

2018 Findings from SJS Questionnaire for parents/carers

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not relevant
1. My child enjoys school	55%	41%	3%	1%	0%
2. My child is making progress at this school	45%	55%	0%	0%	0%
3. The school keeps my child safe.	49%	48%	2%	0%	0%
4. The school informs me about my child's progress	37%	54%	10%	0%	0%
5. The school expects my child to work hard and do his or her best	45%	52%	3%	0%	0%
6. The school sets appropriate homework for my child	32%	52%	11%	3%	2%
7. There is a good range of activities including trips or visits for my child to take part in	34%	56%	10%	0%	0%
8. The school treats my child fairly and with respect	41%	48%	6%	4%	0%
9. The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour	35%	55%	5%	0%	4%
10. The school has appropriate procedures for dealing with complaints	34%	47%	12%	1%	5%
11. The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns	40%	54%	3%	0%	3%
12. The school is led and managed effectively	32%	57%	6%	1%	3%
Parents and carers with children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities	30%	61%	4%	0%	4%
13. The school informs me about the types of support available for my child's particular needs	46%	44%	3%	0%	6%
14. The school provides specialist support for my child's particular needs	13%	11%	4%	1%	71%
15. The school informs me how the specialist provision is helping my child to progress	13%	11%	3%	1%	72%
Religious Education:					
16. I am satisfied with the quality of religious education provided by the school.	15%	10%	4%	1%	70%
17. The school gives the parents a clear understanding of what is taught in RE.	51%	44%	4%	0%	1%
18. I am satisfied with the RE work the children are expected to do at home.	42%	45%	13%	0%	0%
19. The school provides good opportunities for the children's spiritual development.	37%	51%	12%	0%	1%
20. The school encourages the parents to play an active part in the religious and worshipping life of the school.	47%	43%	6%	1%	2%
21. I regard the school as a loving, caring community and the children are happy in the school.	45%	48%	3%	1%	2%
22. School Dinners: The school provides tasty, healthy school dinners.	45%	48%	4%	2%	0%
23. I am happy with the new payment system (CYPAD) which helps me monitor my child's account.	39%	49%	9%	1%	2%
Communication:					
24. I am happy with the communications received from the school and the methods used.	49%	44%	4%	1%	1%
25. Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at this school	55%	41%	3%	1%	0%

Dear Parents,

Many thanks for your responses. 93 families responded. Please find below some comments on areas referred to in the questionnaire.

Religious Education:

Our school was surprised by the number of parents who thought that the quality of RE teaching was not relevant to them. This result may be a consequence of the layout of the questionnaire and we will be investigating this anomaly. If you have any comments on question 16, we would be very happy to hear them.

Children's Progress

Children's progress is reported formally to parents three times in the year – Spring and Autumn Parents' Evenings and in the End of Year Report in July.

The School also holds termly meetings with the parents of SEND children.

If you have any concern about your child's learning, you can contact the teacher through school office or the teacher's email to arrange a meeting.

A number of parents enjoy reading school staffs' comments in their child's reading diary. We try to ensure that there is a comment in these books for YR to Y4 on a weekly basis. Some children are listened to more often and will have more comments written in these books.

Homework

Homework is a very contentious subject. The school has a homework policy. Teachers give sufficient notice for homework to be handed in to help facilitate busy nights.

For extra homework, the school would prefer parents to purchase workbooks from a book shop i.e. WH SMITH's rather than take school activity workbooks or books home.

After School Activities

The school have two different routes for after school events.

1 – After School Activities

2. After School Club (ASC)

Even though the school runs both enterprises, they should be viewed as separate from the school and should be self-funding. We have compared our prices

to other schools and childcare provision and we are very competitive.

We do have some 'Ad Hoc' places in the ASC but these are quickly filled. 'Pay as you go' is not an option for the ASC as we need to know exactly how many adults are required to keep to a ratio of one adult to 14 children (insurance compliance ratio). We can offer 'Pay as you Go' in the morning as we have other staff in the school we can call upon if the numbers rise.

The children attending the ASC do not have to attend the After School Activity Clubs as there is already plenty to do in the ASC. It is a family's decision if they wish to attend an After School Activity Club, and as they are separate from ASC, fees in addition to ASC are required.

When children are booked into the ASC, we acknowledge the responsibility to arrange transport back to school for these children. For example, the school arranged transport back to school from the Christmas Panto and indeed after a quick snack then onto the Christmas Carol Service.

The school closes early on the last day of every term and there is no ASC on this day. I can understand how this may cause difficulty for working parents. However, we only have three days in the year where this happens. I know that in the past, parents who are not working have been very kind and invited friends back for a play date on these days in order to help working parents/friends.

