



Elmley Castle Church of England First School
Executive Headteacher Mrs Claire Davies
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Parent Questionnaires July 2017
Elmley castle First School

Questionnaires returned: 18
Number of pupils represented: 54%

In your child and your opinions, what are the best things about Elmley Castle CE First school?	
1. The teachers make learning fun 2. Our son loves the interaction with all year groups 3. Our son absolutely loves Forest School!	
1. Playing with my friends 2. Forest School 3. PE	1. Part of the community and run like this 2. Small classes 3. Staff who care about their school, their pupils and the school's success and survival 4. Outdoor focus
1. Maths 2. Playtimes 3. Its involvement in and support from the community	
1. The school field and Forest School 2. The variety of equipment available 3. School trips	
1. Forest School 2. Lunch time and painting! 3. Small friendly village school with great teachers	
1. I have lots of friends 2. I like the teachers 3. They take us on trips	1. The teachers 2. The range of topics covered 3. Homework
1. Teachers 2. Clubs 3. Pupils	
1. Small caring environment – everyone looks after each other 2. Great teachers – the best! 3. Fantastic surroundings – with amazing playing areas and Forest School	
1. Friendliness 2. Size 3. Community	
1. Family / community atmosphere 2. Safety 3. Being able to get books from the library 4. Being able to play with my friends	
1. The small community atmosphere between teachers, pupils and parents 2. The teachers and assistants are all very caring and approachable in all areas of our child's personal and academic development 3. The fantastic outdoor Forest School area	
1. Small community feel	



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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The school field and sports – especially Cricket Cub 3. Nice teachers
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Friendly safe community involved school 2. Excellent one to one tuition 3. Small class sizes which boosts confidence and improves character building
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are good trips 2. When its sunny – longer playtimes 3. Maypole dancing
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Smaller class sizes and one to one tuition 2. Very much a community school 3. Diversity of activities
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Friendly, supportive, caring atmosphere 2. Wide range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities 3. Outdoor facilities and teaching 4. Breakfast and after school clubs <p>There are too many 'best' things at ECFS!</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nuturing care 2. Amazing team 3. Very supportive

<p>Is it important to you that your child goes to a church school? Why?</p>
<p>It wasn't an important consideration before moving to the village but now so important having seen the benefits of using the lovely church and the core values it teaches the children. ISingPop! confirmed this recently as our son came home and told us all about the values.</p>
<p>I feel it is important to have a good relationship with the church as it adds to the community spirit that is felt within the school!</p>
<p>Because if you don't go to a church school you don't learn so much as they do now.</p>
<p>Christian values School and church are part of the community Community is important</p>
<p>Because the church and the school are an important part of the village community</p>
<p>I want the same values instilled that I had at school</p>
<p>Because, as a Christian, it is important that my children are educated to embody the Christian values with which we bring them up at home. (And I believe Elmley does this.)</p>
<p>I attended a very small village school and all our family are confirmed church and community is a big part of our life.</p>

<p>What changes would you like to see happening at Elmley Castle CE First School over the next few years?</p>
<p>We feel we would like to see a male influence. More of an emphasis on sports – we feel this is important for all children. Ideally the school large enough for separate teaching / year classes. (We are slightly concerned about how many children will be leaving in our son's year to go private.)</p>



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RESPONSE: It is good to have a balance of genders on the staff but, when appointing new staff, we do always have to base our choice on the best candidate and not whether they are male or female. However, we will keep a close check on this and do our best to ensure the children have access to good male role models as appropriate.

- We are keen to maintain the emphasis we place on sports and healthy activities and are investigating further opportunities for competitive sporting events within our local cluster of schools.

- We are pleased the school continues to grow and our total number of children this year is above 40. As a result, we have been able to adapt our classes to enable us to teach the children within their own Key Stage.

We will continue to review this as the school grows even further.

More children

Pre-school being big enough to have its own classroom

RESPONSE: We are pleased the school continues to grow and our total number of children this year is above 40. As a result, we have been able to adapt our classes to enable us to teach the children within their own Key Stage. We will continue to review this as the school grows even further.

The nursery to be further integrated into the school and included in the newsletter perhaps.

