

SUTTON BENGER CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARENT/GUARDIAN QUESTIONNAIRE- April 2017

28 responses: 1 response = 3.57%

(Please note – references to individual teachers have been taken out)

	Please tick the box that most represents your view on each statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree
CHILDREN						
1	My child is happy at this school.	57.12	39.27			3.57
2	My child makes good progress at this school.	46.41	39.27	3.57	3.57	7.14
3	The school makes sure that my child is well prepared for the future (for example changing classes, changing school).	35.70	42.84			21.42
4	My child is encouraged to be healthy and to take regular exercise.	39.27	39.27	10.71	3.57	3.57
TEACHING						
5	The Staff treat all children individually, fairly and with respect.	57.12	24.99	7.14		10.71
6	My child is taught well at this school.	60.69	35.70	3.57		
7	The school informs me about my child's progress.	39.27	49.98	7.14		3.57
8	My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	39.27	42.84	7.14	3.57	7.14
PARENTS						
9	I am pleased with my child's achievement and breadth of learning.	39.27	46.41	10.71	3.57	
10	This school responds well to any concerns I raise.	46.41	32.31	3.57		17.85
11	I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress.	35.70	42.84	3.57	3.57	14.28
SCHOOL						
12	My child is well looked after at this school.	64.26	32.13			3.57
13	This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved. * Please see comment below	57.12	28.56	3.57		10.71
14	My child feels safe at this school.	64.26	33.28	3.57		
15	This school deals effectively with bullying.	32.13	24.99	3.57		35.70
16	This school is well led and managed.	64.26	17.85	3.57		14.28

*Massive improvement on last year

Comments:

NOW AND THE FUTURE-

17. What do you feel is the most significant strength of our School? (You may include more than one).

*Responding to need – ie growing to 7 classes. More curriculum opportunities. Strong leadership – Executive and Associate Headteachers

*Staff care about the children both academically and emotionally

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- *Behaviour
- *Good top level leadership
- *Small school so my child knows all the pupils.
- *It is in a nice area.
- *Office staff
- *Leadership and strong Christian ethos of the school. Making the most of opportunities (eg specialists coming in to teach Nordic Walking)
- *It is a friendly environment with highly capable staff, that really do appear to genuinely care for the children, education and welfare.
- *Good sound Christian ethos and well-rounded curriculum
- *Sense of community, mix of children, academic and Ofsted success
- *The progress at which my child is learning is very impressive. I respect the values of SB School which seem to feed down to the behaviour of the children, respect others, be kind, caring.
- *Friendly community
- *Sizes of the classes has been great. The staff are very friendly, willing to help
- *Family feel of the school. Everyone is valued
- *The apparent positive cohesion of all the staff which in turn creates such a great atmosphere and this filters down to the pupils and parents (Leading by example)
- *My child always comes home happy and wants to go to school. She is eager to learn and enjoys the topics she covers.
- *Staff (2 named) are wonderful teachers. Handover from pre-school to Reception is excellent and managed well.
- *Good community feel and friendly atmosphere
- *Strong teaching team and lots of community involvement
- *The children are very happy at this school
- *The strong relationship between the pupil and their teacher and the relationship with their class peers
- *Children involved in the running of the school. More clubs and trips recently. Good that parent events seem to be more on Fridays when much easier to attend, especially for parents working away.
- *Community. Headteacher – love that she is at another school also.
- *Being part of the community it serves (village and church)
- *Small and intimate – everyone knows each other. The starting school process was easy and hassle-free for parent and child. School always seems welcoming and clean. My daughter loves her teachers and her school dinners!

18. Do you have one or two suggestions about how we could improve our School?

- *Resolve Parking /traffic issues: Enlarge school field
- *Homework focus is on reading and writing for younger children. For a child that struggles with Maths it is difficult to encourage additional maths activities. By the time we have done set homework of spellings, reading and writing piece, I cannot encourage my child to do additional maths. For a subject area that needs focus across the school why is there not more homework focus in that subject? Albeit I do not feel additional homework is necessary for the younger children.
- *Early involvement for new reception children joining school – communication of settling dates and first term hours would be appreciated for warning parents
- *Access to breakfast club and after school bookings for next school year would be beneficial for planning purposes.
- *Greater diversity of clubs for children, more sport
- *Have music lessons as part of the class lessons
- *Greater emphasis on performing arts skills – oratory, team work in performance, confidence building and showcasing music skills (especially those learnt at school)
- *Outdoor learning – not necessarily 'Forest School' but a regular use of outdoors as a backdrop to active learning
- *School trips – I recognise this needs to be managed with H & S and parent's finances, but local trips can be just as successful as large scale trips, eg Chippenham Library (in time for the summer reading challenge). The Pound Arts Centre, Malmesbury Abbey (Live like a Monk).
- *Approach the council for use of/purchase of more of the Rec.

