

Analysis of the April 2017 parent survey:

Many thanks to the 173 parents who completed the online parent's survey. There were many positive things we can take from the survey, highlights are as follows:

- 95% of parents agreed that the school is friendly and welcoming with 93% agreeing staff treated students fairly and politely.
- 100% of Year 8 parents would recommend the school to a friend with 83% of all parents agreeing or strongly agreeing that their child enjoyed being at Farmor's School.

These statistics are all well above average when compared to schools nationally. In addition to these headline figures, particularly pleasing was the 91% of parents who felt they could approach the school with any issues and the 93% of parents who agreed that the school is well led, including half of you who strongly agreed.

Comments in the free text part of the survey included much positive feedback about how hard our teaching and support staff work and touched on areas not included in the question section such as show my homework and parents evenings.

Since I started as Assistant Headteacher at Farmor's School in September, I have picked up on a number of areas I wanted to improve. The main reason I commissioned this set of surveys was to discover what areas parents, carers, students and governors thought needed attention. Parent / carer answers highlighted areas for improvement as follows (the proportion raising each as a concern in brackets):

- How we respond to poor behaviour (21%)
- The range of activities on offer (29%).
- Accommodation and resources (30%) facilities (23%).
- Informing parents about the welfare support available (31%)
- Students having a say in decision making at school (34%).
- Encouraging students to eat healthily (47%)

Comments of what to improve in the free text part of the survey (in addition to the topics above) included many about the communication link between school and parents, some about not enough / too much homework and many giving further details about why specific answers were given in the survey. There were a small number of comments about specific departments that have been passed onto the appropriate Head of Department.

Students in Years 7-10 completed similar surveys during the same timeframe the parent's survey was open. The results for their views on resources and facilities, eating healthily, decision making and behaviour were quite similar to the results from the parent survey. However the student survey shows broad agreement that they are well informed on welfare support (87%) and have a good range of activities to choose from (79%). Interestingly, 12% of students stated they had been physically bullied (compared to 25% nationally and 19% in the PISA 2015 OECD study), much less than the 19% of parental responses.

Next steps:

Healthy eating:

- I will look closely at the PSHCE curriculum to see how this can be improved in this area (Term 5)
- I will organise a student focus group to understand why half of our students (and parents) don't feel we take healthy eating seriously. This will likely lead to further actions (Term 5)
- Parents can now access information about what their child is eating through the new cashless catering system

Behaviour:

- I will organise a student focus group to look at specific issues and how to tackle them. This will likely lead to further actions (Term 5)
- Whilst our record on poor behaviour is good compared to other schools, I will look at further steps the school can take to improve consistency of behaviour management approaches in the classroom (Term 6)

Decision making:

- I will include a school council committee on any new pastoral policy consultations (Term 5 onwards)
- I will initiate a suggestions box, to go in student services, for students to give school improvement ideas to the school council
- I will work with the school council to improve the lines of communication for new ideas from students on how to improve their school experience (Term 5)

Resources and facilities:

- The state of the PE changing rooms appeared in a lot of the comments from both parents and students. We have recently secured a grant (for about £200,000) to overhaul the changing rooms (from Sept 2017).
- The student council will be involved with the planning decisions for the new changing rooms

Welfare support:

- Improve access to information to parents through the new website (June 2017)
- Training update for Year 10 tutors in new routes into employment after Year 11 (Term 5)

Extra- curricular activities:

- Better signposting to clubs and activities through poster campaign in tutor rooms (from Term 4)
- Dedicated section on the school website for extra-curricular activities (from June 2017)
- Weekly bulletin to parents to include extra-curricular activities (from June 2017)

Home – school communication:

- Weekly bulletin email to parents with all relevant information (from June 2017)
- New website, easier navigation, up to date information (from June 2017)
- I will run regular parent focus groups (from Feb 2017) – the next one is on 5th July at 5.30pm

Roger Eckersley May 2017