



## Smallwood CE Primary Academy Parents' and Carers' Survey 2023

- This document presents the results of our latest Annual Survey of Parent/Carer Views. The Survey was carried out in March 2023.
- This survey, along with other feedback, will help to shape the ongoing development of the school.
  - Thank you to all parents who completed our survey.

*"Children and staff always seem happy."*

*"It's great"*

*"Each child is loved and cared for."*

*"It has been the natural school of choice since 2004! No reason to change!"*

*"We chose Smallwood many years ago and wouldn't go anywhere else!"*

*"Small, friendly, family environment!"*

*"Professional but friendly approach to education."*

*"We chose Smallwood as the leadership, then and now, was brilliant."*

*"Sibling was so happy here, it was a no-brainer."*

*"We loved the feel of the school when we came to look around and all traditions. We couldn't be happier."*

*"It felt like a second home and safe."*

*"We were new to the area but even if we had a choice of all Congleton schools, we couldn't have picked a better school."*

*"Children's welfare is a big priority with the school."*

*"We chose Smallwood because it was clearly caring and nurturing where children can thrive and have lots of opportunities."*

## 1. Overall Results of the Survey

\*83 families completed the Survey.

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Total % in agreement</b>
<b>1. My child is happy at this school.</b>						
<b>2023</b>	<b>56= 67.5%</b>	<b>26= 31.3%</b>	<b>1= 1.2%</b>			<b>98.8%</b>

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Total % in agreement</b>
<b>2. My child feels safe at this school.</b>						
<b>2023</b>	<b>66= 79.5%</b>	<b>17= 20.5%</b>				<b>100%</b>

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Total % in agreement</b>
<b>3. My child is well looked after at this school.</b>						
<b>2023</b>	<b>67= 80.7%</b>	<b>16= 19.3%</b>				<b>100%</b>

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Total % in agreement</b>
<b>4. The school promotes strong Christian values and ethos.</b>						

2023	61= 73.5%	21= 25.3%			1= 1.2%	98.8%
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5. The school is welcoming to parents, carers and visitors.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
2023	68= 81.9%	15= 18.1%				100%

6. The school helps the children to be caring and kind.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
2023	63= 79.9%	20= 20.1%				100%

7. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
2023	56= 67.5%	26= 31.3%	1= 1.2%			98.8%

8. The school deals effectively with bullying.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
2023	39= 47.0%	18= 21.7%	2= 2.4%		24= 28.9%	68.7%

It is worth noting that only 2.4% of all parents disagree with this, which means that - potentially - 97.6% agree! The reason the 'Agree' figure is 68.7% is because our newer families simply don't know enough about the measures we take to promote an Anti-Bullying message, and the tangible and effective activities and strategies in place to ensure that the children understand how important it is to be kind and caring, and what to do if there is any sign of bullying.

9. The school responds well to any concerns I raise.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
2023	54= 65.1%	23= 27.7%	2= 2.4%		4= 4.8%	92.8%

10. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
2023	46= 55.4%	37= 44.6%				100%

11. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
2023	58= 69.9%	25= 30.1%				100%

12. The school has high expectations for my child.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
2023	55= 66.3%	24= 28.9%	1= 1.2%		3= 3.6%	95.2%

13. The school lets me know how my child is doing.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
2023	51= 61.4%	29= 34.9%	3= 3.6%			96.3%

14. This school is well led and managed.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
2023	65= 78.3%	18= 21.7%				100%

15. My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
2023	54= 73.0%	20= 27.0%				100%

It is worth noting that 9 people did not answer this question as their children are in Reception and do not take part in clubs.

16. Would you recommend this school to another parent?	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
2023	65= 78.3%	18= 21.7%				100%

## 2. Parent & Carer responses to the question: 'Why did you choose Smallwood Academy for your child/ children?'

\*There were many common themes for why Parents/ Carers choose the school and these can be seen below.

\*Some responses mentioned more than one reason therefore the total surpasses 83.

