

Parents & Carers Survey 2021

We had a total of 40 responses to our recent questionnaire. We very much appreciate the time that you spent and value all your views and feedback. We are very pleased with the high level of confidence you feel in all aspects of the school.

Thank you also to those of you who included additional comments or suggestions. These have been noted for further discussion, as we want to continue improving. In the meantime, thank you for your support and partnership in our shared aim of giving your child a safe, happy and effective education.

What will we do in response to your feedback?

My child is happy at this school	Agree or Strongly agree 91%
Some comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He adores school, is aware of the procedures and processes and learns well in the environment.• He is well cared for and supported to learn in a way that meets his needs.• Safe small school with a strong sense of community.• He is always excited for school and can't wait to see his teachers and friends.• My child is thriving in his class and finds the learning environment stimulating, thought provoking and enjoyable.• You can feel the happiness of the children.	
Our response: <p>It is great to hear that our children have remained very happy at school this year despite all the pressures from the changes the pandemic has caused. We are very aware of those who have found the year more difficult and will continue to offer them support. Transition from one class to another in our school is biannual because of our mixed age groups. This means that teachers get to know the children really well but we might also underestimate the impact of transition when this occurs. This matter therefore is constantly under review.</p>	

My child feels safe at school	Agree or Strongly agree 98%
Some comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very safe environment and our children have never expressed any words or signs towards feeling unsafe.• Familiar environment, gated playground preventing external access by general public. Cloakrooms and toilet facilities are good.• Safety has never been a concern, the children are very well looked after and protected.• The school have handled children with behavioural challenges extremely well.	
Our response: <p>We are delighted that children feel safe at school – it is the most important aspect. Like many others we have put a great number of new measures in place in the last year due to Covid-19 but our care and concern for all our children is our continued commitment.</p> <p>We make reasonable adjustments for children with special educational needs, as outlined in the SEN Code of Practice. It therefore means that some children necessarily need to work within different levels of expectation and I am pleased to say that the Foxton school community continues to be accepting of difference.</p>	

This schools makes sure its pupils are well behaved

Agree or Strongly agree

85%

Some comments:

- High standards are consistently reinforced.
- Poor behaviour seems to be rare but is always addressed and dealt with quickly. Teachers manage poor behaviour without disrupting learning.
- Warnings given and then continually disruptive children removed from the area.

Our response:

Our monitoring of behaviour shows considerable improvement and consequently there have been very few behavioural incidents across the school. We regularly train all staff to ensure that we are all using the same supportive language when talking to children about their behaviour. Time is taken to explore any incident from a variety of perspectives but due to logistics, and opportunities to talk more discretely, a reflective moment may often occur in a break time.

The school deals effectively with bullying

Agree, strongly agree or have no experience of this

81%

Some comments:

- I was very pleased how the class teacher dealt with incidents arising in the class when they were brought to the attention.
- We had a positive experience of how teachers address issues in dialogue between children and help them develop problem solving and social skills.
- When we've raised concerns regarding bullying this has been dealt with swiftly, properly and with a good outcome. The root cause of the behaviour is also sought which helps both parties.

Our response:

We are proud of the fact that reports of bullying is a rare occurrence, as very few children deliberately set out to upset another. Children though do need to be reminded to tell us of unkind comments at the time of the incident so that we can record, track patterns of behaviour and challenge unkindness. Most children will respond positively if made aware of how their comments have been received at the time.

We ask that parents contact the class teacher if you have concerns, as sadly sometimes the children do not make us aware at the time.

The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year (and has provided a balanced range of home learning during school closure).

Agree or Strongly agree
83%

Some comments:

- We have been very impressed with the system put in place for home learning during lockdown and thank you for all your efforts to ensure that children can continue to learn in these challenging circumstances.
- The later part of home learning worked much better. Seesaw was a great asset.
- The home learning provision has been excellent. I have been very impressed by the effort made by the teaching staff to make learning as fun and varied as possible.
- The learning opportunities during lockdown were fantastic. We had daily contact via zoom and a good balance of lessons. The materials provided were really useful. Given the short time to organise this, we were very impressed that within 2 days, we were fully supported.
- I would like to see a weekly update on all subjects

Our response:

In this exceptional year, it has been more important than ever that parents understand what children should be learning. Seesaw was a huge success for most children and families and thankfully teachers became skilled in the use of the new technology.

