

Parent Survey – Autumn 2021 – Results and Comments

Dear Parents/Carers,

At the end of last term, we asked you to complete a survey based on questions about your child and their experiences in our school. Below, you will find the results of this survey, which was completed online and received 35 responses (including parents of multiple children). Most responses were anonymous. These results have been discussed, and our comments are by each question.

My child is happy at this school

 Yes	34	We are delighted with the outcome that 34/35 parents say their children are happy in school. We aim to make every day enjoyable and hope that the children reflect this when sharing news about their day, although we are aware that when asked, children have generally done 'nothing' in school!
 No	0	
 Don't know	1	

My child feels safe at this school

 Yes	34	Again, we are really pleased with responses to this question. Safety and safeguarding are the highest priority in school. We ensure staff are well-trained to identify and support children and families, and children are well-taught about things which affect their safety and well-being.
 No	0	
 Don't know	1	

The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved

 Yes	32	All staff in our school have high expectations of behaviour and good manners from the children. Some children may find this challenging at times, but the vast majority of behaviour in our school is good. Our behaviour policy is based on Children's Rights and respecting the rights of others. Parents often consider behaviour not to be good if their child has been involved in individual incidents, but we are happy to talk about this with any parents with other concerns.
 No	1	
 Don't know	2	

Regarding bullying incidents - did the school deal with the bullying quickly and effectively?

 Yes	3	As a school we recognise that bullying exists. We are pleased that the majority of parents say their child has not experienced this. We have few reported incidents and we hope that we deal with these swiftly and effectively. Governors believe that in a survey of this type, parents often 'don't know' how certain aspects are managed because they have not needed to know. Where individual parents have ongoing concerns, we hope that we will be informed and that we can work together to resolve issues.
 No	2	
 Don't know	3	
 My child has not experienced ...	27	

The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.

 Yes	29	At the beginning of each year, each child brings home their class curriculum overview. This gives brief information about the content each class will cover in each National Curriculum subject. More in depth detail can be found on the subject overviews on our website: https://www.hesleden.durham.sch.uk/curriculum-classes/curriculum-overview/
 No	4	
 Don't know	2	

Concerns I have raised have been dealt with properly.

 I have not raised any concerns	13	We are disappointed that some individual concerns raised may not have been dealt with, or resolved as wished. Currently we are not aware of any unresolved issues, but hope that the parents concerned will get in touch so that we can make sure that they are.
 Yes	20	
 No	2	

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The school has high expectations for my child.

● Yes	25	Teachers expect children to work hard during lessons in our school, and visits to classrooms show this, and that children respond well. Teachers track and assess your children regularly and are always happy to answer parents' questions at any time.
● No	1	
● Don't know	9	

My child does well at this school.

● Yes	31	The vast majority of children make at least the progress we expect them to. This is down to their hard work and effective teaching. We share this with parents throughout the year but if further information is needed, or we need to say it differently, we would be happy to do so. Some children need extra help, or specific support and we try our best to provide this.
● No	0	
● Don't know	4	

The school lets me know how my child is doing.

● Yes	34	We try to make sure that there are a variety of ways in which teachers and parents can communicate across the year. This includes telephone calls, or parent meetings each term, and a written report. Where there are individual concerns from either parents or teachers, we work hard to resolve these.
● No	1	

Regarding Special Educational Needs – the school gives them the support they need to succeed.

● My child does not have specia...	32	Some of our children have additional needs, or struggle with learning, and sometimes emotional well-being. We work with professionals from many external agencies to try and identify the best ways in which to support these children, and we do our best to implement recommendations in school. We also try to involve parents as much as we can so that together we can make a difference.
● Strongly agree	1	
● Agree	1	
● Disagree	1	

There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.

● Yes	28	Although this sounds more like a Secondary School question, as a Primary, we make sure the children are taught every subject within the National Curriculum, plus additional 'hidden' curriculum areas which support social and personal development.
● No	0	
● Don't know	7	

My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.

● Yes	30	Our clubs and after-school activities vary across the year, depending on what we can provide, or what is offered to us from external partners. We try to be fair in sharing out clubs (i.e. sports coaches) and the times that different groups of children can access these.
● No	1	
● Don't know	4	

The school provides a range of opportunities that support my child's wider personal development.

● Yes	25	When we talk about personal development, we mean (for example): improving learning skills (i.e. 4Bs/Gem power – <i>ask your children!</i>), supporting mental health, making a positive contribution (in school and the community). We aim to do this through pupil voice activities and House time, visits and visitors.
● No	0	
● Don't know	10	

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I would recommend this school to another parent.

 Yes	33	Although this is another overwhelmingly positive response (thank you!), we would hope that any parents bringing their children to Hesleden would think it good enough to recommend to others.
 No	2	

While we are delighted that parental support and responses are overwhelmingly positive, it is difficult to respond to individual negative responses when surveys are anonymous, where parents have provided their names, we will make contact where appropriate. We hope that after reading our comments, parents who continue to have concerns will contact us.

Thank you to all parents who took the time to complete the survey with honest responses. Your children will be completing their own surveys this term. We are always open to suggestions and comments, and where we think they will make a difference, we will give them a go.

Mrs Dunn [HT (on behalf of all staff)]

Mrs Jamieson [Chair of Governors]