I would also like to confirm that we have not charged for the ASC on days that the school cancelled the ASC i.e. snow days. On the Easter Activity evening, all ASC children will have the £3 taken off their next ASC invoice.

As the cost of the After School Activities are very reasonable, we do not refund for one cancelled session. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents that all profits from these activities go into a parental fund and are used to support learning experiences for all children i.e. Christmas Panto, visiting author.

Complaints

The school aims to resolve all complaints. Sometimes due to the confidential nature we are unable to share the actions which helped resolve the complaint. If you feel that you want more

information please contact the school or person dealing with your concern.

Children lose items - as is evident with the amount of items in the lost property bins. If your child loses an item, the class teacher will ask the child to look for it themselves during break time and if unsuccessful will then help the child in his/her search. As parents are no longer allowed to be in school unaccompanied, we are considering locating a 'lost item' box in the school car park.

Some parents find the reminders of Gipsy Lane curfew and car park parking unfair as they comply with the procedures. School staff do personally approach individuals who do not follow this rule. Please understand that we have a duty to show that we are actively notifying parents on a regular basis via a variety of media. If you follow the procedure, please accept our heartfelt thanks.

School Dinners

Since September, we have been in discussions with the catering company about the decline in standards. We have had a number of chefs since then. The new chefs started about two months ago and it took them a couple of weeks to familiarise themselves with the cooking equipment and portions. Both individuals are approachable and friendly and are working hard to improve the children's experience of school lunches. The Governors and leadership team are monitoring the situation carefully. The children themselves have reported that the school dinners are 'gradually improving' – we will keep you updated in our newsletters.

If you feel your child is changing their mind or that a mistake is being made in the process of selecting your child's lunch, please log onto www.feedinghungryminds.co.uk where you can order the lunch at home with your child.

During cold weather, the children wear their coats into the hall and then should place them on the back of their chairs. Unfortunately, the radiators in the hall are unable to heat the hall and some children preferred to keep their coats on. Over the summer we are having new heating installed so that our hall will be warmer for the autumn term.

The dinner ladies cater for a wide variety of dietary requirement. If you have any concerns with a specialist diet please contact Mrs. Baumgart, the morning secretary who will liaise with the kitchen. If

the problem persists, please notify Mrs. Philpott or Mrs Dunlop who will investigate the matter further.

Children's Behaviour and Spiritual Development

Disagreements will happen amongst the children and indeed these are part of the process of learning how to socialise. Children need to learn how to sort out their own disagreements. During playtime, we do not wish to intervene in disagreements unless it is required. At playtime we have up to 6 members of staff and at lunchtime we can up to 11 adults supervising the children. This number is high in comparison to other schools as we want to ensure that the children are supervised to a high level.

I understand that it is difficult when another child is unkind to your own child. However, we must remember that if your child was the culprit you would like them to be treated with understanding and where appropriate firmness. We follow and encourage the Lord's attitude towards forgiveness amongst all our school community.

Our new behaviour system (a copy is attached to the end of this letter) is adopted by all staff and this will help reinforce the school's high expectations and a sense of fairness.

The school records all incidents of discrimination no matter how slight. However, the children tend to be careful in ensuring staff are not around when making unkind comments. If your child reports any such incidents to you, please email school office or teacher where they will be handled sensitively i.e. the teacher will have a mini lesson on respect and how unkind words may hurt others.

The school deals quickly with all bullying incidents. Parents and children can be very quick to use the word 'bullying' to describe unkind behaviour. The school do not 'brush' any concern aside. Please remember that

1. Your child may act differently at school than at home
2. You are only hearing what your child thinks is happening. It is very important to listen to your child but also remember the 4 dangers of hearsay - ambiguity, insincerity, incorrect memory, and inaccurate perception.
3. The other child involved may have other needs and morally the school needs to take these needs into account.

The school have invested in providing a wide range of supportive techniques for any children requiring extra support:

- Speech & Language Therapy (SALT)
- Emotional Literacy Support Assistant
- Circle Group
- Philosophy for Children

If you feel your child has a need that is not being met please contact class teacher, our SENCO, Mrs. Elliott-Walker, Mrs. Philpott or Mrs. Dunlop. We want all our children to be happy and feel safe at school.

Communication

The school uses a variety of methods to communicate with parents – phone calls, texts, letters, newsletter, emails, twitter and the school website. Different parents prefer different methods. The school needs a quick way to inform all parents and this would not be possible if we had to contact parents in different ways. Moreover, the school has to be economical in its use of time so specific methods are chosen to reach the vast majority of parents.

