



Mr. Gary Spracklen - Headteacher (@Nelkcarps)
 Maiden Castle Road, Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 2HH
 01305 257120 office@princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk
<http://www.princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk>

...where we are all inspired to learn

Wednesday 12th December 2018

The Prince of Wales School Questionnaire for Parents and Carers - December 2018

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) -53/157

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
My child is happy at school	77.36% (41)	18.87% (10)	3.77% (2)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)
My child feels safe at school	75.47% (40)	20.75% (11)	1.89% (1)	0.00% (0)	1.89% (1)
My child is making good progress at school	64.15% (34)	33.96% (18)	0.00% (0)	1.89% (1)	0.00% (0)
My child is well looked after at school	71.70% (38)	22.64% (12)	5.66% (3)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)
My child is taught well at school	75.47% (40)	22.64% (12)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	1.89% (1)
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	56.6% (30)	39.62% (21)	3.77% (2)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)
I receive valuable information about my child's progress	39.62% (21)	52.83% (28)	3.77% (2)	3.77% (2)	0.00% (0)
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	62.26% (33)	30.19% (16)	3.77% (2)	1.89% (1)	1.89% (1)
The school deals effectively with bullying.	47.17% (25)	11.32% (6)	5.66% (3)	0.00% (0)	35.85% (19)

The school is well led and managed.	79.25% (42)	16.98% (9)	3.77% (2)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)
The school responds well to any concerns I raise.	56.50% (30)	33.96% (18)	5.66% (3)	1.89% (1)	1.89% (1)
The school makes good provision for after-school activities for children.	58.49% (31)	32.08% (17)	3.77% (2)	0.00% (0)	5.66% (3)
The school provides a wide range of educational visits and activities.	62.26% (33)	37.74% (20)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)	0.00% (0)
I would recommend this school to another parent.	Yes	96.23% (51)	No	3.77% (2)	

N.B - For the one responder who replied 'Disagree' or 'Strongly Disagree' to all but one statement above, we would urge you to book a meeting with Mr. Spracklen.

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
<p>Our son has flourished In so many ways already during his short time at the Prince of Wales School. His journey has been enhanced massively by the amazing transition from Pre-School and the links they maintain.</p> <p>We have been so impressed to see him inspired to carry on his learning at home. The optional home learning is great and maybe some maths alongside the reading would be beneficial as he enjoys doing it so much.</p> <p>Thank you to all the staff for all they do - not only for the fantastic special days and trips but for the kind and caring attitude they maintain every minute of everyday!</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>You will notice a more balanced approach to Home Learning in Reception moving forward, this will include a greater focus on Maths.</p>
Fantastic school, couldn't be happier.	Thank you for your feedback.

I have been so impressed with the reception team and would like to thank them for their hard work, enthusiasm and positivity. My child is happy, enthusiastic about learning, and is now much more willing to have a go at things he finds challenging - and that is wonderful to see and testament to the team's approach.	Thank you for your feedback.
This school is transformative for my son. The staff are absolutely inspiring and the leadership is exemplary.	Thank you for your feedback.

Year One -

You Said	We Said
Amazing school, concerns are always dealt with. My child amazes me with the progress he is making! WELL DONE The Prince of Wales School.	Thank you for your feedback.
<p>My Child is making good progress and is exceeding in some areas, however I feel that more could be provided in terms of homework, activities, independent homework.</p> <p>Marvellous Me is useful at receiving valuable information about my child's progress, and receiving timely updates on my child's progress / forthcoming events / meetings, however the information seems generic to the class and not specific to my child's effort (apologies if this is not the case).</p> <p>My child is enjoying the new challenges with the new teaching style, and is learning valuable lessons about "digging herself out the pit", resilience and has gained new independence with learning, which is making her increasingly more confident.</p> <p>My child is excited about going to school, enjoys talking to family members about the exciting topics and loves her teacher, teaching assistant and is looking forwards to the student starting soon.</p> <p>We are so grateful for the support and inclusivity you provide to our child, family and community.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>We take on board the comments regarding Marvellous Me and Homework and will consider how best to respond to the challenges you highlight.</p>