It would be great to see the front of the school cleaned up to reveal the inscription showing the date it was built, and generally to tidy up what could be the most attractive first impression of the building.

More use could be made of the pond in Forest School. Beavers / Cubs and Scouts might be able to use it and that might help spread the word about the wonderful facilities.

RESPONSE: The nursery is now an established part of ECFS and will be fully integrated into school life. All families receive the weekly newsletter and we will continue to report on the key events which happen in each class.

More after school clubs (different choices)

More outdoor activities

More social events

RESPONSE: We regularly review the school clubs we offer as a school and will continue to do our best to ensure we are providing a range of clubs for our pupils to enjoy. However, it is not always particularly easy to provide a full menu of activities as we have so few staff to run these clubs. We will continue to look at ways we can source different providers to run additional clubs.

- Our children have access to a wide range of outdoor activities which includes a weekly Forest school session. We will continue to make the best use of opportunities to take our learning outdoors when appropriate.

- I know the ECFS Parent Teacher Association is always looking for support to run social events for our parents and families. Any help parents are able to offer would be extremely welcomed.

More trips!! (Child's opinion)

More children – to make more friends

RESPONSE: I have never worked in a school before that organized as many off site trips as ECFS!

- Our numbers are growing and we are pleased we have been able to welcome new children to each class this year. We all enjoy making new friends.

More children

More trips

Less days off

Increasing integration of the Pre-School – still early days but hopefully this will become stronger. Are parents / children invited to some of the activities – such as Indian dancing, ISingPop! etc? Also, do they receive the school newsletter so they can see all the great things that are happening at ECFS?



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RESPONSE: Our Pre-school children and families are fully welcomed into our school community and have access to key whole school events as appropriate - and specific events organized specially for their year group.

More variety of clubs

More regular feedback via various routes – written and verbal

More children at after school / breakfast club

RESPONSE: We will aim to give formal feedback on the progress your child is making in their learning at least once per term. If, in the meantime, you are at all concerned about how well your child is doing in school - or would just like an update, please speak to your child's teacher.

Have a separate classroom for the Nursery

A wider variety of after school clubs

Improved sports facilities

More after school clubs, run by teaching staff

Better communication about school events / changes which effect children and parents

RESPONSE: We continue to do our best to make sure we give plenty of notice for school events through letters and our weekly newsletters.

Less staff changes

RESPONSE: Staff changes are something we avoid where possible but sometimes this is inevitable. However, the staff changes we have had over the past year have worked in our favour as we now have an extremely skilled and knowledgeable staff team working for your children at ECFS.

Increase in size

Less homework

Better computing facilities / curriculum

RESPONSE: Homework is a great way for children to practice / consolidate what they have learnt in school or to extend their thinking through broader tasks. It is also a great way for parents to get involved in their child's learning. If you feel your child is receiving too much or too little homework, please speak to your child's teacher in the first instance.

We were fortunate last year to receive a generous donation from the ECFS Parent Teacher Association towards new ipads and laptops for our children. We have also had a new server so all our IT systems are now top quality.

Is there anything else you'd like to say / recommend?

More promotion for Elmley First / Pre-School –relations with local nurseries / build rapport.

More after school activities – including sports ie tennis / football

In years to come – nursery facility for younger children

RESPONSE: We are constantly looking for ways to promote our lovely school and governors have recently undertaken a leaflet drop to houses in various local areas for this purpose.

We are pleased with our Pre-school facility which provides care for children from the term they become 3 years of age. We have no current plans to cater for children younger than this - although it may be something governors would consider if there was a great need for this within the local community.

We have so far been very impressed with Elmley Castle and how well our son has settled into the school, thanks to a caring environment, friendly children in all years and supportive staff. As parents we also feel that we have been welcomed.

As a Pre-school, it would be good to have improved communication about the school and its activities (for example, school events such as the summer fete) and so we can also support the school better as parents. Also better



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communication as to how our child is progressing in terms of skill set. Mrs Davies is great at letting me know day to day how our son has got on but I would have expected a more formal meeting by half term letting me know how he is progressing educationally and what areas we need to concentrate on for his Reception year.

