



Smallwood CE Primary Academy Parents' and Carers' Survey 2024

- This document presents the results of our latest Annual Survey of Parent/Carer Views. The Survey was carried out in February 2024.
- 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.

"Excellent teaching."

"Nurturing, child-centred approach"

"Family feel. Mr Lewis makes an effort to get to know children individually"

"Staff are approachable and welcoming!"

"I wouldn't choose anywhere else. It is the perfect school for my family."

"We have a long relationship with the school and are proud to say we are part of the Smallwood family"

"Amazing Values. Great communication."

"The strong sense of community and ease of access to teachers/staff"

"The individual care and attention to each and every child."

"School is like family!"

"Teachers are approachable and children are happy."

"Great teachers!"

"Feeling that staff genuinely care about the children."

"Great with SEN children."

"We moved (to the area) and looked at several schools in the area but we were most impressed by Smallwood far above and beyond the other. The ethos of the school and the supportive family style ethos made it the outstanding choice for us without compare."

1. Overall Results of the Survey

*86 families completed the Survey.

| 1. My child is happy at this school. | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know | Total % in agreement |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2023 | 67 = 77.9% | 19 = 22.1% | | | | 100% |

| 2. My child feels safe at this school. | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know | Total % in agreement |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2023 | 67 = 77.9% | 19 = 22.1% | | | | 100% |

| 3. My child is well looked after at this school. | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know | Total % in agreement |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2023 | 72 = 83.7% | 14 = 16.3% | | | | 100% |

| 4. The school promotes strong Christian values and ethos. | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know | Total % in agreement |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
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|------|---------------|---------------|--|--|--|------|
| 2023 | 66 = 76.7% | 20 = 23.3% | | | | 100% |
|------|---------------|---------------|--|--|--|------|

| 5. The school is welcoming to parents, carers and visitors. | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know | Total % in agreement |
|---|----------------|--------------|----------|-------------------|------------|----------------------|
| 2023 | 74= 86.0% | 11= 12.8% | | | 1= 1.2% | 98.8% |

| 6. The school helps the children to be caring and kind. | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know | Total % in agreement |
|---|----------------|--------------|----------|-------------------|------------|----------------------|
| 2023 | 69= 80.2% | 16= 18.6% | | | 1 = 1.2% | 98.8% |

| 7. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved. | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know | Total % in agreement |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------|-------------------|------------|----------------------|
| 2023 | 64 = 74.4% | 20 = 23.3% | | | 2 = 2.3% | 97.7% |
| It is worth noting that no parents disagreed with this so potentially 100% are in agreement that behaviour is good. | | | | | | |

| 8. The school deals effectively with bullying. | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know | Total % in agreement |
|--|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|----------------------|
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|------|---------------|---------------|--|--|---------------|-------|
| 2023 | 48 = 55.8% | 14 = 16.3% | | | 24 = 27.9% | 72.1% |
|------|---------------|---------------|--|--|---------------|-------|

It is worth noting that no parents disagree with this, which means that - potentially - 100% agree! The reason the 'Agree' figure is 72.1% is because simply there are very few incidents of bullying. It also suggests that there are 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 are any signs 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 | 64 = 74.4% | 18 = 20.9% | | | 4 = 4.7% | 95.3% |

| 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 | 68 = 79.1% | 16 = 18.6% | | | 2 = 2.3% | 97.7% |

| 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 | 67 = 77.9% | 19 = 22.1% | | | | 100% |

| 12. The school has high expectations for my child. | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know | Total % in agreement |
|--|----------------|---------------|----------|-------------------|------------|----------------------|
| 2023 | 67 = 77.8% | 17 = 19.8% | 1 = 1.2% | | 1 = 1.2% | 97.6% |

| 13. The school lets me know how my child is doing. | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know | Total % in agreement |
|--|----------------|---------------|----------|-------------------|------------|----------------------|
| 2023 | 65 = 75.6% | 19 = 22.1% | 1 = 1.2% | | 1 = 1.2% | 97.7% |

| 14. This school is well led and managed. | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know | Total % in agreement |
|--|----------------|--------------|----------|-------------------|------------|----------------------|
| 2023 | 75 = 87.3% | 9 = 10.5% | | | 1 = 1.2% | 98.8% |

| 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 | 62 = 72.1% | 17 = 19.8% | 1 = 1.2% | | 6 = 6.9% | 91.9% |

