



## Parent Questionnaire 2019

Thank you to all those who responded to the Parent Questionnaire (PQ) this year – we had a record response!

The Governors and Senior Leadership Team (SLT), comprising the Executive Head and four Heads of School, have now finished reading and discussing the many views which were expressed by parents/carers. We have also considered the views of those parents/carers who attended the School Reviews held in each of the four schools towards the end of last term.

### What are we doing well and where could we improve?

The results of the PQ were very positive overall with very high approval ratings across the EVF in response to such questions as 'My child is happy at school' (93% agreed/strongly agreed), 'My child is well taught at school' (91% agreed/strongly agreed) and 'Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at school' (89% agreed/strongly agreed). See below (**School by School**) for more examples of what is going well in our individual schools.

Of course, there is always room for improvement and we have taken careful note of the areas where parents/carers think we could do more/make things better. Two areas of particular focus have been identified by Governors and the SLT as a result of your responses this year. They are how parents want the EVF schools to:

- communicate with them; and
- keep them up to date with their children's progress (including the format of annual reports and parents' evenings).

Both of these areas will form an important part of this year's strategic review (which takes place in June each year) following which any recommendations for action/improvement will form part of the strategic plan for the 2019/20 school year. All parents can view the annual strategic plan on the EVF website. In the meantime, the EVF schools are already thinking about how to improve end of year reports for children. As a result, parents will receive new style reports at the end of this year which will hopefully address some of the issues which have been raised.

We will also be looking at how we ask questions in next year's Parent Questionnaire – some of you have said that it is not always easy to complete the PQ when you have more than one child who may have a different experience of school/different needs. We hope to make this easier for you next year.

### School by School

There is much to be proud of in our schools and we are always striving to improve the educational experience of each and every one of our children. Which is why parent feedback is so vital! Here are some of the highlights of this year's PQ on a school by school basis.

#### *Brampford Speke*

100% of the parents/carers at Brampford Speke who responded to the PQ agreed that their child felt safe at school. Parents said: 'Outdoor education has been a huge hit...', 'The Federation Friday sports mornings are fantastic...', 'We are so lucky to have such talented music teachers come into school and teach our children' and 'I feel that the relationship between parents and teachers is such that I can ask if I have a concern...'.

However, we have noted some parents concerns about homework and how we report progress. We are also looking at communications. These issues will form part of this year's strategic review (see above). The new EVF website including Brampford Speke will be rolled out very soon!

### *Thorverton*

Very high approval ratings at Thorverton with 100% of parents/carers who responded to the PQ agreeing that their child is safe, happy, well taught and well looked after at the school. 100% of responders also agreed that the school is well led and managed, are happy with their child's overall experience of school and would recommend the school to other parents. A great endorsement! Parents said: '... [the class teacher] goes beyond [their] duty at all stages', 'the current mix of communication methods seems to work well and keeps me informed', 'the parent meetings that happen with the children are really useful and it's nice that the children can be involved', 'We have never seen [our child] take an interest in any musical instrument so for [our child] to be choosing to learn the ukulele...is fantastic' and 'trips to Lords Meadow have been fun and valuable for my [child]'.

We have also noted some parents' requests for more sports and music clubs (particularly for those in KS1).

### *Cheriton Fitzpaine*

Over 90% of parents/carers who responded at Cheriton agreed that their child felt safe, happy and well looked after at school. Over 80% of parents were happy with their child's overall experience of school and would recommend the school to other parents. Parents said: 'the reception at the school is extremely friendly; you feel that no request is too much trouble...', 'I feel have a good knowledge now about what the Governors are focusing on and who they are', 'the open afternoons are fantastic', 'Music at [Cheriton] has built my child's skills and confidence...Couldn't have asked for more'.

We have taken careful note of some parents' views of the recent restructuring and the changes to the routine at the start of the day. We will be looking to address issues around communications and feedback that have been highlighted to us as part of the EVF strategic review (see above).

### *Newton St. Cyres*

A very positive set of results overall with high and very high approval ratings expressed by parents/carers at Newton. Over 90% of parents/carers who responded agreed that their child felt safe and happy at school and that the school helps their children to achieve as well as they can. They would also recommend the school to other parents. Parents said: 'The school is great. The culture is tangible – upbeat and aspirational, but also inclusive and caring...', '... the teachers generally go above and beyond in all respects...taking an interest in out of school activities, remembering and recognising things which are important to individual children', 'You are all doing a super job. What a great school', 'Great to have dates in newsletters much further in advance. The recent expansion of school gateway services is really useful...', 'The opportunity to learn a brass instrument and perform as part of a band was just wonderful.'

We have noted that many parents/carers feel that communications from the school have greatly improved, but some would like to see further improvement. Some parents/carers would like the opportunity for more informal feedback between parents' evenings, both these issues will be looked at in the strategic review (see above).

**10 May 2019**