RESPONSE: The Pre-school is a relatively new venture for us at ECFS having been established in March. We are continually looking at ways we can improve our provision for our youngest children and will take these comments on board. From this term, our Pre-school children will receive opportunities for Parent Consultation evenings and termly reports regarding their child's progress, in line with other year groups. In addition, staff are always available and happy to speak to parents / carers about their child and the progress they are making. Please contact your child's teacher in the first instance, should you wish to find out how well your child is doing in school.

I'd like to see the website showing more pictures of the children instead of stock photography. It would be good to have newspaper articles featuring the school on there, too. History of the school and Maypole would be a good addition, too.

I preferred it when the kids didn't sit with their backs to us in assembly.

RESPONSE: We have removed the stock photography from the school website and will continue to update this as appropriate. We intend to ensure the class pages are fully up and running in the near future.

I would like a bit more feedback about my child's behaviour / performance at school.

My son would like more 1:1 support from his teacher or teaching assistant.

RESPONSE: All parents are invited to an Autumn and Spring Parent Consultation evenings and termly reports regarding their child's progress. In the Summer term, parents / carers receive a formal end of year report and are offered the opportunity to meet with their child's class teacher to discuss this. In addition, staff are always available and happy to speak to parents / carers about their child and the progress they are making. Please contact your child's teacher in the first instance, should you wish to find out how well your child is doing in school.

We have a very high staff: pupil ratio at ECFS and all children have access to a high amount of 1:1 support for their learning. We are very pleased about this but realise, at the same time, that we must also ensure that our children have time to work on their own to develop their independence and resilience. It is a fine balance.

My daughter has only been at Elmley School for one school year. During this we have been very happy with her progress.

We can see that during this year that there has already been a lot of changes, all of which seem to be a success.

We hope the school moves forward in the direction it is going and our daughter continues to love her school experience. Many thanks for all your hard work and dedication.

Nothing to recommend because I feel very happy with the school and my child's progress – thank you.

More homework

More after school clubs that engage the brain instead of just sports. I appreciate there are some already but more would be good.

Interactive whiteboard in the hall – was discussed a while ago but nothing materialized

We have no issues at all – the school is a lovely, happy place at the heart of the community. It is a credit to all the staff and children that help build that nurturing environment. Our children are very happy – being at ECFS has made them responsible, caring and well-rounded individuals.

RESPONSE: We would like an interactive whiteboard in the school hall and will cost this up. (I'm not promising anything at this stage, though!)

The breakfast / after school club is essential for our children to attend the school.

Would be great to see the school's achievements more in local media – can more be done to improve numbers?

What is already being done?

Update on school's position re: Finance and moving forward



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RESPONSE: We are pleased our numbers continue to grow and are constantly looking for ways to promote the school via banners and mentions in local media. If you have any ideas how we can develop this further, please let us know.

-Our growing numbers, the addition of our Pre-school class and our glowing Ofsted report (January 2017) have all contributed to a strong school position. However, due to the decline in numbers over previous years, the school is currently operating a negative budget. Happily, our continued growth is supporting our intention to operate a balanced in-year budget in the near future.

We couldn't be happier with our child's progress are very pleased she looks forward to going to school every day.

Children to have fruit at snack time

On days when it is wet and the children take part in outside activities in their PE Forest School kit, is it possible for them to bring them home on the day for washing and drying?

My son loves going to Elmley Castle School and receives excellent support, encouragement and teaching.

RESPONSE: Children in Key Stage 1 are offered free fruit at break time and sometimes KS2 children are able to have one if we have any left overs.

If, as a parent / carer, you would like your KS2 child to eat a piece of fruit every day in school, you are welcome to send fruit in for this purpose.

We are thrilled at the direction ECFS is going in. It is extremely exciting and we feel very lucky that our children attend the school.

We love all the extra curricular opportunities they are given and the increased number of trips and out-of-classroom experiences. These are what give the children great learning opportunities and really help to broaden their lives.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of staff at ECFS for all they do. We really appreciate everything.

We are going through the process of a 1:1 for my daughter and Elmley is very supportive.

Every child is an individual and thrives in this lovely environment.

Elmley has a very supportive team with a very strong leader head and I am very happy. My daughter is very lucky to be in such a precious school.