Email: All admin and teachers have their own school email which parents are welcome to use when required.

Website: We have been working hard on designing a new website. Many thanks to one of our governors, Mrs. A. Kurobiowski, who volunteered to design our new website. Please go to www.stjosephsbracknell.co.uk to view our mobile friendly website. Any suggestion for improvement will be welcomed.

Newsletter: The Newsletter is an account of what has happened in the school and informs parents of upcoming events. We will try to ensure that the calendar includes more future events.

In our Newsletter, we are trying to share pupils' achievements outside of school. If your child has had an achievement that we can celebrate, please email the school and we will endeavour to share and celebrate their achievements in assemblies and/or in newsletter.

Twitter: Twitter is used to share immediate learning and celebrate school events. If you do not have an account please log onto the school website where you can view our twitter photos on line at www.stjosephsbracknell.co.uk . Please click on the

bird at top right or you can scroll down to the end of the page.

Texts: Sometimes due to the number of texts being sent, communication can be delayed or not delivered. Please accept our apologies, but there is little we can do about this. The school is presently investigating an email system which may be quicker and easier or just provide a back-up solution.

Paper Copies of Communication: Communication which requires printing i.e. questionnaires, after school activities, permission letters are printed as we need to have a parental signature/permission. All newsletters are sent by email and placed on the school website.

The teachers have 30 children in the class. To use time efficiently and to support independence they ask the children to put their letters in their own bags. If you count up the time it would take staff to place the letters in the children's bags, it would take over an hour. We do not have this time to waste so this responsibility is left to the children. If the letter is important and we have not received a response, an enquiry will be made directly to the parent.

Future Actions:

1. Investigating an email system
2. Try to give notice of any changes to school timetable or after school activities at least a day before. We understand how late communication (texts) can cause difficulty for working parents. However, please remember that sometimes we ourselves receive late notifications i.e. illness.

School Trips

We aim to have at least one school trip each term. This could include – School Panto, Forest Schools, Lookout.

We value these trips and recognise that they can be expensive for some families and so aim to have one outing a term.

Please note that we need parents to pay the voluntary contribution or else the school trip becomes unviable.

Parents to play an active part in the life of the school

In the past our PTA worked hard at organising events and encouraging parents to help with the preparations. Please bear with us when we work on finding ways to gather parental support to organise discos and fetes. This year we have arranged a

Cinema Evening & Easter Craft Evening. Many thanks to all the parents who helped on both these evenings.

With your help we aim to relaunch the PTA as 'Friends of St. Joseph' in the Autumn term.

We aim to have a Family Day in the summer instead of a summer fete.

St Joseph's Behaviour System – Implemented April 2018

	What happens at each stage?	Dojos	Teacher notes
GOLD	Child moves here if they have gone above and beyond and demonstrate exceptional behaviour/ work ethic. If a child is on Gold, he/she will be rewarded with a golden playtime on Friday morning break.	The child will earn a "super duper" dojo worth three dojos!	Children can move up as well as down so if they've received a first warning, they can still redeem themselves (dependent on age, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an apology from the child may be sufficient, - producing an exceptional piece of work - or just behaving better) Every child needs to have their own peg Please keep a note of your weekly golden children – this list should be passed on to Sarah Turner on a Friday morning so she knows who is a "golden child" Dojos should be reset after break every Friday once they have been collected by Year 5 (see note below) Children to be grouped according to their houses on class dojo as it will make it significantly easier for Year 5 to collect.
GREEN	All children will start on the green – every day is a new day.	At the end of the day, the child will earn a "good work – you're green" dojo!	
WHITE	Starting Point		
AMBER	Child moves here if he/she receive a warning. 1 st warning is a verbal warning.	Try and improve your behaviour and get back to green by the end of the day!	
RED	Child moved here if he/she receives another warning. 2 nd warning results in the loss of a dojo and the loss of five minutes at break (class teacher in charge of keeping children in)	The child will unfortunately lose a dojo.	
BLUE	Child's third warning results in being send to Mrs Dunlop or Mrs Philpott and will be expected to complete a thinking sheet to reflect on their behaviour as well as staying in to catch up with any work missed as a result of this. A blue warning may result in an 'After School Detention'. Parents will be informed of behaviour.	If a thinking sheet is completed, this should be put in the class behaviour folder.	
Notes		Dojos will be collected on a weekly basis by Year 5. They will be collected in houses and the houses' on-going score will be shared with school in whole school assembly on a Monday. Those with the most dojos will receive a certificate at the end of term.	