



- As promised, please find feedback to your questionnaire. The figures below are given in percentages of the returned forms. There were 143 forms returned to the school. Thank you for taking the time to give your views. These views will be very important to the decisions that are to be taken by the school leadership team. Written comments have been very helpful.

### School Feedback provided in percentages.

#### Safety

	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree
1. I think my child is safe in school.	93	5	2
2. I have received a parents' copy of the Child Protection Policy.	82	14	4
3. I know who the Child Protection teachers in the school are.	69	26	5
4. My child knows who to go to if they have problems.	82	17	1
5. I think the restrictions on adults entering the school building is a positive development.	84	14	2
6. <b>I think the school should also now close all external gates and entrances to the school. (Parents' views on this issue are very important!)</b>	71	17	12

- We are currently creating a range of risk assessments to improve your child's security in school. Please let us know if you have any specific worries so that we can act upon these.
- Copies were given to all parents earlier in the school year. Please contact Mr. Flynn and he will ensure you are provided with a copy.
- Currently: Designated teacher is Mr Flynn, Deputy Designated Teacher is Mrs. McGuigan, Nursery contact teacher is Mrs. Moore and the Board of Governors' designated teacher is Mrs McLoughlin.
- Children are constantly reminded of teachers to whom they can go. They are also asked to name these teachers in their Happy Forms.
- As explained previously it was important to make such changes from a child protection point of view but the changes have helped settle children to their studies much more. It has also helped the children become more independent which is a great benefit.
- We have been asked by an external agency to review the access to our school. We are very reluctant to close all of the main gates as we do not want to exclude parents any more than we have. Currently we are discussing, as a compromise, erecting small gates at either side of the building which would enable parents to approach the front door which has a security entrance and camera. It is important to point out that the school has external security cameras which record around the clock.

#### Communication

	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree
1. I am able to get an appointment to speak to teachers / principal.	93	7	0
2. I am happy with the Homework / School Contact Diary?	94	4	2
3. I am happy with the format of my child's Annual Report.	92	8	0
4. I am happy with how the parents' meetings in December are organised.	90	7	3
5. I am happy with the curricular meeting in October.	83	16	1
6. I am happy with the Parents' Annual General Meeting.	77	21	2

We will endeavour to make improvements to all of our communications to parents. Some parents felt they would prefer parents' meetings in classrooms for privacy reasons. As a result we will endeavour to move the meetings to classrooms from December 2016. Some parents asked for more information on the curriculum and for more information to be placed on the school website. We will begin work on these suggestions and hopefully will have made significant progress by June 2016 (currently we are adapting our curriculum which makes this more difficult at present.)

### Pre and After School Activities

The school is provided with limited resources to provide after school activities. These have been reduced this year as teachers are very busy making classroom improvements. It is hoped these activities will recommence in the third term. Your views would be very helpful in planning for these.

	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree
1. I would be prepared to make a small payment for my child to attend a Breakfast Club in the school.	72	17	11
2. I think more emphasis should be on learning activities rather than sport or music.	30	24	46
3. I think the variety of the After School Clubs last year was fine.	66	24	10

School funding for extended schools is likely to be cut again this year. The main intention of extended schools is to raise school standards. The inspectors were very positive about changes we made last year to extended schools. The intention had been to reduce music and sport but it is clear that almost half respondents do not want this to happen. We will revise our plans accordingly and attempt to ensure a balance is provided similar to last year as most parents feel we had the balance correct.

We will look into the possibility of beginning a breakfast club next year. It is not straightforward as it will have to fund itself, technically we cannot use the canteen for such an activity without getting agreement from the local E.A. and health and safety rules must be complied with.

### Involving Other Agencies in the School.

	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree
The PSNI should deliver a Road Safety talk to children.	90	5	5
The PSNI should deliver an Online Safety talk to children.	78	17	5
The PSNI should be able to explain the job they do to the children.	84	9	7
I am happy that Barnardo's link with the school to assist children under stress.	76	24	0
I think it is a good idea to develop closer relationships with Social Service Agencies to assist children and families.	75	22	3

The P.S.N.I. Officers have been asking to create greater links with the school. We have been reluctant to permit this as we are well aware of historic problematic relationships. However, based upon parental views we will make arrangements linked solely to the areas indicated above.

