



Mr. Gary Spracklen - Headteacher (@Nelkcarps)



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The Prince of Wales School Questionnaire for Parents and Carers - December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who completed our recent Parents and Carers Questionnaire. As I stated in my previous letter, we like to receive feedback about parent/carer perceptions of our school so that we can continue to improve. Please see below for a summary of responses -

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONSES (Reception to Year Four) - 52

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know or N/A
My child is happy at school	41	11			
My child feels safe at school	38	14			
My child is making good progress at school	34	17	1		
My child is well looked after at school	37	15			
My child is taught well at school	39	13			
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	31	19	1	1	
I receive valuable information about my child's progress	21	24	7		
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	30	21			1
The school deals effectively with bullying.	19	14	2		17
The school is well led and managed.	38	14			
The school responds well to any concerns I raise.	33	15	1		3
The school makes good provision for after-school activities for children.	22	24	4		2
The school provides a wide range of educational visits and activities.	26	24	1	1	
I would recommend this school to another parent.	Yes	52	No	0	

If you want to explain any of your answers, or if there is anything else you want the school leadership team to know, please do tell us about this below. It will help in use making possible changes and is a valuable source of information for us to have.

RESPONSES -

Reception -

You Said	We Said
I am so pleased with how much progress we are making at the school and how much time and effort is spent in meeting individuals needs. I'm also astonished by the amount of extra time and preparation that is put into our children's education making it enjoyable for all. Well done Prince of Wales!	Thank you for your feedback.
Not had any feedback on how school deals with bullying. I am not in agreement with primary kids doing homework as it's worth is not well evidenced.	Please see our website for our 'Anti-Bullying Policy'. We operate a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of bullying and teach 'anti-bullying' through strong a strongly led and well-resourced PSHE Curriculum. All home learning is optional. Where children do choose to engage in learning at home, we hope this is because they have been inspired to do so.
Our daughter has only been at Prince of Wales a short time but we are so pleased with the progress she has made already. She has embraced learning and really has been inspired. We feel strongly that this is down to the teaching staff around her.	Thank you, we are very proud of all our staff.

Year One -

You Said	We Said
The school is a wonderful setting for my child to learn and grow. He feels happy and secure in his environment and I feel the teachers are great at their job. My only suggestion is I would like a bit more feedback about my child's learning journey in general.	Thank you for your feedback. Following your point and the 7 'Disagree' responses to the statement 'I receive valuable information about my child's progress', we have reflected and will make changes accordingly. Mr Spracklen will present proposals for how parents/carers can receive increased feedback on their child's learning journey at our next Parent Forum event on Wednesday 3rd January 2018 - 08:45 am in the Staff Room. All are warmly encouraged to attend and share their views on this important matter.
The school has gone from strength to strength under the new leadership. We are always exceptionally impressed with Mr Spracklen and	Thank you for your feedback.

<p>team's dedication to learning and inspiring our son. Today the Narnia scene was very appreciated by both parents and children and it made us very proud and privileged to be at such an exceptional school. Thanks to all involved for your dedication. As parents we really appreciate it.</p>	
<p>This is a great school. Standing out compared to others in the area, it provides the community of a smaller school but the access to information and teaching methods of a much larger school. My only feedback is the reading books etc in year one. We understand budgets are tight but we believe that photocopies should not be there. If funding is an issue, please feel free to ask the parents for contributions, or fund raise. I can't think of many parents at the school who wouldn't understand that budgets do not go very far anymore.</p>	<p>Thank you for the feedback. We are working hard to improve our book stock. This has been supported this year by POWSA (Prince of Wales School Association) who have donated over eight-hundred new books to the school since September.</p> <p>Money raised at our recent book fair will be used to further strengthen our stock in January, particularly in KS1.</p> <p>In addition to this, a new phonics scheme 'Read, Write Inc' will bring further new titles, especially in Year One from January.</p> <p>We agree, no photocopies should be used.</p>
<p>As a parent, who has had a child going through all years at POW and now has the youngest in Yr1, I can see an infectious enthusiasm from the school to provide a very exciting and motivating place for the children to learn, since the new head started. I am very happy that my child has a place in this fabulous school! Thank you.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p>

