

# MAPLE INFANTS SCHOOL

## PUPIL AND PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS – FEBRUARY 2017

### INTRODUCTION

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Many thanks to the 136 families who responded to our annual parent and pupil questionnaire. We also had 100 responses to the questions asked directly of the children, which we are really pleased with.

This year we sought ways to promote and increase opportunities for families to respond to our survey by using an online version to improve ease of access. Our questionnaire was also promoted during our spring parent's evening and our computer suite was open for families to complete the survey in school if they would like to. These actions have supported a 17% increase in the number of responses we received this year compared to our annual questionnaire last year, which we are delighted with.

Your responses are very valuable and help us to consider any improvements which we may be able to make to our school. Following this commitment, the Senior Leadership Team have taken time to carefully analyse the results and have considered all appropriate next steps which are outlined within this report.

### SURVEY FINDINGS OVERVIEW

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We have grouped the responses and recommended actions into 5 key themes covering:

- Overall satisfaction with Maple infants
- Learning, development and behaviour of the children
- Communication and interaction with the school/staff
- Safety and dealing with bullying in school
- Playtimes and lunchtimes

A table of the response for each question is also available in the appendix, alongside the appropriate actions to be taken by the school, where necessary.

## **1/ Overall satisfaction with the school:**

Overall, we are pleased that the findings show that an **overwhelming majority of parents are satisfied with the school:**

- 93% of the families say they would recommend the school to another parent,
- 98% think their child is happy,
- 93% say their child is well looked after,
- 90% believe their child is taught well at Maple.

From the children's responses, we see that 67% also say they are always happy at school, and 32% say they are sometimes happy at school.

Our recommended action points from these findings are to:

- task the School Parliament to explore whole class answers to questions to gain a wider perspective on happiness and to explore what would make children feel happier at school.
- explore the school's vision and mission statement alongside Governors and our school community and ensure that it promotes the nurturing ethos for our pupils and their families, which our school considers to be a great strength.
- promote our rich curriculum further via our website and celebrate the different teaching styles at Maple and the enrichment opportunities which children experience further,
- task the School Parliament to produce the children's 'highlights' of their year which can be advertised to families and our local community.

## **2/ Learning, development and behaviour of the children:**

**Majority of families (87%) say their child makes good progress at this school**, and 87% agree that **Maple helps them to support their children's learning and development**. 76% also say the **school responds well to any concerns raised**. There is still a margin of improvement towards the 'open door' policy, and the promotion of the role of Senior Leadership Team to ensure that families know who they can raise any concerns with and that they can request a meeting with class teachers throughout the year.

From the pupils' responses we can see that we could **provide more guidance in helping them to understand their targets** - as only 46% say they always know their targets, 40% sometimes and 14% say they do not. We will try to ensure that class teachers identify and promote pupil targets and ensure that pupils know where these are displayed. We will also try to promote the Assessment and Marking Policy to families so that they are aware of feedback systems in class.

A controversial topic is the amount of homework given to children: while **most (69%) of the families agree that the amount is appropriate** to the children's age, 21% are neutral and 10% disagree. Therefore, we want to keep ensuring that homework grids are easily accessible on the school

website, and that they reflect the expectation for families to decide how much or how little is appropriate for their children to complete and that families can speak to class teachers if they are concerned with homework at any time throughout the academic year. Moreover, the school wants to continue to highlight essential homework and the class teachers/teaching assistants to keep identifying when they have heard children read within school reading diaries.

Majority of families (89%) also agree that **the school ensures the children are well behaved**. We will continue to ensure that the newsletters promoting 'Golden Rules' (general rules and playground rules) to families will keep being improved and sent via the school website. We will also provide Playtime Award stickers for our lunchtime supervisors to present to pupils who display positive behaviour during lunchtime and ensure that behaviour is promoted in monthly newsletters.

### **3/ Safety and dealing with bullying:**

Overall, **safety is not a concern for the majority of families** – 96% say they feel their child is safe at school, and 87% of the children say they always feel safe at school (12% sometimes, but 1% do not feel secure). We will task the School Parliament to explore why some children may not always feel safe at school and to continue to promote to pupils, at an age-appropriate level, how we keep the children safe at Maple.

**95% of the pupils say they know who to talk to in school if they have a problem** (80% always, 15% sometimes): since 5% do not know, we want to promote to pupils that all members of staff will listen to any concerns or problems which they wish to share, then ensure that 'Worry Monsters' are promoted in each class. We are also considering a Buddy system to support children to share worries with others and be supported to share with staff.

However, the school is considered **effective in dealing with bullying for only 46% of families**. We therefore want to organise an Anti-Bullying Day to continue to promote anti-bullying and our no tolerance policy; to continue to highlight the Anti-Bullying Policy on the school website; and to task the School Parliament to ask peers whether they understand what bullying is and what they would do if they thought someone was being bullied.