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- *Connect with the community – the school should work more closely with the local community, adapting the curriculum to take advantage of local economic and cultural opportunities.
- *Provide 'stretch' opportunities for gifted children, improve sports opportunities, increase music provision – choir/music lessons
- *Compared to many other primary schools, Rainbow Class do not do many school trips, which I believe are so important and enriching for their school experience. So, so happy a trip is now booked for May 2017.
- *Have an out of hours contact number in case parents are late for picking up after clubs. Currently there is no way of notifying staff.
- *More outdoor learning. All staff receive training on speaking to children appropriately and respectfully
- *Make the headteacher a more visible presence. To have more varied clubs at lunchtime and after school would be good, ie, dance, gymnastics, street dance, but I appreciate this needs volunteers
- *We would like to have feedback on our child's progress more frequently. More music making and after school sports clubs.
- *Can't think of any? Maybe some more school trips – Kidzania, Zoo, camping?
- *Personally I would be happy with NO homework, no SATs and a much free-er learning curriculum so the teachers don't have so much pressure and can have more pleasure teaching.
- *For a start, any questionnaire like this needs to be more robust as the questions are all closed. Where is the question
- *What do you think is the schools' biggest weakness?
- *Increase outdoor space by utilising the recreation ground. This could include asking for volunteers or paying additional MDSAs to take groups of children to play football or rounders at lunchtime.
- *I think home school communication could be improved to share ongoing progress more regularly
- *More contact from headteacher. We never see her in the playground in the mornings. More feedback from teachers and child's progress and also it would be good to know more about what they are learning each week.
- *More outside space and general outside activity for high energy children. Proactive communication about learning challenges our children have – we only find out when we raise something or at termly meetings. Better online communications.
- *1 mile every morning for all or 2 laps of the field. Manners, respect, dinner monitors for Year 6, ensuring all eat lunch, clear tables (own stuff), etc. Challenge on movement – if doing well unable to move up a table as no room.
- *More frequent briefings/feedback on what is being taught plus progress. Also more focus on sports and health
- *Get rid of footballs in the playground – field only!

19. What is your overall experience of the School?

- *I've had 3 children attend SB School, spanning 15 years to date. Unfortunately, I have seen first-hand how policies and growth have turned the school from a friendly close knit family into a mini secondary school, with all emphasis now based on targets rather than children having fun and actually being children.
- *Very good, although I have concerns regarding maths.
- *Very positive – Dedicated staff and lots of positive changes
- *Very positive x 2
- *Very good x 2
- *Good x 2
- *Fantastic, would highly recommend to others
- *The school is accessible, well led and managed and the teachers are available for queries. It feels like it is striving – there is a momentum to keep standards high and be creative which is encouraging. Parent involvement (eg skills sharing in the classroom) could be higher.
- *Approachable staff, professional image, competent staff, happy environment
- *Very friendly, approachable staff and the building is always clean. The children are well behaved.
- *Our overall experience is very positive so far. We are pleased with our child's progress and the school seems to be well-managed.
- *Very positive. Both children are very happy and settled into school life.

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- *Very positive. It's got a great vibe and child is mainly very happy.
- *Very happy – thank you
- *Good. My children are happy here and progressing well
- *Generally good. I think the school works hard to make pupils enjoy learning. I have not had any problems so far that need addressing.
- *As with all UK primary school, SB is hampered by narrowly focused National Curriculum that stamps out the joy of learning for a lot of non-academic kids. Where's the music provision for all? Visits to stimulating places? The Staff (2 named) are fabulous teachers doing their best in a restrictive schooling regime.
- *Overall I am very pleased with the school and my child's progress. I have never seen (much) or met the Headteacher (Mrs Scott) and this is strange after nearly two years in post and very different from before. This should change.
- * Professional and enthusiastic staff and teachers, but lacks at times leadership with direction in some areas.
- *OK providing your child is normal. Stretch and challenge is limited. Recognising issues – generally not spotted at school
- Good – getting better.
- *Positive
- *Fantastic – it made my daughter starting school an enjoyable experience.

