

A Love of Learning, for Life, for All

Parent Consultation Survey

January 2018

Joy Lane Primary School



Joy Lane, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 4LT

Tel 01227 261430

www.joylane.kent.sch.uk

Overall Survey Results

256 parents completed our survey.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Percentages					
My child is happy at this school	56%	41%	2%	2%	9%
My child feels safe at this school	64%	36%	0%	0%	0%
My child makes good progress at this school	52%	43%	3%	1%	2%
My child is well looked after at this school	60%	39%	3%	0%	2%
My child is taught well at his school	57%	40%	1%	0%	0%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	32%	50%	9%	2%	7%
This school ensures the pupils are well behaved	41%	50%	2%	1%	7%
This school deals effectively with bullying	21%	32%	4%	1%	41%
This school is well led and managed	43%	53%	2%	0%	2%
This school responds well to any concern I raise	38%	47%	5%	1%	11%
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	39%	53%	6%	1%	1%
I would recommend this school to another parent	52%	43%	1%	0%	4%
School provides effective communication	43%	50%	5%	1%	1%

My Child is happy at this school

Strongly Agree or Agree	Strongly Disagree or Disagree	Don't know
97%	2%	0%

My child feels safe at this school

Strongly Agree or Agree	Strongly Disagree or Disagree	Don't know
100%	0%	1%

My child is well looked after at this school

Strongly Agree or Agree	Strongly Disagree or Disagree	Don't know
99%	0%	2%

We are delighted that 100% of children feel safe at our school. 97% are happy and 99% feel that they are well looked after. We continue to use our Family Liaison Officers (FLOs), PASS (Pupil Attitude to Self and School) and our PSHE programme to monitor our children's wellbeing and to ensure that support is available when needed. We also use pupil voice in the form of the teacher-pupil questionnaire (shared with you at Parent Partnership Meetings) to monitor children's well-being.

Our FLOs, Mrs Allen and Mrs Elton are available every morning for parents to talk to when they drop their children and Mr Ashley-Jones our Head of School and Mrs Godden, our Inclusion Manager, are available, without an appointment, on Friday mornings. Class teachers are available at the end of the school day and appointments can also be made to them or any of the Senior Leadership Team.

Over the last year Mrs Barrett and Mrs Allen have undertaken ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) training so that they can offer specialised help and support to pupils when needed. We have already seen the benefit of this for some pupils.

My child makes good progress at this school

Strongly Agree or Agree	Strongly Disagree or Disagree	Don't know
95%	3%	2%

My child is taught well at this school

Strongly Agree or Agree	Strongly Disagree or Disagree	Don't know
97%	1%	0%

I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress

Strongly Agree or Agree	Strongly Disagree or Disagree	Don't know
92%	7%	1%

It is pleasing to see to see an increase in the number of parents that believe their children are taught well, make good progress and that parents/carers receive valuable information about this. Following a previous survey we moved our parent partnership meetings forward and the majority of parents are happy with the new dates. A few parents have commented that they would prefer to meet later in the year however we feel that by meeting earlier if any concerns are identified we can work together with the parent to put measures in place to support the child with enough time remaining in the school year for this to have an impact.

We also have Sharing Learning Afternoons for parents and carers to visit their children's classrooms and look at their work, and, of course, you can see your child's teacher after school or make an appointment to discuss progress and learning at any time.

My child receives appropriate homework for their age

Strongly Agree or Agree	Strongly Disagree or Disagree	Don't know
82%	11%	7%

There has been a small increase in the number of parents happy with the level of homework set which is pleasing. Our termly year group newsletters and homework policy, available under parents and policies on the website outlines clearly the key stage and year group expectation for homework. Homework clubs are available at lunchtime and our After School Club team also offers children the opportunity to complete homework should they wish to. All parents and carers are encouraged to talk to the class teacher about any concerns they have, which includes any pressures that the homework timetable maybe causing.

This school ensures the pupils are well behaved

Strongly Agree or Agree	Strongly Disagree or Disagree	Don't know
91%	3%	7%

This school deals effectively with bullying

Strongly Agree or Agree	Strongly Disagree or Disagree	Don't know
54%	5%	41%

Many of the parents and carers that have stated 'don't know' regarding how we deal with bullying have commented that they have had no experience of bullying and are not therefore familiar with the systems we use. We consider this a good sign and added to the 54% that are happy gives us 95% of parents that feel we deal with bullying effectively. We cover the topic of bullying in our PSHE curriculum with the children to help them identify when bullying is happening and to ensure that they know who to tell about it. We use the acronym STOP (Several Times On Purpose) to help the children.