It is worth noting that all participants answered this question, there is a higher percentage of "Don't Know" 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 | 75 = 87.3% | 9 = 10.5% | | | 2 = 2.4 | 97.8% |

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 may surpass 86.

| Reason for choosing the school | Number of times mentioned by Parents/ Carers |
|--|--|
| Small school/class sizes | 18 |
| Strong leadership | 3 |
| Sibling at/has been at the school | 20 |
| Location/ catchment area | 25 |
| Academic excellence/ quality of teaching | 1 |
| Reputation | 16 |
| Christian Values | 3 |
| Friendly/ supportive/ kind staff | 14 |
| Community/ family feel | 87 |
| Ethos/ Values | 11 |
| Extra-curricular activities (including forest schools) | 3 |
| Nurturing | 7 |
| Communication | 1 |

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 academic year. We are continuously investing time in our PE curriculum |
| More focus on IT/tech | This is most certainly an area that we will continue to invest in. We have upgraded all PCs in every classroom, invested in two new laptop trolleys with a total of 30 laptops and each classroom has new digital screens. |
| Early Years and year 1 extra-curricular opportunities | 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 would be interested in hearing what further activities parents would like for Years 1 and 2 |
| Free/less cost after school clubs | Some of our clubs are free and some have a small charge or are run by an external provider. We try and provide free clubs where possible but with ever-increasing pressures on our school budgets, we are not in a position to subsidise some clubs and provide the equipment and necessary resources. Clubs such as Cookery, board games, gardening (and others) come with costs for materials, staff time, ingredients and resources. We consulted with the Parents' Council on charging for clubs and engaging external providers and there was an agreement for this. |
| Car Park/Pick-up/A car park for the parents | 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 you, our parents, to use it in a sensible and courteous manner. 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. We are very proud of our relationships with the community and its members and we all have a part to play in that. |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>French incorporated into lessons</p> | <p>Teaching a modern foreign language is only required at some point in Key Stage 2. However, we teach it from EYFS through to Year 6 as we believe strongly that learning another language early makes it far easier than later on. Our French curriculum is tied in closely with all our topics in every year group and the French subject page can be found here - https://www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk/page/modern-foreign-language/28308</p> |
| <p>More trips out</p> | <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> |
| <p>More dressing-up days</p> | <p>We understand the desire to celebrate and mark various occasions and theme days. However, we are also mindful that days like this affect our neuro-diverse children greatly and try to balance everyone's needs and differences. We aim to do 1 dress-up/own clothes day per half-term.</p> |
| <p>More stretch for academically able children</p> | <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: https://www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk/page/curriculum/22221 Knowledge organiser for each half-term: https://www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk/page/knowledge-organisers/129380</p> |
| <p>EYFS outdoor area to be developed/enhanced/updated</p> | <p>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.</p> |

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 may surpass 86.

| What do you especially value about Smallwood? | Number of times mentioned by parents/ carers |
|---|---|
| Friendly and welcoming | 7 |
| Communication/open communication | 5 |
| Small and personal | 9 |
| Family feel/orientated | 6 |
| Approachable/ caring/ supportive staff | 9 |
| Children treated as individuals / inclusive | 4 |
| Varied curriculum | 3 |
| Effective leadership by the Head | 1 |
| Quality of teaching & learning | 4 |
| SEN | 1 |
| Community feel | 9 |
| Its strong values /ethos/culture | 4 |
| Nurturing and professional approach | 3 |
| Positive relationships between staff, parents and/or children | 2 |
| Christian values | 1 |
| Clubs and activities | 4 |
| Buddies | 1 |
| Children feel safe/happy | 4 |

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.

| How can you tell that Smallwood is a Christian school? | Number of times mentioned by parents carers |
|--|--|
| Celebrate the key dates in the Christian calendar across the year | 6 |
| Singing of hymns/songs | 6 |
| School Values | 11 |
| Signage around school / school emblem / displays/ website/ uniform | 1 |

| | |
|--|----|
| The children understand key Christian values/ encouraged to display these in their behaviour | 4 |
| Connection/ Strong links with the local church | 16 |
| Regular assemblies/ worships/ prayer/ celebrations | 12 |
| Children come home excited about church/ talk about their learning. | 6 |
| Prayer time | 2 |
| Approach to curriculum | 1 |
| Understanding of all faiths | |
| Parents/families invited | 1 |