Reason for choosing the school	Number of times mentioned by Parents/ Carers
Small school/class sizes	21
Strong leadership	3
Sibling at/has been at the school	10
Location/ catchment area	23
Academic excellence/ quality of teaching	5
Reputation	20
Christian Values	5
Friendly/ supportive/ kind staff	6
Community/ family feel	21
Ethos/ Values	13
Extra-curricular activities (including forest schools)	5
Nurturing	4

## 3. Parent & Carer responses to the question: 'What would you like to see Smallwood developing next?'

Comment from Parents/ Carers	Our Response
More sport/PE	We have had considerable success with our Sports teams in various inter-school leagues and tournaments, this

	<p>academic year. We have introduced the daily mile first thing in the morning and will also look at more after-school clubs with a sports/active focus. We are also looking at further enhancing our PE curriculum.</p>
<p>Better discipline for disruptive pupils</p>	<p>Fortunately, this is rare at Smallwood. Our Behaviour Curriculum is flexible and we are always looking at ways of supporting children who may be dysregulated. We celebrate the positives and focus on this. However, there are sanctions in place for pupils that do not follow our expectations. Behaviour Curriculum:  <a href="https://www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/7938604">https://www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/7938604</a></p>
<p>More focus on IT/tech</p>	<p>This is most certainly an area that we will continue to invest in. We have upgraded all PCs in every classroom, allocated laptops to each class and are about to invest in new digital screens to replace all the smart/whiteboards.</p>
<p>More communication/better communication/inclusivity for working mums and dads</p>	<p>We have refined our communication with the use of Dojo and there is a substantial amount of information that is sent out to parents on this platform as well as via email. Our website calendar is kept up-to-date, detailed curriculum information is available under the "Curriculum" tab along with Knowledge Organisers for each term. We have a termly "Information Session" for parents at the beginning of each term where we share the learning that will take places, events coming up and any other important information.</p> <p>The whole-school newsletter is published fortnightly and, at the end of the opposite week, each class teacher publishes a round-up on their Class Story page on Dojo.</p> <p>We have tried putting meetings/events later in the evenings to accommodate working parents but uptake has been low. Unfortunately, with the children being in school from 9am - 3.15pm there are some things we can only offer during those times e.g. joining in with ASM sessions, Phonics, picnics, Church services, etc.</p>
<p>More communication around attainment and Progress</p>	<p>We report on attainment and progress at October and March Parents' Evenings as well as end-of-year reports. We are always happy to see any parent in between these points should they wish to make an appointment to meet with class teachers.</p>
<p>Continue to build on the foundations now in place to strive for greater depth learning for all</p>	<p>Absolutely! We are in a very good place with our curriculum which has seen a major overhaul this academic year. There is greater and higher expectations within a broad and balanced curriculum and we will continue to build on this.</p>

	Resources such as Ready Steady Phonics, Accelerated Reader and WhiteRose Maths are helping to support this.
More Science	<p>We are always aware that there are times when we would like to do more of a lot of subjects. We have a carefully mapped out curriculum that takes into account the required amount of time that should be spent on each area of the curriculum. Curriculum overview can be found here: <a href="https://www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/15859202">https://www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/15859202</a></p> <p>Autumn Overview: <a href="https://www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/7850155">https://www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/7850155</a></p> <p>Spring Overview: <a href="https://www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/10314739">https://www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/10314739</a></p>
Early Years extra-curricular opportunities	<p>We are very conscious that at 4/5 years old the school day is quite long and one of our aims is to build that stamina. We aren't considering, at the moment, offering after-school clubs for our Reception children but would consider this if there is enough interest.</p>
Parent/School reading sessions in school	<p>We are lucky to have a team of parent/grandparent volunteers coming into school to help support with reading. We have just arranged for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 a Phonics week where parents are able to join us for a phonics session. This is something we will extend across school in 2023-2024.</p>
Different After-school clubs	<p>We are always open to suggestions so please do let us know what you would like to see and we will look into it. Clubs page on website: <a href="https://www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk/page/clubs/133021">https://www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk/page/clubs/133021</a></p>
Homework - less stuff online and more workbooks or projects to prepare them for High School	<p>We are always conscious of getting the right balance when it comes to homework. Some would like more, some would like less. Some really like the online homework, some would like more paper-based homework. This was an agenda item that was discussed at length with the Parents' Council last year and changes were made to our homework policy based on the responses of the majority. We are always more than happy to signpost any parents in the direction of resources they can access to enhance home learning.</p>
Car Park/Pick-up/A car park for the parents	<p>There have been a few comments recently about the "quality" of parking and how quickly some cars are travelling through the lanes around school. We are very lucky to have the use of the Village Hall and we cannot, and will not, be policing it - we are relying on</p>



