

Greenways Primary Academy



Parent Views 2016/2017 and suggestions for improvements.

N = 71		Strongly agree or Agree	Disagree / Strongly disagree	
1	My child enjoys school	96%	4%	
2	My child feels safe at this school	100%	0%	
3	My child makes good progress at this school	96%	0%	
4	My child is making enough progress at this school	94%	6%	
5	My child is well taught at this school	100%	0%	
6	My child receives appropriate homework for their age	90%	10%	
7	The school helps my child to have a healthy lifestyle - healthy snacks, providing water stations, healthy lunches, sport	90%	10%	
8	The school makes sure that my child is well prepared for the future (for example, changing year group, changing school)	98%	2%	
9	The school meets my child's particular needs	94%	6%	
10	The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	100%	0%	
11	The school is well led and managed	93%	7%	
12	The school responds well to any concerns I raise	Yes = 72%	No = 4%	No experience = 24%
13	Would you recommend this school to another parent?	Yes = 96%	No = 4%	

What we do well:

- Communication between parents and teachers in nursery.
- Employ enthusiastic and engaging caring teaching staff.
- Welcoming and friendly staff.
- Make the children feel welcome.
- The very vast amount of equipment and things to do.
- Helpful members of staff.
- Approachable staff.
- Nursery topics are selected to child's interests.
- Transition Period.
- Excellent Teaching
- Engaging the children.
- Supporting and informing parents.
- Promoting independence.
- Promoting the home to school links.
- Creating a love of learning
- Enrichment.
- School menu software
- The topic curriculum works really well and gets my children engaged.
- Allowing the children to access a varied curriculum with trips, visits, workshops, music, cooking and fizzy tots.
- Producing resilient, confident, well rounded children, who love to learn.
- Good learning.
- Safety.
- Teaching and support.
- Style of learning.
- Support in learning.
- Provides a safe and stable environment.
- Staff always make themselves available to support and reassure.
- Encouragement given at all times
- Caring school
- Support/intervention
- Very caring environment in Nursey.
- Making sure the children are happy
- School office staff are fabulous and really helpful
- Individual teachers are helpful and approachable
- School topics
- Mr. Hall and Mr. Bromfield are wonderful additions to the school; the children love their music lessons.
- After school clubs
- Classroom assistant is lovely; my child enjoys writing with her.
- Set high pupil expectations
- Office staff are excellent
- School invests time and energy into lessons and the school experience.
- Music provision is good
- School menu software is now working well
- Topic based curriculum works really well and has my children engaged.
- Making sure each child receives the extra help if it's needed is always offered.
- Concerts, performances, sports events are very well organised.
- Ensuring good behavior
- Caring towards children's needs.
- My children don't complain about nothing at school (and they moan about everything else) so well done!

- Everything!
- Year 1 teacher very approachable.
- Helping the children if they don't understand work.
- Discipline
- School values/big 5.
- Excellent opportunities offered to the children - Stanley Head, Compass for Life.
- Make going to school enjoyable
- Parents are kept up to date with their child's progress
- Motivating pupils

Many thanks for all these positive comments about our school.



Suggestions for improvement	What can we do:
Extra staff to support classroom size increase.	Unfortunately with school budgets we are unable to do this, though would love to.
More sheltered areas on the main playground to aid more outdoor learning.	Sheltered areas on the playground would be great, though it would cause difficulties for PE lesson outdoors and parking for events. Outdoor learning we are passionate about and are looking with the PTFA to develop the outside area by the playing field more.
Discussions with Senior leaders about plans/uniform.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We do communicate in lots of formats, recently re-introducing Governor question times (one parent attended); there are termly parent's evenings where informal conversations, questions can be asked. • Parent Governors contribute to our Governance about future plans. • Main changes are linked to the curriculum which is school led. • Little has changed with the uniform, the logo change and new tie was a Governor decision. New style PE shirts have moved with new technical fabrics that are now available.
More dinner options for nursery.	As we provide family service for Nursery i.e. they children all sit together and their lunch is served by staff there is just the one choice; or packed lunches sandwiches. As the children go into Reception, they have the choice of the full menu. <i>Will check to see if we can do anything though.</i>
More school trips for nursery.	The children are extremely young and therefore we are mindful of this; therefore usually probably one trip.
Better communication from the school – staff changes/staff leaving is often not disclosed until afterwards – needs transparency.	The majority of the time staff changes are communicated well in advance, it is not possible to disclose all circumstances and this has to be respected. The school is very transparent in its communication, though some is to Governors only.
Plastic cups for children to drink from in upper school.	Children need to each bring a labelled bottle to be kept in school. We installed for the children several years ago, clean water stations (rather than a communal tap in the toilets). However each child needs their own water bottle; we cannot provide plastic cups for 240 children on a daily basis, each having a drink 3 times a day.
Less homework.	Teaching staff decide on the requirements for the class and is age dependent. <i>We will look at this for September.</i>
Stop the topic homework as it ends up being the parents who do it.	Topic homework brings enrichment to the curriculum. <i>We will review September 2017</i>
More after school activities.	<i>We will review September 2017.</i>
More recognition for in school achievements.	We have stars of the week every week for in school achievements.