### **4/ Communication and interaction with school staff:**

Overall, the school is considered **well led and managed (83% agree)**. Maple will aim to continue to promote the revised school vision and mission statements and to increase communication from School Governors.

The majority (96%) of families say they **feel welcomed at school**. We will consider the office environment and explore opportunities to develop this area to ensure that it is welcoming. We will also look to increase opportunities to welcome families into school to see the school and their children in action.

Many (87%) say **they receive valuable information from the school**. However, there seems to be a **weakness in our website presence** – as the website is not yet considered an informative and easy to use platform (48% agree) and the communication between school and home is not effective for the 13% of the families (and an additional 14% are neutral). We are eager to redesign the website and ensure that it is easy to use, that it includes a diary which is kept up to date with school events and that newsletters are provided every month – since 80% of the families would be happy to receive communication from the school by email only (e.g. monthly newsletters).

### **5/ Playtimes and lunchtimes:**

83% of the children have their school meal provided by ISS: 72% of the pupils enjoy it, 62% of the families think that they have a good nutritional choice of food and a wide variety of menu choices (54%) from the main meal, as well as 90% of the families would like to be able to choose their children's lunch. We will share these responses with ISS and we will arrange for ISS food tasters for families. When children were asked about lunch times, 85% are **always happy to have lunch with their friends in the hall**, 11% sometimes and 4% are not. We will task the School Parliament to explore how lunchtimes could be improved.

Most of the children say they **enjoy playtimes** (83%), but we still want to task the School Parliament and School Meal Supervisors to explore how playtimes could be improved. We would also like to provide a 'Friendship Bench' for children to access at playtimes if required and we are considering inviting older pupils to become monitors to support younger children during playtimes.

## **CONCLUSION**

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The findings highlight an overall positive response from families and children about their satisfaction with the school, how it is led, children's development and behaviour, and ongoing communication with families.

We will ensure that we proactively implement the recommendations set out in response to the areas highlighted that need further support, plus keep families updated on all progress. Please refer to the appendix with the full data findings and our recommended actions.

It is important to note that although we carry out our questionnaires annually we have an 'open door' policy and always welcome feedback. Please arrange an appointment with a member of our Senior Leadership Team if you would like to discuss your thoughts or any concerns which you may have further.

## **APPENDIX I: PARENT AND PUPIL SURVEY RESPONSE + ACTION PLAN**

Question	Result					Actions to consider
Q1. Please indicate the year group your child is in	Nursery – 10.53% Reception – 32.33% Year 1- 36.84% Year 2 – 20.30%					To continue to promote and explore opportunities to ensure that our annual questionnaire is easily accessible to our families
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree/ Disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
Q2. My child is happy at this school	57.46%	39.55%	2.24%	0.00%	0.75%	To task the School Parliament to ask their peers about whether they feel happy at school and to explore what would make them feel happier.
Q3. I feel my child is safe at this school	51.52%	44.70%	3.79%	0.00%	0.00%	To continue to promote to pupils and families how we keep the children safe at Maple.
Q4. The school welcomes parents and visitors	47.76%	47.01%	2.24%	2.24%	0.75	To consider the office environment and explore opportunities to develop this area to ensure that it is welcoming.  To increase opportunities to welcome families into school to see the school and their children in action.  To promote staff code of conduct further.
Q5. I receive valuable information	32.59%	40.74%	17.04%	7.41%	2.22%	To continue to promote school's 'open

from the school about my child's progress							door' policy and ensure that families know that they can request a meeting with class teachers throughout the year.
Q6. My child makes good progress at this school	47.73%	39.39%	9.85%	2.27%	0.76%		To explore information provided to families during parents evening and consider providing more detailed progress information.  To ensure that our school community is aware of what is considered to be expected progress at Maple.
Q7. My child is well looked after at this school	52.59%	40.00%	5.93%	0.74%	0.74%		To explore the school's vision and mission statement alongside Governors and our school community and ensure that it promotes the nurturing ethos for our pupils and their families which our school considers to be a great strength.  Publicise vision and mission statement.
Q8. My child is taught well at Maple.	53.33%	37.04%	7.41%	1.48%	0.74%		To promote our rich curriculum further via our website.  To celebrate the different teaching styles at Maple and the enrichment opportunities which children experience further.  To task the School Parliament to produce the children's 'highlights' of their year which can be advertised to families and our local community.
Q9. Maple helps me to support my	38.35%	48.87%	9.77%	3.01%	0.00%		To invite families to share any themes of any workshops which they would like to

child's learning and development						attend.  To invite families to share challenges of supporting children's learning and development within this current educational climate.
Q10. My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	27.41%	41.48%	20.74%	9.63%	0.74%	To ensure that homework grids are easily accessible on school website.  To ensure that homework grids reflect the expectation for families to decide how much or how little is appropriate for their children to complete.  To continue to highlight essential homework.  To ensure that families are invited to speak to class teachers if they are concerned with homework at any time throughout the academic year.  To ensure that class teachers/teaching assistants identify when they have heard children read within school reading diaries.
Q11. This school ensures the pupils are well behaved.	37.88%	50.76%	9.09%	2.27%	0.00%	To promote 'Golden Rules' (general rules and playground rules) to families via school website.  To provide Playtime Award stickers for our lunchtime supervisors to present to pupils who display positive behaviour during lunchtime.