20. What contact or information would you like to have with/from the Governors?

- *Details of proposed changes
- *Nothing additional
- *What new staff, interventions are being introduced to the school? How parents and children can help to make the school better?
- *Relevant info that affects my child/changes being brought in.
- *None extra.
- *A termly report/newsletter of what the current objectives are and what has been achieved that term.
- *Satisfied with current provision
- *We are happy with the current level of contact from the governors
- *Newsletter maybe every term
- *Not needed
- *As we approach significant changes in the educational landscape we need to have greater visibility of the decisions being made through regular communications, ie town hall meetings, parent forums, newsletters.
- *About right at the moment
- *I'm happy with the information currently provided.
- *Happy with the current level of contact and information
- *I'm happy with the newsletters they send out and the forums they hold, though it's always amazing so few parents attend.
- *To be honest, I am not sure
- *Nothing to comment
- *What we currently get is perfectly fine.
- *Understand when concerns should be raised with a Governor as opposed to teaching staff. Or what type of concerns should be raised with Governors as opposed to teaching staff.
- *Parent forums are good. Strategy could be sent out in Parent Pay as not many people will search website.
- *None – the management of the site is not a concern for me. We have a good school and facilities. Stop ploughing money into this and spend it on enriching learning and responding to individual needs.
- *Information on key strategic decisions and issues.

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21. What do you expect from your school Governors?

- *Understanding of young children's mentality – not just conforming to policy and running a tight ship. Children's development is crushed when they 'don't fit' in the average criteria.
- *Focus on areas that need further improvement in the school
- *Good strategic leadership and information.
- *That they keep the smooth running of the school and uphold high standards for the staff.
- *To be the voice of the parents.
- *Nothing extra
- *Not entirely sure, I understand their role
- *Solid progress towards objectives. Good and clear vision for the school.
- *Information addressing formal plans articulated against yearly/five yearly plans. Progress checks.
- *To take any issues raised to the Headteacher/management team on behalf of parents.
- *To be active, visible and enthusiastic – make sure it manages its core functions and drives its strategic goals (promptly)
- *Strong partnership with the school/leadership/networking with other schools/parents
- *Effective management of the school in collaboration with the teaching staff taking into account the views of the teachers, parents and pupils.
- *To makes sure the school is well led and maintains a good standard of education
- *To make sure that the school standards remain or improve continuously.
- *Pertinent communication regarding behind-the-scenes decision making for the school.
- *To ensure parents views are represented in how the school is managed.
- *To be acting in the best interests of the children and not in their own self-aggrandisement, career climbing, self-promotion or self-interest. I also expect them not to be power playing.
- *Commitment to improving standards at the school. Listening and taking on board parents and teachers concerns.
- *Communication about their role
- *To stay out of the day to day running. To support the Head in dealing with adequate staff. Recognise the importance of our village school.
- *To manage the school direction well.

22. If you would like to be more involved in shaping school strategy, please describe how you would like to be involved.

- *My husband has been a Governor.
- *I am aware there have been a number of discussions regarding 'voluntary contributions'. More clarity is needed on whether these are a choice or not for parents. If not it would avoid a lot of uncomfortable conversations if it was explicit.
- *I have enough on my plate I am afraid.
- *Happy to provide feedback and get involved in shaping ideas.
- *I would if I had the time available

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23. Would you recommend Sutton Benger CE Primary School to another parent? Please explain why/why not ?

*Yes x 6

*Yes – good happy village school

*Yes – as mentioned in Q 17 – re the staff

*Yes - lovely village school

*Yes!

*Yes I would – my children are happy and thriving

*Yes – friendly, local, good teaching, well led, breakfast/after school clubs, good grounds and a Christian ethos, which is active in terms of leadership and local church input.

*Yes – my experience is very positive. Lovely staff, right balance on learning, friendly environment. Class sizes unfortunately getting larger but this seems OK for now.

*Yes – solid educational experience, provided by professional teaching

*Absolutely. The only reason I wouldn't would be to keep the class sizes perfectly balanced.

*I would recommend SB School because it's a safe and happy place where my child thrives in her learning.

*Yes if happy and capable and work well with pen and paper. No if learning needs or would like a more creative learning style or outdoors

*Yes, the children are happy and well cared for

*Yes – our child very much enjoys school and we have had no concerns with his learning or the way the school is run.

*Yes – definitely

*Yes. My child is happy here and is well cared for with great teachers

*Yes – with qualifications (not SEN)

*Yes overall a good balance of education /social development

*Yes for reasons already mentioned

*Absolutely, welcoming, safe. Daughter very happy here.