

St Mary's C of E Primary School

Parent Questionnaire Spring 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all your helpful comments. Your views and those of your children are very important to us. They help us move the school forward and are an effective way of checking that we are getting things right. School leaders take them into account when we are planning for the future of our school.

We were very heartened once again by the huge number of positive comments about St Mary's. Positive comments really help staff to keep motivated and to keep doing their best for your children.

We were glad to hear all parents say that their child feels safe at school and that children enjoy coming to school. Parents said that the school has clear expectations and promotes good behaviour through the Golden Rules and school values. Many parents told us that the school teaches children to have good manners and helps children learn how to develop socially.

Many parents told us that they find the school a welcoming environment with a community feel. Parents said that they find the staff approachable and supportive. Parents felt that they are welcome to discuss any questions or concerns with the school and feel comfortable doing this. Many parents commented on the positive relationships that staff have with children and how children are treated fairly.

Many parents commented on how well organised the school is and how clear communication is with parents. Parents told us that they appreciate the ways that school provides excellent communication with parents and regular information through the weekly newsletter, text messages, Academic Review Days, after school meetings with the class teacher and Parent Information Coffee Mornings. A few parents commented on wanting more updates on their child's progress. We welcome parents to book a meeting with the teacher whenever you want to. Teachers are pleased to meet parents to answer questions, to talk through the child's work and offer advice for things to work on at home. Parents do not need to wait for Academic Review Days to do this. Do phone the school office to ask to arrange an appointment to see the class teacher.

Parents were pleased that the school has a high-quality curriculum and that teachers teach the children well and help them to do their best. Many parents commented on how well the staff understand the needs of the children and how the school is an inclusive environment in which all can be successful. Parents commented on how staff notice when children are not feeling their best and when they need help.

In terms of what we might do to make the school even better; a few parents commented that they would like to see more after school enrichment clubs, particularly sporting clubs. We know that our sports clubs are very popular and we are pleased to be able to offer dance, multi-sports and athletics clubs this term. We will look at whether it is possible to arrange more sporting clubs for next term. We do have to balance the number of different clubs with the support staff also having time after school to meet with teachers and plan learning for pupils. We also need to factor in having enough space to accommodate these clubs inside with the ever-changing British weather conditions.

A few parents said that they would like more opportunities to get involved with the school. We welcome parents being involved with the St Mary's school community. We know that children do best when parents take an interest and are involved in the school. Parents are invited into school every term to see aspects of the children learning at school, for example class prayer services last term, and we are hoping to see many of you at class Curriculum Presentations to Parents in the coming weeks. We are very grateful when you volunteer to help with visits and visitors, as it would not be possible to do these without your help so please continue to do this. We hope that more parents will join our Friends of St Mary's meetings later in this term to help with planning our Summer Family BBQ. We regularly invite parents to join us for Parent Information Coffee Mornings and would welcome even more parents to join these meetings. This is a good opportunity to meet and chat with other parents. Thank you for your helpful suggestions for Parent Coffee Mornings, which will help us to plan for the future. We've taken your suggestions and have planned some of these in for the summer term. Look out for these being advertised in the newsletter.

A couple of parents asked if we can teach more of a particular subject, such as Art and Science. Children have Art and Science lessons every week. We are pleased to hear that children are enjoying their learning so much that they want to do even more of it! At St Mary's, we have a broad and balanced curriculum, which has been carefully planned with our children in mind. We teach all subjects that schools are required to teach, as set out in the National Curriculum, but we also go beyond this through our special project weeks that take place every term, such as Equality Studies. Our projects weeks provide children with further opportunities to enrich their learning in different subject areas throughout the year.

Many parents said that they could not think of anything to improve and that the school should keep doing what it does well. This is reassuring to hear, but we don't pretend to be perfect so if there are things that you think we could do to improve, do pop in to meet me and let me know.

We try our hardest to be a really good school.

Best wishes,
Ms Mitchell

Questionnaire responses

We received 139 responses representing 159 children

N.B. Returns of less than 1% are not included

1. My child enjoys coming to school

Strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
63%	36%			
Overall 99% positive				

2. My child feels safe at school

Strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
77%	23%			
Overall 100% positive				

3. My child is making good progress

Strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
55%	42%	2%		
Overall 97% positive				

4. Most children behave well at St Mary's

Strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
45%	52%			2%
Overall 97% positive				

5. I am kept informed about how my child is getting on

Strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
55%	44%	1%		
Overall 99% positive				

6. I feel comfortable about approaching the school with a question or a problem

Strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
71%	28%	1%		
Overall 99% positive				

7. Staff expect my child to work hard and do his/her best

Strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
64%	35%	1%		
Overall 99% positive				

8. Staff treat my child fairly

Strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
66%	32%			2%
Overall 98% positive				

9. The school is led and managed well

Strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
79%	19%	1%		
Overall 98% positive				

10. The school provides appropriate homework

Strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
51%	41%	2%	1%	5%
Overall 92% positive				

11. The school lives out its Christian vision: 'Go shine in the world, and live as Jesus lived'

Strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
55%	37%	2%		6%
Overall 92% positive				

12. The school provides opportunities for spiritual growth and development

Strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
55%	37%			8%
Overall 92% positive				