How Good is Our School?

Summary of Parent/Carer Questionnaire Results

May 2019
Our core values:
Happiness, Achievement, Respect, Knowledge

Our aim:
We aim to equip our children with the knowledge and skills to succeed throughout life. We aspire to create a happy and inclusive learning environment based on respect, ensuring your children are challenged and achievement is celebrated.

In May 2019, parents/carers were invited to take part in a School Improvement Questionnaire via an online survey.

174 families completed the questionnaire and a summary of the results are contained in this booklet.

In the main part of the questionnaire, respondents were asked how much they agreed with a range of statements about the work and progress of the school.

They were also consulted on how best to use the Pupil Equity Fund for 2019/20 which is allocated to schools to help close the poverty related attainment gap.

Parents/Carers were also given the opportunity to comment on the strengths of the school and areas for improvement.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the questionnaire. The information will be used to inform the School Improvement Plan for 2019/20 and used by the staff and Parent Council to guide their work this year.
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Parent Feedback 2019

- Overall I am happy with the school
- The school building is kept in good order
- I am satisfied with the quality of teaching in the school
- Children are encouraged to behave well, treating others with respect and to follow the school rules
- My child gets the right amount of work to do at home
- The school provides an interesting range of activities, after school clubs and excursions
- My child is treated fairly at school
- My child enjoys school
- My child is making good progress at school
- Pupils get help and support to do their best
- The school keeps me well informed of news and events (e.g. website, Twitter, newsletters, website)
- Parents are encouraged to play an active role in the life of the school
- The school is well led and managed
- Staff and pupils respect and trust each other
- The school has high expectations for pupils to work hard and achieve their best
- I feel comfortable approaching the school with questions, suggestions and / or a problem
- I am made to feel welcome when I come into school.

[Graph showing percentage responses]
How should we use this funding? (You may select more than one option or add your own suggestion?)

174 responses

- Additional Teaching Staff: 41 (23.6%)
- Additional Support Staff: 62 (35.6%)
- Additional literacy resources: 66 (37.9%)
- After-school learning experiences: 70 (40.2%)
- Family learning experiences: 38 (21.8%)
- Trips: 20 (11.5%)
- X: 1 (0.6%)
- Sports/health activities: 1 (0.6%)
- Sport and leisure activities: 1 (0.6%)
- Communication: 1 (0.6%)
What are we doing well?

Parents/carers were invited to comment on what they thought the school was doing well. Below is a summary of responses (comments have been collated/combined in some instances).

- Making everyone feel welcome.
- Well run school and delivers a balanced education
- Very supportive to parents with concerns
- Keeping children safe
- Teaching literacy and numeracy. These topics have improved greatly in the past two years.
- Communication and pupil support
- Making learning fun
- Managing my child’s confidence within the classroom and playground
- High expectations & good support for pupils
- Overall doing well in all aspects of teaching. Giving the kids an excellent education
- Active learning
- Great parental involvement, lots of good learning and children see happy and want to come to school.
- Excellent school.
- Pupils are mostly happy to attend and level of education received is very high
- Excellent learning environment and nurturing atmosphere
- Active parent council
- My child loves learning and is always coming home telling me new things she has learned. The teaching is great.
- I think the teachers encourage all of the children & give praise. Giving everyone the best chance in learning
- Keeping up to date with child’s behaviour and also how they are progressing in lessons. Very good support for children’s needs.
- Maintaining a good relationship with the children, keeping them interested,
- Parents night format
- Keep doing what you are doing we are overall happy with the school/staff.
- Making sure the children all have someone to play with. Also hosting workshops and the multi sports thing is a great thing to keep them active.
- Installing confidence
How could we improve further?

Parents/carers were invited to offer suggestions to how we could further enhance the life and work of the school. Below is a summary of responses (Similar themes and comments have been collated/combined).

- Smaller class sizes and additional learning support
- More after school clubs, different options.
- Homework, more homework including online, less homework
- Communication, how the school communicates with parents and particularly timing of communication.
- Recognition of academic achievements alongside other achievements
- More PE
- More fundraising activities
- Newsletters
- Attainment money being spent on more staff as I feel it is the best resource to support children in their learning.
You asked – We answered!