<p>Communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication about events and activities. • Preferred more regular newsletter • Communication – informing parents, giving more notice before events • Information about dates sometimes confusing if things change. • Communication of day to day things especially for those who can't pick up from school. • More use of the app, newsletters and all school letters are no longer uploaded. • Text messages sent out at short notice 	<p>We do try hard with communication, though obviously need to streamline, co-ordinate better.</p> <p>There are many forms of communication now: Newsletters, letters, the website, texts, emails, FS & KS1 weekly reflection sheets, the app.....</p> <p>Texting is easy so staff use this freely to advise/alert parents to all types of things; sorry if you feel bombarded.</p> <p>Newsletters and letters are added to the web; we did send out details what you would find where, when we made changes.</p> <p><i>We already have noted about streamlining how we communicate for September.</i></p>
<p>If possible, teachers email addresses so parents can contact teachers.</p>	<p>We tried this, but it got out of hand unfortunately.</p>
<p>Too much change around staff, more stability is needed.</p>	<p>Our staffing is stable; the majority of staff have many years' service. Unfortunately we can't help illness or maternity leave. We train our staff to a high level and staff move for career progression or other reasons i.e. to be closer to home/family; relocation with their partners job etc.</p>
<p>The Head teacher to be on the playground every morning and engage with all parents.</p>	<p>From September – Miss Garside or other leader will be on the playground daily; it has been more difficult this year 2016-17 with the Exec. HT leading 2 schools and other commitments.</p>
<p>More ICT</p>	<p>The children do have ICT opportunities; though we probably need to develop this more.</p>
<p>Music:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes there is singing out of school and rock band bit where are the classical instruments, these aren't even offered out of school. • Option to play a musical instrument. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our music provision is strong. There are lots of opportunities for children to play instruments; all children learn to play djembe drums, ukulele and guitars; these instruments are very accessible for primary children. • Able musicians and singers join the Rock band and play key boards, drums and guitars, alongside vocals. • We use to have classical instrument tuition but the uptake was so low, we stopped offering them. If we offer them we have to cover the tutor's costs and unfortunately it wasn't viable.
<p>Someone in the office at busy times – i.e. before and after school.</p>	<p>It is staffed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with some cross over.</p>

Physical education

- PE to take place every week.
- Sports and PE facilities – PE is cancelled too often for various reasons
- Childs PE kit never gets worn.
- Sport, none for young ones, nothing aimed at girls, e.g. netball.
- More sporting opportunities for netball, rounders.
- Nowhere near enough sport.
- More PE for FS – 30 minutes is dire.
- No football or netball for young children below Y3

- The PE curriculum for Y1-6 takes place every week; swimming and dance are part of the PE curriculum.
- Foundation stage children's physical education curriculum isn't a PE lesson like Y1-6, their curriculum is also about lots of other activities that develop their gross & fine motor skills too, this is planned into their weekly learning activities. Though the children do have a PE lesson at times in the hall, changing into their kit, which is also linked to developing their own skills of dressing and undressing. The children also have Fizzy tots too an EYFS physical education programme. We obviously need to make this more explicit to parents.
- We are keen to offer netball, but there is a lack of instructors, if you know any please let us know; including any mums who would lead a netball/hockey squad. We have tried to source this in the past, with little success.
- Cross country, swimming, dance, athletics are available to all girls. We also have girl footballers; some football events have to be mixed teams.
- Rounder's is taught in the summer term, with games.
- Dance is a half term unit for PE