We are in the process of reviewing the organisation of content about the curriculum for each class on our school website – there is lots of information but it is currently not easy to access. Half term content has routinely been placed on the Class page on the school website, with longer term plans on the Curriculum page on the school website.

Now – the long term plans are on class pages eg: [Class 4 Long term plan](#); half term plans are on class pages eg: [Class 2 half term plan](#) and more detailed progression of each separate subject will be found on the curriculum page eg: [Vision statements and progression](#).

Please also make good use of twitter from the class pages or the front page of the school website which frequently offers examples of recent fun activities which the children have enjoyed.

When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly

Agree, strongly agree or have not raised any concerns
80%

Some comments:

- Any issues I've had have been dealt with accordingly.
- Responses from teachers have generally been positive.

Our response:

We have a great team of experts across the school and we all share the desire to do the best for all our children. Naturally you are concerned about your own child but there may be occasions when your own needs/wants do not easily fit with the whole school. However, please keep talking to us! One governor recently indicated that he was unaware of the multifaceted aspects to school and the limitations that we work within. You can be assured though that we acknowledge improvements can be made, so we are not stopping here. Unless we know your thoughts, we (staff and governors) cannot act!

My child does well at this school and school has high expectations for my child

Agree or Strongly agree
88%

Some comments:

- It has been useful to attend the Share a Class sessions to get direct visibility of the way our children are taught in school.
- I agree, however it must be challenging for the school to 'catch up' on the past months – which parents are aware of and are willing to support if asked.
- We do believe that the school has high expectations and we are satisfied with our child's academic progress.
- Teachers seem well able to teach children while catering for all abilities.

Our response

Teachers are adept at providing for the needs of the children at various different levels across each year group. Differentiation is a normal activity but takes a great deal of expertise – sometimes teachers differentiate their questioning or the task set. We have been able to provide small group support for some children to 'catch up' which has been targeted to the older children in Y5 and Y6 as they have less time with us.

The school lets me know how my child is doing (and how I can support my child's home learning).

Agree or Strongly agree
83%

Some comments:

- We have always had good feedback at parent consultation evenings, to help focus the areas where we need to do extra work at home.
- Home learning had been brilliant for this.
- Good 1:1 parent teacher consultations.
- Communication is excellent – I can't fault it at all. Holiday homework is really well thought out.

Our response

Teachers bravely put themselves forward for Zoom sessions in to children's homes. The Zoom sessions were a good opportunity for parents to see teaching modelled but they could not replace the teacher being in the classroom responding to different children's needs throughout the day. We hope to be able to run Share a Class sessions again next year but they will necessarily be during school time – these will offer short snapshots again to help you help your children. We also ran various curriculum focussed workshops which we would like to re run 2021-22. Of course please ask us questions as you go through the year – there is no need to wait until scheduled parent evenings.

The school supports my child's wider personal development (confidence, resilience and independence)

Agree or Strongly agree or
Unsure
93%

Some comments:

- My child feels comfortable interacting during classes.
- Teachers are very attentive and often share reflections on how our children are developing socially.
- Very good at encouraging resilience and social skills and independence.
- I do believe some teachers have my child's best interest at heart and endeavour to know and support them in their learning, both curriculum based and as growing people.

Our response

In a 'normal' year we would celebrate and encourage children in sharing their musical development in assemblies or performances; we would engage with the wider community events and offer residential experiences for the older children; we would enter different sporting competitions and events with local schools. When on school trips children, people often comment on how wonderfully our children behave! In addition, we have had a wide range of school clubs usually on offer.

We are keen to establish all these connections and activities again as soon as it safe to do so. In particular, we acknowledge that music and performance has suffered this year and we will endeavour to redress the balance next year.

'Friends' (PTA) have been important in supporting children's wider development of interests as their fundraising often supports events such as pantomime visits, the egg decoration competition and class trips.

I would recommend this school to another parent

Agree or Strongly agree
83%

Finally, we would always welcome any further feedback you have about any aspect of school life. We are always very keen to hear from parents with suggestions for improvements in the way we are operating. Please feel free to catch us at school, to email us or to call if you have something to contribute.