Thank you to everyone who offered a suggestion for school improvement or asked a question to clarify their understanding of school procedures. A few common themes arose from these questions which we hope the information below will answer:

Smaller class sizes and additional learning support?

Class sizes are set by the Scottish government and each session we are asked by the local authority to configure our classes to the minimum number.

P1 – 25 children
P2 & P3 – 30 children
P4-7 – 33 children
Composite class – 25 children

Our priority when configuring classes is to look at literacy and numeracy groupings. We endeavour to have fewer working groups to enable the highest quality teaching and learning happening in our classrooms. Sometimes this results in children being separated from friends.

Additional learning support is given to any child who is having difficulties in a curricular area. The support given is usually decided through our staged intervention process and is reviewed regularly.

Should your child require support we would liaise with you to enable us to work together for a common benefit.

Can information about pupil’s progress be issued more often/earlier in the year?

This year, we introduced ‘Meet the Teacher’ early in term 1 and later in that term we offered an individual appointment with the class teacher. This session our parents’ evening was organised for Term 3. In term 3, parents also receive the final, written report on pupil progress.

Following recent feedback, we will look to ensuring formal reporting of progress each term either in the form of a parents’ evening or a written report. We also plan to issue each term, a curriculum newsletter to highlight the focus of learning for your child.

We also introduced ‘Learning Showcases’ for each class to give parents an insight into the work of the children in school. These have been very well attended.

Next year, we will continue to review our processes for these.
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Will there be more Support Staff/More Support for pupils’ learning?

This year, we used Pupil Equity Fund to employ one additional School Support Assistant for 3 days and an additional ‘Attainment Challenge’ Lead Teacher for 2.5 days. We have used this to offer a wide range of interventions to support pupil learning and to increase attainment. This has also been used to enable us to increase our family learning opportunities with cooking sessions. We hope to be able to continue with this additionality next year.

Communication?

We have received lots of feedback from parents/carers who identify communication as a strength of the school, however we have also received feedback suggesting this is an area we can improve in.

At the start of the year, we issued an Annual Calendar for the entire year.

We issue a monthly newsletter with key dates for the upcoming month and information about activities and events that have taken place. A paper copy is sent home and it can also be downloaded from our school website.

Every week, the school diary is published on our website giving details of the information for the week ahead. However, we will endeavour to update this a month in advance where possible to give more notice.

In the new session we will be introducing a school to home communication diary that will contain information on homework, events and your child’s learning targets for the week. We are hopeful that this item will help to keep parents up to date with events but also progress in their child’s learning. We ask that parents sign it weekly and use it to communicate readily with the class teacher.

Our PTA also have their own Facebook page which contains some information about upcoming events.

Our management team try to be a visible presence in the playground at the start and end of the day and are more than happy to answer any questions you might have. Our office staff are more than happy to assist with any queries and questions – do not hesitate to call them or send an email to office@machanhill-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk
Twitter will remain our main method of communicating with parents as it is simple to use, quick and free! You do not need to have an account to view the information – you can read it at www.twitter.com/machanhillps or you can see the most recent information on our school website that was relaunched this session too.

Parental use of the school car park.
To alleviate vehicle congestion, we have opened the Miller Street exit at 3pm each day. Children in P2-7 are allowed to exit by this route. Our drop off zone in the morning continues to be problematic due to parents parking in the drop off bays.
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Some lovely compliments...

Many of our parents/carers took the opportunity to leave some lovely feedback in the questionnaire that we were delighted to receive as it recognises the hard work of our pupils and staff and our determination to achieve excellence and equity for all at Machanhill Primary School.

“The school is well run and delivers a balanced education.”

“Very supportive to parents with concerns”

“Fantastic teaching and support!”

“Keep doing what you are doing. Very happy with everything about the school, staff and education provided.”

“Homework on line has drastically improved motivation to complete.”

“The new Parents’ night format works well.”