<p>We are very pleased with the schools work and especially all the excellent additional events and activities. The staff deserve a big pat on the back for going the extra mile!</p> <p>The school staff evidently work very well as a team.</p> <p>Some minor points would be: if having children's voice elections, please use a secret ballot.</p> <p>Also, we don't see the need for attendance certificates at the end of the year, given that some pupils may have missed days due to illness.</p> <p>Lastly, we felt that the NSPCC "let's talk pants" day was potentially confusing to pupils, especially to the younger ones (or those with SEN), and therefore of limited value.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>We will ask Pupil Voice to consider your suggestion of using a 'secret ballot'.</p> <p>Attendance certificates promote good attendance. Last year, all children with a percentage score of 98% or more received a certificate. This allowed for some missed days due to illness. Where children may have had prolonged illness or medical appointments this was taken into account and they were still given an attendance certificate.</p> <p>The NSPCC 'Pants Day' was not a one-off event, it will be built upon through age-appropriate inputs which will take place throughout this and future academic years. Inputs will include time during PSHE Lessons, Class-Based and Whole-School Assemblies.</p> <p>We want all children over time to become familiar with the 'PANTS Code'.</p>
<p>Not enough information about my child's progress.</p> <p>MarvellousMe isn't used for personal comments about my child as expected, or to let us know what has been happening. "Can't remember" is the common answer when questioned.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. We take on board the comments regarding Marvellous Me and will consider how best to respond to the challenges you highlight.</p> <p>Marvellous Me was introduced in addition to the already established methods for finding out about your child's progress. These include -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A fifteen minute daily opportunity for you to spend time in your child's class, to speak with your child's class teacher and to look at your child's workbooks. - Two formal and one informal 'Parent Consultation' evenings each year to look specifically at your child's progress and next steps. Additional Parent Consultation appointments are also available on request. - A dedicated online reporting portal for parents/carers through SPTO (School Pupil Tracker) Online. This portal is updated half-termly. <p>Find out more information about this platform</p>

	<p>by visiting our website - https://www.princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk/web/site/online_reports. Please see the School Office if you need further support with this platform.</p> <p>- An annual report which covers all curriculum areas as well as next steps to support further progress.</p> <p>In reply to the “Can’t remember” response - we would highlight our Parent Information Sessions, Blogs, Twitter Stream and Facebook Page as great sources of information about what’s coming up or what has happened in school.</p>
--	---

Year Two -

You Said	We Said
<p>The school provides such a caring community and the management team and teachers really embrace creative learning. We are so proud and fortunate to send our child to Prince of Wales and so very grateful for their continued work.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p>
<p>Would expect a wider variety of activities after school, particularly around sports for boys and girls.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>We take on board the comments regarding extra curricula activities and will consider how best to respond to the challenges you highlight.</p>
<p>With regards to the after school activities provided by the school. Quite understandably provisions/budgets have to be made for these activities to run. Therefore I feel the parent/carer scoring was quite unfair.</p> <p>I personally think the after school activities are great and well suited to the age range. Perhaps parents could offer their personal time for free to teach a hobby or run an activity after school? Could this be a possibility?</p> <p>The POW staff continue to go way above my expectations in providing the best possible care and long lasting memories for my children, as well as copious amounts of their time. We owe you!</p>	<p>We do now run more lunchtime and after-school activities than ever before. In the past term we’ve added basketball, wildlife club, dance, drama, greek and spanish classes to our programme. We have plans to expand further in the new year with yoga starting in January.</p> <p>We will continue to explore all options and would be happy to speak with parents/carers who would be willing to offer their personal time to teach a hobby or run an activity after school.</p> <p>Economically, we cannot afford to offer free</p>

	<p>extra-curricula activities after school. The money generated from these activities is invested back into the school. <u>The school is reliant on this income.</u></p> <p>We remain committed to providing a free lunchtime extra curricula programme and will always offer assistance to families who need it for after-school activities.</p>
--	--

Year Three -

You Said	We Said
No comments received.	<p>We would welcome more feedback any time - you can email Mr. Spracklen at - headteacher@princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk</p>