	<p>you, our parents, to use it in a sensible and courteous manner.</p> <p>We could look at a staggered end to the day but it would have to be staggered later, rather than earlier. We can bring this up as an agenda item for the Parents' Council once again but changing the school day would need consultation with all stakeholders - staff, parents, children, governors (Directors), etc.</p> <p>It has also become apparent that some cars are still parking on the corner of Church Lane/School Lane. This has caused some very near-misses as others having been pulling out of the junction.</p> <p>We are very proud of our relationships with the community and its members and we all have a part to play in that.</p>
Continue the 7 classes	<p>This is absolutely our goal. We do, however, need to maintain our annual intake of 25 in each cohort to be able to maintain this and to have at, or around, 175 on roll. Most primary schools with a class per year would have around 30 in each class and aiming for 210 on roll. This has contributed to other pressures elsewhere, such as the parking. However, the benefits in being able to overhaul our curriculum for a single-age class structure far outweighs some of those disadvantages.</p>
More trips out	<p>We would love being able to take each class on a trip every term and residential visits from Year 2 through to Year 6 each year. However, we are very mindful of the costs of these and the pressure this would put on some of our families. We are looking at getting a balance over the year, for each year group and would welcome further feedback on this.</p>
Systems and procedures improved around payments	<p>This is one of our priorities on the administration side of the school and we're hoping to be able to communicate something with you in the very near future.</p>
More stretch for academically able children	<p>We have overhauled our curriculum from this academic year with far higher expectations, broader and more balanced with a focus on depth of learning. Curriculum overviews can be found here:  <a href="https://www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk/page/curriculum/2221">https://www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk/page/curriculum/2221</a></p> <p>Knowledge organiser for each half-term:  <a href="https://www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk/page/knowledge-organisers/129380">https://www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk/page/knowledge-organisers/129380</a></p>

Larger outdoor play area	We would very much like to enhance our outdoor areas and expand the amount of space we have. We have some ambitious plans being drawn up in the hope of applying for grant funding. We will do everything we can, in the meantime, to make sure that the children have enough space and opportunity at playtimes and lunchtimes.
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**4. Parent & Carer responses to the question: 'What do you especially value about Smallwood?'**

\*There were many common themes for what Parents/ Carers value about the school and these can be seen below.

\*Some responses mentioned more than one reason therefore the total surpasses 81.

<b>What do you especially value about Smallwood?</b>	<b>Number of times mentioned by parents/ carers</b>
Friendly and welcoming	19
Small and personal	4
Family orientated	2
Approachable/ caring/ supportive staff	15
Children treated as individuals / inclusive	5
Varied curriculum	1
Strong/ effective leadership by the Head	2
High standard of teaching & learning	3
How kind and caring behaviour is promoted	1
Community feel	23
Its strong values	5
Nurturing and professional approach	4
Positive relationships between staff and children	2
Christian values	3
Clubs and activities	4
Respect and Care	1

**5. Parent & Carer responses to the question: 'How you can tell that Smallwood is a Christian School?'**

\*There were many common themes for how Parents/ Carers can tell that Smallwood is a Christian school and these can be seen below.

\*Some responses mentioned more than one reason and others didn't provide an answer.

<b>How can you tell that Smallwood is a Christian school?</b>	<b>Number of times mentioned by parents/ carers</b>
Celebrate the key dates in the Christian calendar across the year	14
Singing of songs	5
Signage around school / school emblem / displays/ website	5
The children understand key Christian values/ encouraged to display these in their behaviour	12
Connection/ Strong links with the local church/ visits from vicar	20
Regular assemblies/ worships/ prayer/ celebrations	18
Children come home excited about church/ talk about their learning.	10
The way things are dealt with	2
Approach to curriculum	6
Understanding of all faiths	1