We are very lucky to have access to such a good school and community. Thank you for all your hard work!”</p>	<p>Thank you, so much appreciated.</p>
<p>“St Mary’s is an excellent school. I am always impressed by the detailed marking and TMPs that I see in my children’s books when I see them at parents’ consultation evening. The atmosphere in the school is calm and purposeful. I am very happy with the school and my child’s experience there.”</p>	<p>Thank you so much! Our staff work many hours marking with intensity and purpose.</p>
<p>“My only concern is security during school mass at church. A member of staff or responsible parent should be stationed at the door at church rear. Any suspicious characters could be monitored entering church during mass! (Name supplied).</p>	<p>Thank you for this. Yes, indeed, this is something we can put into place. I will share these thoughts with Fr John also. We can roster staff to take up such a position as well as invite any interested parents to support.</p>

Many comments were in regard to homework, communication, children performing, Catholic ethos, parking and after school provision.

Homework: We will be addressing this in new year after reviewing our current practice and its outcomes for the children. Our decisions will be based on research and best practice.

Communication: We have a weekly newsletter, Twitter, Group Call and website and email system. It is difficult for us to know how much more we can do. We are open to ideas.

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Children performing: Children are given opportunities to participate in public 'performances' in and out of their class. Collective Worship e.g. Mass or assemblies are not performance and not meant for showcasing a particular child, rather they are meant to communicate a message and this is what is most important. Children are chosen according to their willingness and readiness to convey the message. Some children actually get very upset when asked to take a lead role and we never force them as this would be extremely damaging to their self-esteem. We will continue to encourage all children to participate as fully as possible.

Catholic ethos: a few comments were made regarding our over emphasis on our Catholic ethos and all that is embraced within that. We make no apology for this. This is our remit as a Catholic school and this is made very clear whenever a parent wishes to join our school community. This will not change at St Mary's.

Parking: there was a query "What is the school waiting for?" in relation to parking outside of school. A Governor has followed up our initial correspondence made with the local MP who subsequently directed us to the Local Highways Department. We have very clearly been informed that we are liable for any thing that happens should we place any items, including cones, stand up deterrents in the road. We have also been informed that school staff do not have the authority to 'police' the highway and must not do it. Incidentally, our banners that were placed at the top of the drive have been removed/stolen. **It would be really helpful if many parents could write to the local MP about the dangers outside of our school.** The more voices of the people they hear, the more likely that are to act.

After – School Provision: Every evening of the week there is an after school club (often more than one). We are now opening up a tennis club at the beginning of the school day. Within school time we also offer guitar, violin and piano lessons. We have limited capacity within our school i.e. we have only one hall and classrooms are in use after school. We use every spare moment we can.