

Parent Survey – Spring 22

<p>Question How well do you think that the leadership of the school promotes Christian values thus giving the school a distinctly Christian character?</p>	<p>Response Very well - 30 Reasonably well - 20</p>
<p>You Said</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like that the school uses Christian values at the heart of everything. • I think it strikes the right balance. I like that it's Christian with a small 'c' as I also want my daughter to understand diversity and the importance of different cultures and religion. • It promotes good values. I wouldn't consider these to be distinctly Christian. • I am not sure if the children say a prayer during assembly but it would be something nice for them to do. 	
<p>School Response</p> <p>We say a prayer or have a moment of quiet reflection during each assembly. Sometimes we say a prayer that is bespoke to the theme of assembly, or at other times the Lord's Prayer is said. We often say our school prayer that can be found on our website.</p> <p>The Christian values are - be respectful, ambitious, resilient, caring, creative and curious, and 'Be the best you can be'. These can be found on our website and around school but are included in most communications so that everyone is aware of them.</p>	

<p>Question How well does the Christian character of our school contribute to the academic achievements of your child/children? How well do our values promote good learning?</p>	<p>Response Very well - 19 Reasonably well - 27 Not at all - 4</p>
<p>You Said</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He particularly really enjoys telling us about his religious learning and understanding. He is obviously gaining a lot of knowledge in this area. • I think the Christian character of the school is key. • I don't feel the Christian character contributes to the academic achievements. Any achievements are due to the individual class teachers inspiring the child to be the best they can be. 	

<p>Question How well does the Christian character contribute to the personal development and wellbeing of your child/children and all learners regardless of their ability or background</p>	<p>Response Very well - 19 Reasonably well - 24 Not at all - 7</p>
<p>You Said</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't see the Christian character as influencing development and wellbeing. But the school deals with these issues well. • The school promotes values of inclusiveness regardless of ability or background. • I believe the Christian character of the school and the values that it promotes are an important factor in shaping the characters of the children in their formative years. 	

Question How important do you think that collective worship (assembly) is in developing your child's character and understanding of the world around them?	Response Very - 23 Reasonably - 22 Not at all - 5
You Said <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's very important because it's an opportunity to express and apply the values of the school to world events and moral/social situations discussed as part of it. • I think it is important for my child to learn about the Christian faith, and other religions. • I do not believe in worship, collective or otherwise. However, I do strongly believe in tolerance and understanding of others, so I think that coming together to learn about, and appreciate difference and diversity is essential to personal development. 	
School Response Collective worship happens daily and is led by a member of school staff (usually the headteacher) or members of the church community. These assemblies are based on our school values, stories and teachings from the Christian and other religions, key events in the news or from history. Each session includes a song (ranging from traditional or modern worship songs to those sung by Ed Sheeran or Katie Perry), a story or focus discussion and finishes with a prayer. Pupils are given the opportunity to contribute ideas and responses to questions posed, either by sharing with an individual or the whole group or through a moment of quiet reflection. Prior to Covid, we also encouraged pupils to plan and lead collective worship for groups and the whole school. This is something that we are reintroducing this term.	

Question My child is generally happy to be at school?	Response Agree - 48 Disagree - 2
You Said <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He cannot wait to get to school each day and has given him a real sense of purpose and individuality with his own friends etc. He couldn't be happier at school. • I find the school to be extremely supportive to my child. • He more than often will say he didn't enjoy his day. This is mostly to do with the outdoor learning experience, he isn't allowed to play football at break times he tells me as only the older children can play. There then isn't anything else at their break times to play with so he feels bored. 	
School Response We try to make the best use of the space we have available. During the wet weather, space to play football is limited, so a timetable has been produced to ensure that all children have access to it. As the younger children often have an afternoon playtime, whereas the older children do not, this time has been identified as KS1 football time. We appreciate that this then makes the morning playtimes less interesting for those pupils who love playing football and have tried to offer alternatives. Thanks to Friends of Balcombe School (FOBS) and parents who helped at the working party, we are now able to provide more alternatives to football. We have a new climbing frame due for installation next week, we have pirate ships and digging pits almost ready to be used and more projects are in the pipeline. Our aim is to offer plenty of opportunities for adventurous, creative and physical play to all children.	

Question When I have raised concerns with the school in the past, they have been dealt with effectively.	Response Agree - 45 Disagree - 5
You Said <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think my feedback has always been taken constructively and I have no complaints. • Any issues I have had have been dealt with privately, promptly and quite frankly, brilliantly. • Generally I do have a good response from the school. Unfortunately, there have been a couple of instances where communication from the school has been late in relation to the topic occurring and as such there hasn't been enough time for my concerns to be fully addressed. 	
School Response We do always try to respond to emails and phone messages from parents promptly, however sometimes due to staff absence, particularly busy periods or human error, things can be overlooked. If you have left us a message or sent an email and do not get a response within a couple of days, please do try again. Teaching staff do not necessarily check their class@ emails daily, so anything urgent should be sent to parents@ which is checked throughout each and every day during term time. Teaching staff are also available for a quick chat most mornings on the gate, although for anything personal, making an appointment for an after school meeting is a better option	

Question School promotes and rewards good behaviour, sets high expectations and deals with poor behaviour effectively.	Response Agree - 45 Disagree - 5
You Said <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think the school has a good ethos with regards to this, especially noticing a child's achievements outside the school. • Agree that high expectations are set and poor behaviour is dealt with well by the class teachers. • I think parents and pupils are really missing celebration assemblies and I'd like to see them resume. I wish there were a 'merit card' system where if your child has done something particularly good, the teacher writes a card to be sent home to parents so the family can celebrate the child's success. 	
School Response We know that celebration assembly has been missed and will be introducing it from 20 th May. We recognise the value of every child being able to celebrate their successes and create regular opportunities within the school day for this to happen. Opportunities to share this information with parents either at drop off or pick up are greatly valued.	