						To ensure that behaviour is promoted on monthly newsletters.
Q12. This school is well led and managed.	31.85%	51.11%	14.07%	2.22%	0.74%	To continue to highlight school priorities and progress against these.  To promote re-revised school vision and mission statement.  To increase communication from School Governors – Newsletters
Q13. I find the school website informative and easy to use.	18.80%	33.08%	30.83%	17.29%	0.00%	To re-design our school website and ensure that it is easy to use.
Q14. I would recommend the school to another parent.	57.46%	35.82%	3.73%	2.99%	0.00%	To continue to promote 'open door' policy for families to raise any concerns which they may have.  To invite families to provide suggestions for what is important to families when choosing a school for their child.
Q15. The school deals effectively with bullying.	19.70%	26.52%	48.48%	3.79%	1.52%	To organise an Anti-Bullying Day to continue to promote anti-bullying and no tolerance policy.  To continue to highlight Anti-Bullying Policy on school website.  To task the School Parliament to ask peers about if they understand what bullying is and what they would do if they thought someone was being bullied.
Q16. The school responds well to any concerns I raise.	34.81%	41.48%	17.78%	5.19%	0.74%	To continue to promote 'open door' policy to families.

						To continue to promote role of Senior Leadership Team and ensure families know who they can raise any concerns with.
Q17. Communication between school and home is effective.	29.10%	44.03%	14.18%	10.45%	2.24%	To re-design our school website and ensure that it is easy to use.  To ensure that the website includes a diary which is kept up to date with school events.  To continue to ensure Newsletters are provided every month.  To ensure that class teachers/teaching assistants identify when they have heard children read within school reading diaries.
Q18. I would be happy to receive communication e.g. monthly newsletters, by email only.	49.63%	29.63%	9.63%	10.37%	0.74%	To send Newsletters by email.  To provide a paper copy of the newsletters for any families who request it.
Q19. My child currently has a school meal provided by ISS	Yes - 83.20%	No – 16.80%				
Q20. If no could you please share your reason for providing a packed lunch.			Various answers received			To share responses with ISS.
Q21. My child enjoys the meals provided at school.	17.70%	53.98%	20.35%	7.96%	0.00%	To share responses with ISS.  To arrange for ISS to provide food tasters for families.
Q22. I feel that I have a good nutritional choice of food from the	15.04%	46.90%	27.43%	10.62%	0.00%	

main meal for my child					
Q23. I feel that there are a wide variety of menu choices for my child	13.16%	41.23%	25.44%	19.30%	0.88%
Q24. I like being able to choose my child's lunch	48.25%	42.11%	7.02%	2.63%	0.00%

**Pupil responses – we received between 100 and 101 responses for this section of the questionnaire.**

	Yes, always	Sometimes	No, not usually	
Q25. I am happy at school	67.33%	31.68%	0.99%	To task the School Parliament to explore whole class answers to questions to gain a wider perspective.  To task School Parliament to explore what would make children feel happier at school.
Q26. I feel safe at school	87.00%	12.00%	1.00%	To task School Parliament to explore why some children may not feel safe at school.  To continue to promote to pupils, at an age appropriate level, how we keep the children safe at Maple.
Q27. I know my targets	46.00%	40.00%	14.00%	To ensure that class teachers identify and promote pupil targets and ensure that pupils know where these are displayed.  To promote Assessment and Marking Policy to families so that they are aware of feedback systems in class.

Q28. I enjoy having lunch with my friends in the hall	84.69%	11.22%	4.08%	To task School Parliament to explore how lunchtimes could be improved.
Q29. I enjoy playtimes	83.17%	14.85%	1.98%	To task School Parliament and School Meal Supervisors to explore how playtimes could be improved.  To provide a 'Friendship Bench' for children to access at playtimes if required.  To consider inviting older pupils to become monitors to support younger children during playtimes.
Q30. I know who to talk to in school if I have a problem	80.20%	14.85%	4.95%	To promote to pupils that all members of staff will listen to any concerns or problems which they wish to share.  To ensure that 'Worry Monsters' are promoted in each class.  To consider Buddy system to support children to share worries with others and be supported to share with staff.
Q31. What do you like best about school	Various answers received including – playtime, writing, climbing frame, friends, teachers, creative activities, time outside, Golden Time, muffin days, the way grown-ups teach, behave politely, maths, reading, everything!			To continue to explore what children enjoy about school.