Present provision in addition to weekly PE and swimming lessons

- Football teams Y3/4 and Y5/6 – with many competitions locally, regionally and nationally, includes girls too.
- Cross country club - Tuesday lunch times (Spring- Summer). Competitions: 6 x Burslem Town competitions with other local school Stoke and Staffs plus 2 City race meetings.
- Dance club Sept – March – Spring show at the Victoria Hall
- ASM sports clubs after school on Tuesdays for KS2 – various sports
- Athletics lunchtime clubs– spring/summer term preparation for Athletics competition at Northwood (City competition)
- Weekly swimming (rota) for KS2 (PE lesson); also competitive swimming gala – summer term. Many children achieving above the 25m national curriculum requirement, including Bronze, silver and Gold awards; also water safety.
- School has received the Silver Kite Mark for Sport
- Taekwondo offered after school (private provider)
- EYFS – Fizzy tots (EYFS activities – external provider school time)
- Saturday football
- 2017 – 18 ASM considering offering Funder cats for EYFS school time
- Stanley Head – outdoor and adventure activities (PE curriculum)

School ties that fit properly	Didn't know they didn't, can you confirm the issue. <i>Will pass to the school office</i>
More involvement of parents with learning, i.e. parents can come in on sessions.	We do have Family learning sessions in EYFS. <i>Something for us to explore</i>
Male teachers	Would love to employ male teachers, sadly only a small percentage of primary teachers are male; recent advertisements – no male candidates. But would if there was a good candidate.
Cashless system sometimes a problem i.e. letters been received before payments can be made.	<i>We need to look at this for you.</i>
React too quickly before thinking things through.	Things are usually thought through and discussed in detail; please come and chat if you feel there is an issue.
Not kept informed	We do a lot on communication – not sure what you are not informed about.... <i>please advise and we can see what we can do to rectify this.</i>
Updating parents when they have separated (both parents)	Text messages are set up for both parents, so are reports. <i>If you can let the office staff know what we need to amend, it would be appreciated. It is important that we look into this without delay.</i>
More than one parent pay account (if possible)	<i>We will try and find out, if it is possible.</i>
Way too many special days... its simply exhausting	<i>We will introduce an annual calendar to help the co-ordination of events. Sorry....</i>
Too young for homework.	Depends on what it is? <i>We will evaluate in the autumn term</i>
Not punishing the whole class for 1 individual's behavior.	That isn't our ethos; we would need to know the instance. <i>We will discuss with staff.</i>
Listen better if a child raises concerns regarding emotional issues, i.e. arguments between classmates.	I feel we do; this individual matter needs to be discussed with the class teacher or key stage leader if there is an ongoing problem.
Opportunities in drama/music and for less confident children to be encouraged in be involved. Less favoritism i.e. performance shows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We do lots of music from nursery and encourage children to take part in additional musical activities. • There are singing groups open to all Y1-6 children. Songbirds Y1-3 and choir Y4-Y6 • Rock Band is available for talented musicians and singers. • Each year we have class productions EYFS, KS1 and KS2; Easter and Harvest services too, where children are supported with their drama. Drama is used during Literacy too. • KS2 production – there are auditions for all key parts; the children are chosen on strengths as actors/actresses or soloists.
Teachers spend a lot of time out of class leaving the TA's in charge.	All teaching staff are entitled to 10% non-contact time for planning and preparation; some staff also have leadership responsibilities and have occasional non-contact time. There is also training as necessary which benefits the children. Our highly qualified TA's cover the class better than supply teachers.

Change the structure of reports.	We feel the reports are clear and concise; <i>need to know more specifically what the problem is, if you would like to let the office staff know.</i>
Engage in more additional lessons – English and math’s – open to all to boost knowledge	Staff are unable to offer additional English and math’s lessons on a weekly basis, unfortunately there isn’t the time.
Parking on the road	Parental responsibility; we encourage parents to park safely.

Many thanks for your suggestions for improvements too, we will look into areas where we can to make improvements. There are also certain suggestions that require clarity, if you would like to let us know further we can see what we can do to help....

Many thanks for the time taken to complete and return the questionnaires.

Christine Dean
Executive Headteacher.