Year Four -

You Said	We Said
<p>Approach to bullying should be more transparent and actions applied evenly. A bad experience with bullying has had a lasting impact on my child.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>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 a strongly led and well-resourced PSHE Curriculum.</p> <p>Our recent Ofsted Inspection (June 2018) stated, 'Pupils say that there is very little bullying. All of the pupils spoken to said that they had a trusted adult in school and were confident that, should they have any concerns, these would be dealt with swiftly and effectively. This was a view shared by the vast majority of parents'.</p> <p>If you have concerns about bullying we would urge you raise these with your child's class teacher. Should you not be happy with their response, we would urge you to raise your concerns with the Headteacher and then again Governors if you are still not happy with the response.</p>
<p>Bullying is not adequately dealt with, children can be physically hurt and teaching staff informed but no notification is given to parents / carers.</p>	

I'm concerned about the increasingly frequent whole or part days set aside to 'fun'/non curricular activities. Should I wish to keep my child off to do these, a non attendance policy would be activated. Whilst a balance is healthy, the scales are overly heavy towards the fun.

It would appear in the last few weeks of the term there is minimal educational value. The importance of reading is well documented however reading diaries to bring home have vanished. But I suspected no reading at school will be done in these weeks up to Christmas.

In the mornings on the playground the mix of cars and pupils I have concerns about. The manor of driving has noted to be inappropriate for the setting. Maybe a compromise can be reached. Although I have always felt allowing these vehicles onto the playground is dangerous.

The use of social media is non stop, early and late during the week and at weekends. I suggest give yourself and us a break.

I'm concerned about the interaction between certain TA's and the comments the children are stating they have said. The language and general attitude appears not aligned to school and DCC ethos and professionalism.

Thank you for your feedback.

We work extremely hard to deliver a broad and balanced approach to the curriculum that inspires all children to learn. We are fortunate at The Prince of Wales School to have a very dedicated teaching team who have many years of experience.

Please be assured that no whole or part days are 'set aside' for 'fun' / non curricula activities' - all our learning is mapped back to the National Curriculum. This is supported by our recent inspection (June 2018), in which Ofsted highlighted our broad and balanced approach when they wrote, 'Leaders have ensured that the school's engaging curriculum is inspiring pupils to learn. There is a breadth of coverage which is underpinned by numerous opportunities for pupils to develop their writing. Teachers plan activities which enable pupils to acquire knowledge and skills across the curriculum. As a result, pupils are making good progress in English, mathematics, humanities, science and the arts'.

We will not apologise for making curriculum learning 'fun' as we believe this is an essential ingredient in delivering the success we have seen in improved data since September 2017.

In the last few weeks of the Autumn Term, we maintain a focus on Reading, Writing, Spelling and Maths. We do use Christmas as a stimulus - our Christmas Carol Writing Day is testament to that. With key themes from 'A Christmas Carol' including; change, forgiveness, compassion, choices and family - our Class Teachers have a lot to work with over the coming fortnight! The extended writing produced to date has already been phenomenal! We look forward to sharing some of this with you in our Writing Hall of Fame.

Reading diaries have been replaced by Accelerated Reader in Year 2, 3 and 4 which is a much more accurate way of tracking children's reading progress. Children are welcome to keep their own records still - however, listening to pupil voice we know most prefer to make use of the online tools now available.

Please be assured we will be doing lots of reading right up to Christmas!

We do monitor the mix of cars and pupils on the playground at the start of the day. We have not noticed a significant issue but will look again at this with fresh eyes following your feedback.

Our approach to social media was well documented in our response to the Social Media Questionnaire that we conducted in March 2018, please see the twenty-one page response here - <https://tinyurl.com/ybukon3c>.

Our use of social media reflects our busy and thriving school. We do not expect any individual to read every post. **Following The Prince of Wales School on social media is optional.** All key information is shared in our weekly email to parents/carers and archived for future reference on our website.

If you have concerns about the interaction between certain TA's and the comments the children are stating they have said we would urge you raise these with your child's class teacher. Should you not be happy with their response, we would urge you to raise your concerns with the Headteacher and then again Governors if you are still not happy with the response.

With so many concerns, we would urge you to book an urgent meeting with Mr. Spracklen.

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 Tuesday 8th 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