



HASLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL – QUESTIONNAIRE TO PARENTS



July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many thanks to all of you who found the time to complete the recent questionnaires.

The questionnaires are of great value to the school when we plan for further improvements and we do place a great deal of importance on the issues which parents and carers feel we can improve upon.

The results were as follows:

57 replies were received (1 parent = 1.75%)

Results shown as percentages.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to answer
*My Child likes school	77%	19%	2%	2%	
The school expects and achieves high standards of behaviour	68%	32%			
The school enables my child to achieve a good standard of work	74%	25%		2%	
The school keeps me well informed about the progress made by my child	51%	42%	5%	2%	
The school gives parents / guardians the opportunity to find out what the children will study each year	70%	26%	4%		
The school provides children with the opportunity to get involved in more than just their lessons	72%	26%	2%		
I am satisfied with the work my child is expected to do at home	39%	54%	2%	5%	
The school works hard to promote positive values and attitudes amongst the children	79%	18%		2%	2%
The school gives parents / guardians the opportunity to play an active part in the life of the school	81%	16%	2%	2%	
I would find it easy to approach the school with questions / problems to do with my child	77%	21%		2%	
The school handles complaints from parents / guardians well	60%	28%		2%	

Many parents and carers completed the comments boxes with the following positive points being expressed.

- My daughter enjoys school so much, I genuinely cannot immediately think of any area that needs improving – you do so very well in all areas

- Teachers are approachable and students love them
- Subjects are kept fresh and interesting
- Mr Stringer is the enthusiastic 'cherry on the top'
- The school has an excellent atmosphere and as a parent makes me feel valued and involved
- I love all the assemblies and mornings that we are invited to
- My Y3 child's teacher is a huge asset to the school, my son is thriving since she started in January. Thank you!
- I like how often parents are invited into school to take part in lessons and activities
- Lots of opportunities for parents to get involved
- Helps to reach goals to achieve progress
- Good support for children that need extra help
- I think the maths and English days are a really good thing as it lets the parents get involved with the children's learning
- Plenty of parent interaction days – days that I have attended have been good fun and well organised
- The school encourages the pupils to be confident and express themselves e.g. school productions and class assemblies
- My son is continually challenged and inspired, so that he realises the importance of being committed and always trying his best – he has developed a love of learning
- We have been extremely impressed with everything in the school.
- Fantastic teachers, staff and head teacher
- We would recommend this school to everyone
- It has been wonderful to come into school this year and interact with my children. The class assemblies have been brilliant!
- Inviting parents into school for learning days – a good idea that works well
- Displays of work on walls
- Fun activities for pupils out of school hours e.g. sleepover and discos
- I like that my daughter is taught different lessons
- Urgent matters are dealt with straight away
- The teachers and head master are very approachable
- My daughter has come on leaps and bounds this year with the help of Mr McQuaid. I was a little bit dubious at first about him being new to the school, but he is a breath of fresh air – she loves him – he has brought her out of her shell (friends wise). She is more settled and confident – thank you Mr McQuaid, I really appreciate his help.
- The school is an excellent school, which both our children like attending
- The head teacher is ace
- Teachers are great
- Head teacher is the best
- Overall a brilliant school

- Activities at school are great
- Atmosphere is positive
- Parents into class – writing day
- Communicate well – letters
- Involving parents in their child's learning e.g. joining in their lessons, helping with homework and assemblies
- You make learning fun, varied and enjoyable
- The standards of work my child produces are excellent
- I feel that I can approach my son's teacher / head teacher easily and they always listen and help in any way they can
- My son loves coming to this school now and he's settled in well
- Promotes positivity and nurtures kids to achieve and work together
- Keeping our children safe, happy and enthusiastic
- I feel that the teachers know my child – not just his class teachers
- I think that the school is good at celebrating success – my child was extremely proud to receive her swimming certificate in assembly
- Friendly staff who always are willing to help
- Exciting activities for play times
- Lots of separate areas of school / playground that cater for all different types of children during break times – quiet zones, dancing stage etc.
- The school educates the whole child
- There is a real sense of cohesiveness
- My daughter has developed responsibility and is committed to learning – She thrives in a school where she is challenged, respected and nurtured
- My child likes school – This is good as a child who doesn't want to attend school is heart breaking, so the fact my child always wants to attend is a bonus
- I really like the opportunity to be included in their projects and their lessons
- Parents are invited into school to keep updated on child's progress
- Communications always kept up to date via letters being brought home
- My dealing with the Office staff have been a pleasure. They are a lovely and helpful team with a common sense approach e.g. When I sent my son to school in red on the wrong charity day. The situation was handled so well and it was all about how the child felt. I was very impressed
- My son's teachers are excellent
- The school has been fantastic with my son, very supporting - I am pleased to say that my son has enjoyed his time at Hasland Juniors
- Mr Stringer and the staff should be very proud of how they guide their classes over the years – Thank you
- Information is provided about the curriculum
- Lots of opportunities to come into school for event days
- High expectations
- My daughter likes school