Year Two -

You Said	We Said
<p>I think that more children should be walking too and from school. More and more cars are being parked outside the school mostly badly by parents that only live down the road (catchment). I live just out of catchment for your school and have been going to pow with my 2 boys one of which in now in Dorchester middle for many many years mostly walking unless of really bad weather. Over the past few months there does seem to be more cars than before. I feel this needs to be addressed.</p>	<p>While we can encourage all parents and carers to make sustainable choices regarding transport, this is not something we can control or enforce.</p> <p>Anyone with traffic concerns should contact their local councillor.</p> <p>As a school we will continue to engage with Dorset Sustrans (sustainable transport) and teach the values of sustainable transport choices through the curriculum.</p>
<p>Mr Spracklen seems to be doing a great job and the school seems to be flourishing.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p>
<p>My child is so happy being at school and has grown up so much - this is to do with the great teachers at the school who have helped her.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p>
<p>My child started in September 2015, still under the</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p>

<p>helm of Mr Farrington. Sadly after his retirement at the end of that year I felt the school went down hill considerably, not the teachers in any way, but in general. Lack of direction, lack of trips, lack of real interest, lack of extra-curricular activities, last minute communication with parents, to the point I was regretting my decision choosing the school for my child. Thankfully since Mr Spracklen became headteacher the school has improved 100% in every area. With his drive, enthusiasm, leadership and direction it has brought new life to the school which has in turn given all the teachers renewed enthusiasm to give the best to the children and get the best from them. I've never had a problem with my child going to school or enjoying her time there but now I feel there is a better chance for her full potential to be brought on. I now feel very lucky and proud my child attends PoW.</p>	
<p>A big thank you for all your hard work and wonderful involvement in inspire to learn attitude. The changes from the last two years in such a short time is amazing! Please do carry on whatever you doing! The sense of community is coming back 😊 and children are happy.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p>

Year Three -

You Said	We Said
<p>I am and always have been extremely happy with the care and education provided for my child. Most importantly, he is happy at school and progressing well. The staff are extremely helpful and willing with almost anything. Today's Narnia experience being a prime example of this, taking time out of there weekend to set this up for the children! An excellent job being done by all!! Many thanks</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p>
<p>The Prince of Wales School is a wonderful friendly, well led school. My son has been through the school from Pre-School to Year 3 & he continues to thrive, has fantastic friendship groups, varied learning on the curriculum which he enjoys immensely and enjoys going to school everyday.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p>

Year Four -

You Said	We Said
<p>Personally, I don't really like seeing so many photo's and video's of the children on social media, particularly in lessons and assemblies. I do not see how this use of social media is of benefit to the</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. As a school we use social media to connect, promote and engage with parents, carers and partner organisations. We also use the tools to</p>