Each year at Joy Lane we take part in 'National Anti- Bullying Week' and this academic year shared resources with class teachers as well as embracing the slogan, All Different and All Equal during assemblies and class based activities.

It is pleasing to see that so many parents and carers believe our pupil behaviour is good. We have robust systems in place for monitoring behaviour and have made this a priority as the number of pupils in school has grown. We are all very proud of the way the majority of our pupils behave and believe they are a credit to our school. Some of our older children have shown potential parents around the school during our open mornings; the feedback has been outstanding regarding both the guides and the behaviour witnessed during the tours. Children's breaktimes and lunchtimes offer structure, as well as 'free play' opportunities and both our indoor and outdoor sanctuary playtimes have been well-received by children and parents alike. Disruptive or unkind behaviours will not be tolerated at Joy Lane and we pride ourselves on working closely with parents and carers so that all children are happy and respectful individuals.

This School is well led and managed

Strongly Agree or Agree	Strongly Disagree or Disagree	Don't know
96%	2%	2%

This school responds well to any concerns I raise

Strongly Agree or Agree	Strongly Disagree or Disagree	Don't know
85%	5%	11%

Our Leadership Team strives to ensure that the school is well led and managed and it is pleasing that the number of parents and carers recognising this has increased. We continue to review our leadership team as the school grows and are delighted with the impact our Senior Leaders and Middle Leaders are having. We are investing in the future to ensure that our high standard of leadership continues with some teachers undertaking nationally recognised courses in both Middle and Senior Leadership.

Whenever concerns are raised we strive to resolve them as quickly and efficiently as possible. Sometimes we need to undertake a more lengthy investigation and the time this takes can be frustrating. However we believe it is important to find out all the facts so that the matter can be fully resolved. If a child raises a concern we have a team of people to support them with their concern, however small, and we liaise with their families to ensure that everyone works together to achieve a successful outcome.

I would recommend this school to another parent

Strongly Agree or Agree	Strongly Disagree or Disagree	Don't know
95%	1%	4%

We are delighted to see an increase in the number of parents and carers that would recommend Joy Lane Primary School to other parents. Our ethos is to provide a safe, friendly, caring and inclusive community as we believe that children thrive in a positive learning environment.

School provides effective communication

Strongly Agree or Agree	Strongly Disagree or Disagree	Don't know
93%	6%	1%

It is very pleasing to see an increase in the number of parents and carers that feel we provide effective communication. Many parents have commented about our new weekly Newsletter and how much they prefer this

to the letters previously sent out. Many parents have also remarked very positively about our Dojo communication and reward system; it appears to be a success with both children and parents alike. We are looking to develop this further over the coming months.

Some parents have expressed a desire for an on-line consent system for trips etc. We are still investigating this but because there are legal implications we need to be very thorough. If you do not have access to a printer please don't hesitate to ask a member of the school office team to print you a copy for completion.

Parent and Carer responses to comment sections:

Please remember that if you have any concerns about any aspect of your child's education there are a number of ways you can communicate with us. The Family Liaison Officers are available every morning and afternoon, Teachers are available at the end of the school day, Mr Ashley-Jones and Mrs Godden are available every Friday morning for informal drop ins. Please be assured that you can telephone the school office and request a teacher or member of the Senior Leadership Team to return your call or make an appointment to see you at any time.

Some comments are not addressed in the sections above and we have tried to address them below:

School Dinners

We offer a variety of freshly cooked food every day. We are about to launch a new menu which has been verified by KCC and will be sending this out shortly. We continue to address healthy choices in our PSHE sessions and KS1 recently had a healthy eating assembly with a food nutritionist. We continue to encourage healthy snacks at breaktime as well as promoting the benefits of a balanced and healthy packed lunch. In the coming months we will be reviewing some of the options that the children have available during school dinners and encouraging healthy choices at all times.

Our Site

Thank you to all the parents and carers that commented so positively about our school site now that the building works are complete. We are delighted with the new building and the space we now have for our children. We will reopen the field for use as soon as the weather allows and we also believe that it is a fantastic resource for the children. We are aware that there are a few drainage issues, especially around the swimming pool area. We are looking at possible solutions.