- Teacher are always available to talk about my child's progress
- The school provides lots of opportunities for children to get involved in extra curriculum activities i.e. after school clubs, sporting events and excursions. There are also regular opportunities for parents to get involved and see how their children are doing in school
- The curriculum days / half days have been a superb way of giving parents the opportunity to take an active part in school life and see how their child learns
- The way the school encourages independence helps build confidence in children
- The enthusiastic, happy atmosphere from the adults permeates throughout the school
- The outstanding Ofsted report speaks volumes really. Congratulations and keep up the excellent work
- The assemblies are very motivational and it's great to see the children being recognised for the things they do outside school
- We've had some fantastic opportunities to get involved this year, in particular the half days spent sewing and helping with poetry. I also attended the Y4 class assembly which was an incredible show!
- I really enjoyed the parent / child mornings / afternoons. I especially enjoyed making the Anderson shelter with my daughter – it was well prepared and the children enjoyed it too
- The extra meetings to discuss up and coming events or curriculum specifics are informative and well received e.g. SATs meeting, France trip, sex ed
- One comment last year was that the after school clubs could be more varied and not just be sport based – thank you for listening to this suggestion and running the art club this year which my daughter loved
- I feel that the school listens to what our children say and to what we say as parents
- Preparations for SATs was excellent – thank you for all the extra lunch time and after school booster clubs you provided – regardless of how well my daughter did in her SATs, these really helped to build her confidence and maths ability
- I have really enjoyed the opportunities to be more involved with the school activities this year – for example the reading / writing / Viking day etc.
- The world of work assemblies are a brilliant idea and give the children an insight into different careers
- I have really enjoyed coming in to watch the assemblies and school productions
- The extra curricula activities such as trips to the park, cinema, bowling etc. have been brilliant and a good opportunity for the children to unwind and spend time with friends and teachers in less formal settings

- The trip to France was outstanding – thank you so much to all the members of the staff that put so much time and effort in to this trip – my daughter absolutely loved it and says it was the best experience of her life
- The standard of teaching at Hasland Juniors is excellent – when I have had to speak to teachers about issues, I feel that they have listened to me and have acted on my concerns
- The leadership from the head master at Hasland Juniors is excellent – we are very lucky to have such a dynamic, enthusiastic head teacher! I really like that he seems to know all the children personally
- The office staff are extremely friendly and helpful
- We really like the reward systems that you have in place – house points, merit certificates, head teacher awards, governor's awards and Fantastic Friday – this really motivates the children to want to do well
- The school has a very positive 'child friendly' atmosphere
- The dressing up days are fun and the children really enjoy them
- The school has a lovely environment
- I have heard that parents say that the children get too much homework but I disagree and expect them to have more homework by Y6
- Giving parents the opportunity to participate in activities and see how their children learn and behave at school
- Mr Stringer is an excellent role model for the children and all the teachers – it's a fun, educational team working environment.
- A lot of people I know only have good things to say about the school
- Because of the vibes the school gives off, the children want to learn

With regard to the things people felt we could improve upon the following points were made. I have included all the comments, grouped these together and responded accordingly

School dinners. (2 parents) : To have more options on the school menu / I feel that there could be better choices on the menu for school dinners.

Unfortunately, we have no real say over school meals so there is not a lot we can doSorry. If parents feel there is an issue with school meals, you could always contact Catering Services at Derbyshire County Council and put your views to them. I actually think for the price they are good value for money.

Governors Awards : (1 parent) All children try hard and the same children year upon year get Governors awards or special awards in class – maybe try a different reward system or don't give the same child the reward over and over.

We reward children in a variety of ways and presenting a Governors' Award is only one of these ways. Children are constantly sent to me for a reward, there

are weekly certificates given out in assemblies, we give house points daily and merits are given for ANYTHING which shows real commitment, be it a special piece of homework or achievements outside school. Staff are always asked to make sure that when children are nominated for Governors' Award, they are aware of who has been given one before and to award it for ANYTHING which warrants recognition, not just working hard in lessons.