<p>children. I am not sure that other schools do this. I have no problem with the odd photo (award winning etc.), where the child knows the photo is being taken and there is an expectation from the parent that such a photo might be taken. I have a feeling that some other parents might feel the same. Other than that, the school and new leadership appears to be doing a great job!</p>	<p>promote safe and responsible use to our children as part of a rigorous E-Safety Curriculum.</p> <p>As a school, we have an extensive E-Safety Policy. This policy promotes the safe and responsible use of Social Media. We are currently working towards a nationally accredited 'Social School' Award and hope to continue to refine our practice as part of this process.</p> <p>Any parents and carers who do not wish their child's image to be used on social media has the right to withdraw their permission in line with our AUP (Acceptable Usage Policy). Please see Mr. Gibson (E-Safety Co-Ordinator) or Mr. Spracklen if you would like further information.</p>
<p>I raised this before (in the last questionnaire) but did not receive a reply. I think it is unfair when only a small group of children are selected for a trip. My child has been excluded from 5-6 of these over the course of her time at POW. The criteria for the selecting of children is unclear. For one, my child got the message 'good readers' were selected therefore she must have felt she herself wasn't a good reader. Selection should be random. If it is only for children with a particular interest/ability then selection/exclusion will reinforce that and discourage those not selected. Ideally all of the children should participate.</p> <p>Also what policy does the school have on gender equality (e.g ensuring positive characters/messages for girls in books in the school library; language used in the classroom - not using 'him' for any object/animal, being aware of reinforcing bits by referring to boys as smart Vs girls as hard working).</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. Since September, aside from sporting fixtures, we have had one trip that was not open to an entire cohort. This was a trip led by the Dorset Ridgeway Trust and children were chosen on the basis of their involvement in extra-curricular clubs, namely Mr. McBean's 'Eco-School Lunchtime Club'. This particular club was open to all learners in Year 3 and Year 4.</p> <p>In future, we will aim to be more transparent around trips that do not involve an entire cohort. We will also try to keep these sort of experiences to the minimum to avoid any confusion.</p> <p>We recognise the importance of gender equality and work hard to ensure our curriculum provides strong female and male role models. We are also working hard to improve our reading stock (as previously mentioned) and positive characters/messages for girls in books is a consideration when purchasing new materials.</p> <p>Further to this, our 'Equality Policy' is due for Governor review in the Spring Term 2018. We will ensure the points you raised are addressed fully in this policy review.</p>
<p>I am a little concerned that more recently there seems to have been an over-emphasis on full attendance; and on 'pushing' children towards high achievement, without the balance I would like to see of focusing on the pastoral side of things and</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>Attendance is important. Our Attendance Policy is in line with all Dorchester Area School Partnership Schools. Non-attendance, whether</p>

<p>emotional development. While I would definitely like to continue to see my child challenged and 'stretched', I am concerned about children being over-pressurised to 'do well' in tests and assessments and an emphasis being placed on this in communication with parents. I would hate my child to become anxious and stressed about assessments - this is something that has been managed so well in the past with children being encouraged and supported but not made to feel that they might 'fail' or that they have to do well at any cost. I loved the previous focus on children being encouraged to 'show off' and the relaxed way in which KS1 assessments were carried out so that these didn't feel like 'tests', which I felt was more likely to get the best from them, as well as avoiding unhealthy competition.</p> <p>I am also a little concerned that in one of the classrooms the planning for the week was displayed above my child's workspace with children identified by name, where my child was able to read this, as 'children working above expectations for the group/ children working below expectations for the group' and 'children not making expected progress'. I felt uncomfortable with this being displayed for all children and parents to see and felt this could even be a data protection breach??</p>	<p>authorised or un-authorised is still non-attendance and the school is legally bound to track this carefully. We can assure you that every effort is made to do this in a sensitive way and we will continue to refine this practice as we move forward. It is however, a tough tightrope to walk.</p> <p>We make no apologies for 'pushing' children to achieve their potential. We pride ourselves in doing this in every area though and not just those assessed in statutory assessment tests. Tests won't recognise that many of our children can play a musical instrument or that our children can dance or paint a picture. They do not measure that our children have friends that count on them or that our children's laughter can brighten the dreariest day. They do not show that our children are honest, trustworthy and kind. These elements are at the core of our work and will continue to be high in our agenda.</p> <p>As a school, we fully recognise that assessments will tell us some useful things and we will always use them in moderation. More importantly though, we recognise that tests don't tell us everything about your child and will continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum to reflect this.</p> <p>Following your comment, we have reviewed how planning is displayed in classes. We agree, this level of detail should not be on public display and have already made changes to ensure this doesn't happen again.</p>
<p>Thank you. Prince of Wales is an exceptional school.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p>

I am keen to keep working with you all to make our school the very best it can be.

I warmly invite you to our next **Parent Forum** event on Wednesday 3rd January 2018 - 08:45 am in the Staff Room. At this event, I will present our route map for the term ahead and build upon the responses above.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. Gary Spracklen - Headteacher