Question I am able to communicate openly and clearly with key adults in school as needed (class teacher, teaching assistant, head teacher).	Response Agree - 47 Disagree - 3
You Said <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone is always available and happy to talk- I have no complaints. • I find the school to be extremely open with communication. I always receive a response very quickly and the school implements any outcomes quickly and efficiently. • Agree with communicating with class teacher as they are always present at the gate at the start and end of the day. Class emails are always responded to. <p>Due to the entrance arrangements now in the morning, I feel communication with the headteacher is less than it has been. When the access was through the playground for all children she was present for any child or parent to speak to her or even for the children just to say good morning to her, but now due to her standing by the road (which I understand is to keep the children safe) it's only children in those classes by the road that can do this easily.</p>	
School Response In response to this last, valid point, I now try to stand in a more central place each day, to allow easier access for all parents and pupils.	

Question I am well informed about what my child is learning and how well they are doing.	Response Agree - 36 Disagree - 14
You Said <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Child) has just brought home an incredibly useful pack for us to support her with. To see her spelling scores is very helpful • It would be nice to for the school to make more use of Seesaw other than just for setting homework. Parents evening addresses this, but for the rest of the time I'm not that well versed to be honest. • I have really missed the afternoons where I can see my child's work, although I appreciate this due to Covid. 	
School Response The next "open" session will be held on the morning of Weds 15 th June between 9:10 – 9:45. More details will be included in the next newsletter. This term, will also see the reintroduction of our termly letter from class teachers. At the start of each term, parents will receive an overview of the intended learning for the term, including notice of trips and/or visitors and any reminders of other information of interest. We also have information on our website under "curriculum", detailing what each class will be learning in each subject during the term/year. Going forward, we aim to put something on Seesaw about the current learning at least once per week.	

<p>Question The school supports and encourages my child to develop a love of learning and equips them with the skills needed to become a lifelong learner.</p>	<p>Response Agree - 48 Disagree - 2</p>
<p>You Said</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My son is confident as he is encouraged to push himself and succeed. • My child is very enthusiastic about school and what he is learning, so I believe his class teacher is particularly good at this. • My child really enjoys thematic studies and lessons focusing on texts and creative activities. Teachers are enthusiastic about their learning which the children love. A return to trips/special days/forest school would help develop their character all round and foster a love of learning. 	
<p>School Response</p> <p>We have just launched our new provision – Nature Ninjas, which will ensure that all children have access to a range of outdoor learning offsite. One of our key areas for improvement over the next 12 months is to further develop learning outside of the classroom across the school. This will see teachers fully utilise our grounds and surrounding area in their lessons and with the lessening of restrictions due to Covid, we will definitely return to offering a wide variety of trips and visits for all pupils and reinstate those all-important special “theme” days.</p>	

<p>Question The school offers a range of activities to enable my child to achieve success across the curriculum ie the Arts, English, Maths, Science and Technology.</p>	<p>Response Agree - 48 Disagree - 2</p>
<p>You Said</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes it seems they are very busy days with lots to do and from (child’s) point of view, enjoy. • I think subjects are covered well, obviously I could wish for more funding for more equipment, teacher time, excursions etc. • I'd love to see further after school clubs to complement the curriculum e.g. science club, art club, tennis, music etc. 	
<p>School Response</p> <p>We do try to offer a range of after school clubs to ensure that there is something for everyone. Being a small school, low numbers often means that it is not viable for clubs to run if they only appeal to a few children. We are currently offering Art club and tennis amongst others but sadly have not been able to find an individual or company who can offer a Science/Maths club to our small numbers. We are always looking to try new clubs, so if you have any contacts or ideas about this, please do let us know.</p>	

<p>Question</p> <p>The school prioritises my child's wellbeing and emotional development to ensure that they aspire "to be the best that they can be".</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>Agree - 48 Disagree - 2</p>
<p>You Said</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teachers are genuinely caring and evidently put the children at the forefront of everything they do. • I have a particularly sensitive child and as such she needs more emotional support than others. The school have been fantastic in ensuring she is happy and settled in the school environment. • I do think sometimes this country's high-stakes assessment/inspection system and the pressures it puts in schools means that these priorities can be affected. 	
<p>School Response</p> <p>The wellbeing of both pupils and staff is always a priority, but particularly this year in light of recent events. One of our key areas of focus for the next academic year is around learning outdoors, chosen to further promote good mental health and wellbeing in our pupils.</p>	

<p>Question</p> <p>I would recommend Balcombe CE Primary School to other families in this area.</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>Yes - 49 No - 1</p>
<p>You Said</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absolutely! I chose Balcombe for our son over our local catchment school and am so glad we made the decision and I would recommend it! It's not perfect... but nothing or no one is! • I have done and will continue to do so. We are delighted to have got (child) into such a lovely village school. Thanks for all you do, especially throughout these challenging times. • In some ways I would recommend it as on the positive side I see it as a nurturing school with some good teachers and lovely children. In other ways I wouldn't, as being a small school there seems to be less resources and opportunities to have a wide friendship group. • I have nothing bad to say about this school. It's amazing, as are the staff. 	
<p>School Response</p> <p>Thank you !!</p>	