Focus on negative feedback : (1 parent) It sometimes feels that the focus is on negative rather than positive feedback – we are readily told when our children have misbehaved or are not working hard enough, but are rarely told when they have done something well or have been particularly well behaved.

I'm sorry if you feel that way, but if you look above, we recognise positive behaviour / achievements over and over again and when children come home with a Headteacher sticker or a merit certificate, this shows parents that their child has done something that we recognise as good behaviour or hard work. We make it very clear to parents when children start in Y3, that if there is a problem, we will contact you, but that this is not to make you feel bad or so you can 'tell your child off again', but so we can work TOGETHER to help a child improve their behaviour or work ethic.

Allocation of roles in plays etc : (2 parents) The same children seem to get picked roles in plays etc. 'Middle of the road' kids can sometimes get overlooked. Other children need to be encouraged to participate more even just one line to give them the experience.

I am sorry if your child feels that they are being overlooked when parts are allocated. I have seen auditions for things like plays and know all children are given the chance to 'have a go'. I also know that where children really want a part, staff often 'make a line up' so that that child can appear on stage, deliver the line and feel special. The difficulty with things like 'Joseph' which the Y6 will be performing shortly, is that some parts are extremely challenging and need children who are totally committed to the role and able to perform to a certain level. However, I will make sure staff are aware of this concern

Homework : (3 parents) The homework could be differentiated more to the children's abilities – my child finds the maths in particular very simple and sometimes long winded /Less homework / My son's homework isn't always marked which is disheartening to him when he's worked hard

Homework is always a contentious issueSome parents and carers want more....some want less ! You will all know that the curriculum has become more challenging, especially in maths, so I am surprised that maths homework therefore appears 'simple'If this is the case, parents should not hesitate to make an appointment to see the class teacher.

I am sorry if some homework is not being marked.....This may be because it was handed in late or that it was marked 'as a class'. Again, if you are aware that homework is not being marked, please do not hesitate to speak directly to your child's class teacher.

Lack of challenge in lessons : (2 parents) Work is far too easy and my child is desperate for more challenging work.

I find this surprising, as with the new curriculum, children are being asked to do things which were previously only taught to older childrenusing Fronted Adverbials and algebraic formulas as two examples. If you feel the work is too easy for your child, once again do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher directly,

Cancelled PE lessons : (1 parent) Some weeks the kids don't do any PE. I think that they should have at least two sessions weekly.

All classes have two weeks of 'PE' on their timetable.....However, if they are practising for a class assembly or a concert for parents, these are the lessons that are used as this is the allocated slot for use of the hall. I have however made staff aware of this and asked them to keep it to a minimum.

Mixing classes : (1 parent) Once or twice a term for the year group to be mixed in a few lessons so my child gets to work alongside other children in that year group.

I really like this idea and will put it to year group leaders to consider.

Clubs : (3 parents) Why can't Y3 and Y4 would also like to take part in Quad Kids / I would like to see more clubs at the school / I am still unsure as to what the money I pay for clubs goes towards.

We have offered a huge amount of clubs this year, probably more than any school I knowScience, Art, Ballet, Dance, Rounders, Netball to name but a few. Where the clubs are run by outside providers (Science and Rugby for example) all money paid goes to the company. Where staff run the club, they are paid 'extra hours' as this is the time they would be doing their marking and preparation, but instead, they have to do it after clubs have finished. Parents should be aware however, that not all the money paid goes to the teachers.They are paid a set amount per hour. Any extra money that the club generates goes into our PE budget and is spent on things like additional resources and equipment.

School events : (3 parents) Hold more events after school. I miss so much with working, it's unfair. / I feel that as a working parent the demands / opportunities for parents to engage in school activities is not spread out across the year. / Whilst I agree with giving parents the opportunity to come into school to share in the learning, I feel as though there are now too many things and as a full time worker there is now too much pressure to take time off work. / Could do with more than two days' notice as getting time off work is difficult for parent interaction days. / We received one recently where the activity was the following day.

Last year parents asked for more opportunities to come into school and that is what we have tried to provide. I'm sorry if you now think we offer too many events. The plan was never that parents attend all events (although they are very welcome to do so) but that parents and carers would 'pick and choose' those that were convenient.

We do hold some events after school but this is not always easy when staff have other commitments such as young families of their own.

Most events are given more than two days noticeHowever, as learning develops in the classroom, we like to offer you the opportunity to share something special. These special moments cannot be planned in advance. However, if this has caused parents problems, we apologise.