As a result of parents' views we will deepen our relationship with Barnardo's and attempt to provide greater support for our children's emotional needs.

Supported by parents' views we will forge greater links with the Family Hub to provide families with support. This group is funded by the social services but is separate from it. This appears to be a suitable compromise.

### Getting involved in Parish Activities

	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree
I would like to get more involved in St. Malachy's Parish.	40	49	11
I would like more information on getting involved in the parish.	48	43	9
I am happy with how the parish/school arranges the sacraments.	72	27	1

Thank you for the above information. The primary school is a central and crucial part of the community, both Catholic and non-Catholic. However, the parish becomes stronger with the increased involvement of its members. We will pass on this information to Fr. McGinnity.

### School Funds and Getting Involved in St. Malachy's Primary School Activities

	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree
I would be happy to pay a voluntary donation of £1 per month for school funds.	85	13	2
I think a 'Friends of St. Malachy's Group' should be set up to help raise funds and create closer links between the school and parents.	78	22	0
I would be prepared to become involved in this group.	58	38	4

We are attempting to use school funds more strategically linked to improvements in learning. The details of such funds and how they have been spent will be reported in next year's School Development Planning.

It is clear that parents agree with us that a greater level of parental involvement in the school is important and we will discuss a range of ideas to facilitate this.

#### Parent and Carer Courses in the School

	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree
I would like to see more courses arranged to enable parents to help their children.	75	23	2
I would prefer courses delivered by teachers themselves linked to classroom experiences.	71	26	3
I would prefer external experts to deliver more recognised courses.	58	39	3

Thank you for expressing views in this area. It is clear a balance between school and external courses is needed. It is interesting to see that so many parents would like our own staff to deliver some of the courses. The expertise among the staff is certainly there.

#### Positive Discipline and Pastoral Care Issues

	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree
I think the school should be entitled to speak to children about misbehaviour or incidents that take place outside school hours.	80	15	5
I think it is a good idea to extend detention to include 2.00 p.m. to 2.45 p.m. on Fridays for recurrent or major disciplinary issues. (Parents would be informed in advance).	76	20	4

One of the big difficulties for our school has been that we are managing pupils' behaviours very well inside the school but many difficulties, thereafter, arise outside the school environment. We believe it is important that we are able to address these issues inside school as they do impact on a child's state of mind whilst in school. When we can address these issues in school we can improve both the positive discipline of those misbehaving and improve the stress levels of those being mistreated. Thank you for your support in this area.

Currently we are focusing on key children who are finding managing their behaviours a challenge. We have applied normal school strategies but we believe that this extra measure will be very useful. Hopefully such a sanction will only be used exceptionally.

#### School Bus

	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree
I think the school should try to continue to run a morning/ afternoon school bus service.	76	21	3
I would be prepared to help raise funds for another school bus	71	23	6

As you are aware the school bus has come to the end of its service. However, the newer buses are wider and will not fit into our school yard without obstruction. We have measured several buses and had a driver instructor look at the entrance and we have been informed the buses would not be appropriate as they need a greater turn area. The bus company will contact us immediately an appropriate vehicle becomes available but have warned us that that will take a considerable period of time. Unfortunately, as a result, there will be no school bus in the near future. We regret this turn of events. We have asked about a bus contract but were advised that this would not be cost effective for parents. We are open to any suggestions. Apologies for these circumstances as we are aware of how useful the bus was to the children.

Once again thank you for responding to our questionnaire. As you can see your views are informing and assisting school decision making. Comments will be discussed by the School Leadership Team. Another short questionnaire is attached linked to school trips, the internet and uniforms for next year. Thank you for your time and thoughts. Your views play a very important part during decision making.