



16th May 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the parent questionnaire issued by governors in February. This year we had 47 responses, this is an increase on previous years. The governors value the views and opinions of parents and carers and would like to outline the plans and actions that will be taken to address any issues raised.

Overwhelmingly, the results were very positive with the vast majority of parents either strongly agreeing or agreeing with all areas questioned and only one parent strongly disagreeing with a few areas. All parents agree that their child/children are well looked after at Dinting School, are treated equally and fairly and feel the school is well led and takes steps to continually improve, the work undertaken is stimulating and challenging and all parents are happy with the standard of teaching.

Safeguarding, Health and Wellbeing

This area of the questionnaire was completed with the vast majority of parents agreeing or strongly agreeing with the questions asked. Our School Council are currently working on a healthy eating project and will be producing a guide for healthy packed lunches. This should help to address some concerns around the high fat/sugar content of some lunch boxes.

Reporting, Communications and Feedback

This area of the questionnaire had a mixed response, with three parents disagreeing that the school provides valuable information about their child's progress. Over recent years, national changes to the way children are assessed have taken place and have resulted in some confusion and no standard method across schools. We now have an established system in place and are able to demonstrate the rates of individual progress. If, when you receive this data for your child, you are unsure about what it means, please discuss with their teacher or speak to Mrs Elliott.

Attendance, Behaviour and Culture

All parents agreed or strongly agreed that the school sets high standards for behaviour and attendance and their child is well looked after at Dinting School and everyone indicated that they find the school welcoming and friendly. Two parents stated that their children are not happy at Dinting School. It would be helpful if this could be explored further to find out exactly what is causing a pupil to feel unhappy. We really would like the opportunity to discuss further.

Suggestions for Improvement

It was very pleasing and reassuring that many of the suggestions made are already being addressed by school or are known to the governors and will form part of future plans. Whilst there are too many to list individually, many fall into themes and I will outline the planned action that is going to be taken over the coming months.

- Some parents commented that the school website is not always up to date. This is an issue we are working to address and more staff will now have responsibility for keeping certain areas up to date. This will spread the work load and not rely on the school office to up date the entire website.
- Advanced notice of school term dates was requested.
- We will send home the school term dates for the next academic year by the end of term 5 of the current year and give the additional INSET days that have already been set. We are unable to give all 5 INSET days in September because some are dependent on school improvement and training needs arise throughout the year. We strive to give as much notice as possible and will always give at least half a terms notice.
- Development of the playground is ongoing. The tarmac had to be removed and relayed due to a poor standard when initially completed and we were unable to lay any playground markings during the winter months when cold temperatures could have damaged them. Cost has also been a significant factor but due to the generosity of FODS and their fundraising efforts we are in a position to involve the children and organise the markings to make the playground a more attractive environment.
- Classroom and hall space was raised and this is an issue that is discussed at Governing Body meetings. In the current financial climate it is very unlikely that funding for building work will become available so we will endeavour to provide the very best for every child within our building constraints. This includes continuing to use the Scout Hut for P.E. lessons. The walk to the Scout Hut provides essential physical exercise for all pupils and develops road safety and life skills for living in the local community.

- Some parents commented on the school's reading resources, stating they are outdated and uninspiring. This is something we wanted to address in 2017-2018 as part of our school improvement plan but with limited finances Maths Mastery was a higher priority. However it will be address in 2018-2019.

Additional comments

- My child loves attending Dinting School, I am very pleased with the school and feel all of my children's needs are met.
- It's a family who all work together to strive for the best.

Thank you for completing the questionnaire. Hopefully, you feel that we take your views and opinions very seriously and will strive to address your concerns/suggestions where possible. If at any time you wish to discuss any issues, feel free to speak to any member of the governing body or staff.

Yours sincerely

Lynn Elliott
Headteacher