Progress reports : (1 parent) Could there be on-line access to check how a kid is doing in between parent's consultations ?

At the present time, we do not have the facility to offer this. I have always said though that if you want to know how your child is doing at any point in time, all you have to do is ask. It is a good idea though and may be possible in the future.

Negative response from school : (2 parents) When teachers say they are going to do something, they should / I have found this year's teacher to be quite negative in her comments.

I have never worked with such a welcoming and accommodating staff, so I am surprised by the above. I am always available to listen to parents though if they have a concern about the way they have been treated by staff.

Bun sales in school : (1 parent) Stop allowing kids to bring in sweets, cakes etc to sell.

Many children ask if they can arrange some kind of fund raising event to raise money for certain charitiesThe most recent was throwing wet sponges at me which made over £100! Some of these are bake sales, but others have been

Loom Band stalls and Hair Braiding. These are always for charities like Cancer Research and are usually as a result of there being some kind of trauma in a family. As a result, I am not going to say no to these children. If parents feel that they do not wish their child to bring money in for those events then we fully understand.

Contacting parents when children are ill. (1 parent) Recently my child was ill and I strongly feel she should have been sent home well before the school day ended.

When children are ill in school we make a professional decision on whether to contact parents or whether to support the child in school until they are collected. We are sorry that if, on this occasion, you thought school made the wrong decision.

Uniform – Rules should be rules. (1 parent) Why is it ok for some to rock up in ripped jeans for the last couple of months and sparkly shoes – This is not school uniform!!

I agree totally, and that is why parents of those children will be contacted and asked if they could ensure that in future, children wear school uniform. Some parents will fully support our uniform policy but unfortunately, some do not.

Bullying : (1 parent) Having somewhere or someone to go to if you feel that you are being bullied or struggling with friendship. My daughter has approached adults a few times and told to just ignore this particular child but at times that is hard to do. – Overall my daughter LOVES school but I feel if there was someone she could talk to if things seem quite hard, it may make getting to school easier.

I am sorry that your child has been upset in school and hope it has now been addressed. Staff are very supportive of children who are unhappy in school and will do their utmost to help children with problems of any sort.....I see them time and time again dealing with issues. If problems persist, I would always encourage parents to contact me so that I can support the child.

Lack of support for children : (1 parent) My son is struggling in Y6 and out of nowhere his teacher has raised serious concerns about him....This was never mentioned beforeI feel let down, my son is unhappy.

I am sorry about this. I think the staff are very supportive of children and will always share concerns with parents. As you know, the Y6 curriculum has recently changed and is now far more demandingIt may well be that in Y3,4 and 5 he coped with the level of challenge but that in Y6 he struggled.

Flute lessons : (1 parent) The flute teacher has a lot of time off and I feel that she could let us know how our daughter is doing as we have no idea. She has been playing flute for 2 years now, and I have not had any conversation with her.

I am sorry about this. This teacher is not employed by the school, we simply offer her the chance to work with our children. I will however pass this concern on and you may also want to write to the Derbyshire Music Service with your concern.

More male teachers: (1 parent) The female teachers at Hasland Junior school are excellent and I appreciate it is important to have the best teachers regardless of gender, but more male teachers would be a good role model for the boys.

I agree with you about our female teachersI have never worked with such a hardworking and committed group of teachers who excel in their role. More male teachers would be good (if only to keep me company when I am being picked on !) but when jobs are advertised, men rarely apply and where they do, they are rarely the best teachersand I will only appoint the best teachers.

Lost property : (1 parent) Could staff please remind children to pick up clothes left on the playground.

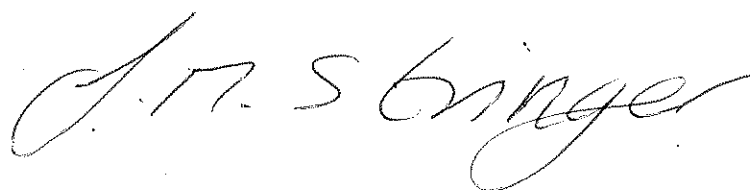
Staff do do this, but children are children and often do not know where they leave things. Where we can, lost property is returned and where we can't it is put in lost property.

Thanks again to all those parents who found time to complete the questionnaire.

We hope you find these views of interest and assure you they will be shared with the full Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team and acted upon if necessary.

Please be aware also of Parent View on the Ofsted website. This is a similar questionnaire which I would ask you to complete if you have the time.

Yours sincerely,



John Stringer
Headteacher