

Love of Learning, Love of Life, Love of One Another

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to those of you who took the time to complete the Autumn 2024 Parent Survey. The results give us an opportunity to reflect on what is going well and what else we need to consider improving further. I wanted to share the feedback and the next steps we will take from the survey outcomes.

Areas in which we have improved since the previous Parent View

My child is happy at school: Increased from 91% to 97% agree or strongly agree.

This is such an important focus area for us and we are delighted that so many of our parents continue to agree that their child is happy at Ashlands. We will continue to listen to our school community for day-to-day interactions that can make the difference between an ok day and a great day. I would continue to encourage parents to share their children's observations when they have had a worry or concern as we can work closely with the children to then share more of their feelings and responses at the right time to really make a difference.

As we move through this year, we will continue to review our curriculum offer and extracurricular offer to ensure the children's love of learning and their personal development continues to be a high priority.

The school has high expectations for my child: Increased from 83% to 95% agree or strongly agree.

Across the past year, we have been working closely with the children to develop a clearer understanding of expectations both personal and linked to behaviour, and academically. This is an area we will continue to focus on this year and forms a quality piece of development work in our School Development Plan. Thank you to those parents who shared their positives with regards to areas such as handwriting and presentation.

Attendance is a focus area since the start of this term, and we continue to aspire to 100% attendance for our children at Ashlands. We are grateful to our parents for their support with this and for working with us when your child is unwell or needs support to attend.

We are always exploring events and opportunities for our children to challenge themselves and flourish outside their comfort zones.

The recent Year 5 and 6 group visit to the Taunton Parliament session, and the Girls and Boys participation in the Somerset ESFA cup were great examples of this. Thank you to the children for participating and the staff for identifying these opportunities.

Areas in which we have maintained since the previous Parent View

Across many of the other areas Ashlands has maintained a high level of parent agreement. This is an accolade for the care and due diligence of the staff in maintaining standards and listening to the pupil and parent community.

- *My child feels safe at this school: 95% agree or strongly agree.*
- *The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year: Maintained 95% agree or strongly agree.*
- *My child does well at this school: 97% agreed or strongly agreed.*
- *There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school: 89% agreed or strongly agreed.*
- *My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school: 97% agreed or strongly agreed.*
- *I would recommend this school to another parent: 89% agreed or strongly agreed.*

Next steps in response to the most recent survey

We have identified the following areas which are currently scoring lower with our parent community. We will focus on developing greater confidence in these areas this year.

<p>The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved: 83% agree or strongly agree.</p>
<p>We are so proud of our children’s behaviour. We have continued to receive positive reflections across this academic year from our local community and beyond concerning the way in which our children use their manners and communicate with a good level of care and respect to their peers and the wider community. However, a number of parents have shared that they feel that some behaviour is <i>overlooked</i>, and not <i>dealt with seriously enough</i>. There has also been a concern regarding class sanctions.</p> <p>We acknowledge that it is difficult when a behaviour is repeated or it appears that behaviour is unchanged. We work closely with children and families to follow up on behaviour and ensure expectations are clearly set and responded to. This year, our School House Captains are continuing to work on developing a wider understanding of our behaviour policy, specifically focusing on the rewards and the sanctions that are in place, and how our behaviour can positively and negatively affect others. We will keep you all updated with any changes.</p> <p>We will share all behaviour policy updates with our community and continue to review the policy in line with any new or persistent behaviour challenges. If you or your child feel that a behaviour has not been dealt with in a way that feels appropriate then we would always welcome a conversation to support moving forward. The class teacher should always be the first point of contact for any behavioural concerns within the classroom. If you feel your concern has not been resolved then speaking with the class teacher again and sharing the same issues are being shared by your child is important. If after this contact you do not feel your concerns have been fully addressed then I would encourage you to come and see myself <i>or</i> a member of the Senior Leadership Team and we would further support.</p>
<p>My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively. 14% disagreed, which was an increase from 10%.</p>
<p>Each year we would hope that the response to this question would be 100% no bullying. This is a level we aspire to. 41% of parent responses share that there had been incidents of bullying behaviour. 27% shared the behaviour was dealt with effectively, 14% shared that they did not feel the situation had been resolved.</p>

This area will be reviewed by the SLT and wider staff. We will be reviewing our follow-up procedures and ensure there is a focus on continued communication after an extended time period with staff, pupils and families.

The school lets me know how my child is doing. 82% agreed or strongly agreed.

We currently formally welcome parents twice a year to discuss progression, achievements and attainment. In addition, there is an open invitation in the summer term following the sharing of reports.

Each class has an open-door policy, and we encourage parents to ask questions, share concerns or achievements as the year progresses.

This year we will be reviewing the termly information shared with parents. Currently these are produced termly to engage pupils and staff with the curriculum aims, vocabulary and skills. We are exploring a more detailed support document for each subject area.

Our teaching staff are always happy to receive emails if you are unable to come into school and can communicate any updates or areas to work on in this way.

Communication

Communication was a key thread throughout many of the additional responses. Since going across to a new communication system in July we have experienced significant technical challenges.

The School Office staff are working with Arbor (the new communication system), Praestantia (our IT support) and IT Lead Staff at Quantock Educational Trust to rectify this. In the interim we are ensuring parents are notified by text when letters go out and copies of these are being placed on the website.

We wholly apologise for this continued inconvenience and hope it will be resolved soon.

Thank you

We are always grateful for feedback from our parents and grateful for the positive comments that the school has received. These have also been shared with the staff. As we continue to move through this first exciting year as part of the Quantock Education Trust family, I look forward to sharing our next developments. As always, we have an open-door policy, and if there are any concerns or compliments as we move through this year, please do not hesitate to share these with us.

Yours sincerely,



Head Teacher