Swimming Pool

We would like to thank you for your patience regarding the swimming lessons that were delayed at the beginning of this academic year. We are delighted that lessons are now in full swing and that we have a team of very dedicated and experienced instructors. The swimming pool is now open after school too for private lessons and we currently have over 100 children from the Joy Lane and wider community using this facility. Please contact the school office for details if you would like more information.

Parking

Some parents have commented about inconsiderate parking on the roads around the school site. Unfortunately we have no jurisdiction outside the school site and would suggest that if you see dangerous parking you report it directly on www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/travelling-around-kent/parking/nuisance-parking. We will of course continue to appeal to our parent and carer community through our weekly newsletter to park sensibly and safely at all times.

We are going to launch a trial 'drive on drop off' facility very soon. We have recently met with a member of the KCC Traffic Management Department to ensure we give this the best chance of success. We have to consider the safety of the children as they move around the site and of course their supervision as they will be dropped off before the classrooms are staffed. We will send out details of the trial as soon as the final draft is complete.

Attendance

Some parents have questioned our Attendance Policy and our active encouragement and reward for attendance. We are led by Government Policy, the KCC Attendance guidance and School Liaison Officers and have followed their guidance regarding letters sent out following a child's absence. Joy Lane Primary School's Attendance Policy is in line with all other schools, both locally and nationally.

We are sorry that some feel this is putting undue pressure on the children, this is not our aim. We fully understand that when a child is unwell the best place for them to be is at home. However the impact that absence from school can have on their academic achievement is a concern. We would ask that you consider this when looking at holidays and appointments that could be booked in the school holidays or after school.

Forest School

We currently have a group of teaching staff undertaking training so that we can set up and run our own Forest School. Forest School is an inspirational process that offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees. We recognise that the children have a fantastic outdoor area and we intend to develop this over the next few years. Exciting times ahead!

Other Matters

A large number of parents and carers commented on how friendly and approachable they have found the staff. We are delighted that this is the case as we firmly believe a strong partnership between parents and the school benefits the children in every way.

There were a few comments about PE in school and we want to reassure you that we fully understand the benefits of PE for all children for health reasons as well as team work and leadership skills. We are building relationships with other schools to implement more PE and for specialist PE teachers to show our staff how to deliver different types of PE for children throughout the school. At Joy Lane we are part of the Coastal SSCO Sports Partnership and therefore benefit from bespoke training for our staff as well as entry into numerous local Sports Competitions.

We are delighted that our new Swimming Pool Manager is able to ensure that the swimming instruction delivered is of the highest calibre. Mr Dowling and his team are offering a variety of private lessons so that children of all abilities will be able to access appropriate lessons should you wish them to. Facebook London have donated a climbing wall to us which we are in the process of collecting and installing and I am sure the children will benefit physically from using this equipment in the future.

We are delighted that our music department is going from strength to strength. During the academic year 2016-17 63 pupils learnt musical instruments within school which is 14% of our school community; the figure for this year is currently over 70 pupils and rising! Lounge on the Field 2 was a great success with three stages showcasing the talents of the children and adults at Joy Lane. In February the children and adults took part in a three night musical extravaganza called 'Light Up The Hall' JAZZ CLUB which was a great success with Mrs Rawlings, her team and the children excelling themselves once again!

Thank you!

We would like to thank parents and carers for taking the time to complete the survey and for the huge number of positive comments made about our school and staff. All feedback is taken seriously and we will try our best to ensure that the service we provide is an outstanding one, although we are also realistic and know that occasionally we won't get it right and keep absolutely everyone happy.

All the staff at Joy Lane want each and every child to reach their full potential. We hope your child's memories of this stage of their learning journey at Joy Lane will set them up with a love of learning which they will take forward with them to secondary school and for the rest of their life.

A few quotes from parents and carers in praise of Joy Lane Primary School:

'Positive and supportive learning environment'

'It is a friendly school and the children are treated with kindness'

'Open communication and advice'

'Approachable and visible Senior Leadership Team'

'Creative learning, different approaches, strong emphasis on succeeding'

'Good communication with parents'

'My child is happy and learning well'

'Good teachers who clearly care about the children'

'Love the school ethos'

'A well organised, positive and supportive learning environment'

'A good balance of academic versus practical/emotional educational experience'

'The fun the children have whilst also learning'

'Well run, pupil centred and my children enjoy coming here'

'Parents are well informed through Newsletters'

'The music is outstanding'

'Staff are a truly inspirational bunch'