

Parental questionnaire survey responses ~ a summary.**November 2018.**

18 surveys completed (92 children on roll)

Question	Agree / Strongly Agree	Disagree / Strongly Disagree	Comments
My child is happy at their school	100% agree / strongly agree		
My child feels safe at school	94.44% agree / strongly agree	5.56% disagree	Comment refers to child only feeling truly safe in their home environment
My child is making good progress at school	100% agree / strongly agree		
My child is well looked after at their school	94.44% agree / strongly agree	5.56% disagree	Comment re staffing levels this year (see below)
My child is taught well at their school	100% agree / strongly agree		
I feel well supported by school regarding my child's needs	100% agree / strongly agree		
The school makes sure that all pupils are well behaved	94.44% agree / strongly agree	5.56% don't know	
The school deals effectively with bullying	61.11% agree / strongly agree	38.89% don't know	
The school is well led and managed	100% agree / strongly agree		
The school responds well to any concerns I raise	100% agree / strongly agree		
I receive valuable information from school	100% agree / strongly agree		
I would recommend the school to another parent	100% agree / strongly agree		
I find the daily home school communication useful	100% agree / strongly agree		
School transport is effective and supporting my child's needs	64.71% agree/strongly agree	5.88% disagree 29.41% child does not use transport	
My child is provided with the right support and care for health at school	88.24% agree / strongly agree	11.76% disagree/strongly disagree	

The final section of the school part of the survey asked the question **"The school would be even better if....."**

Of the small number of responses to this question the vast majority were to do with funding and staffing and I would like to take this opportunity to address the issues raised: -

As you may be aware the issue of High Needs Funding in schools is very current and is a **significant national issue**.

From last year to this year we received a budget that was reduced by almost £80,000. This was a combined cut of 5% from our base funding and a reduced funding for any pupils over our pupil admission number (78). Halton's high needs funding was significantly overspent for several reasons including an increased number of pupils requiring funding for SEN and an increased number of children being placed out of borough in specialist provision. This serious issue of pressure on budgets is sadly reflected in local authorities across the whole country with great impact felt in Special Schools who are all bursting at the seams!

The impact for us has been a slight reduction in staff: pupil ratio due to an increased number of pupils (12 more this year) rather than a lack of replacing staff that left last year. Staffing across the school is very carefully planned for and in all classes the teaching team comprises of a teacher and 2 or 3 support staff. We have never had 3 support staff in all classes and there are only a small number of classes now that do not have this ratio. This staffing ratio enables all classes to participate in weekly Educational Visits and allows children from each class each week to go swimming. Regarding swimming, each child does not swim each week. We ensure that the children swim on a rotational basis. The number of children who go swimming each week depends on the age and level of need / independence of each child in their class as the safety of each child is of paramount importance. We are extremely lucky to have our own pool on site so that throughout their whole school career the children can access free swimming lessons.

Other impacts have included a reduced amount of enrichment activities being offered such as Music Therapy and our specialist music teacher. However, I am very pleased and proud that our school have maintained vital additional therapies that we commission such as speech and language and specialist occupational therapy and the ability to run after school clubs and additional interventions such as swimming lessons, Lego and Rebound Therapy and visiting sports coaches. Importantly we have also maintained class sizes of less than 10; generally, 9. We do have good news however regarding Music Therapy as we have been successful in a charitable bid that we completed jointly with Music Place our therapy provider and this should see our weekly sessions commencing in the new year.

Other parental comments included: -

- transport feedback which I have passed on to the relevant local authority department as school is not involved in transport coordination
- a suggestion that we focus more on toileting / independence skills. Currently we have toileting care plans for a high proportion of pupils and staff work very hard to implement these daily. We also work closely with the Continence team to support children and families. Children each have targets for 'developing life skills' on their IEP's which focus on the development of their independence skills. Over this academic year we are reviewing our whole curriculum in line with national assessment and curriculum changes and because as an academy we can enjoy some additional curriculum freedoms. We are very excited about this opportunity to refine our current curriculum to create our very own Brookfields Curriculum that meets the needs of all our pupils. This will have a heavy focus on the development of communication and independence alongside the more traditional content. We will be inviting all our parents / carers to participate in shaping our new curriculum in the new year; particularly finding out the key elements that you want your child to achieve whilst at Brookfields.

I extend my thanks to those parents who provided responses to the surveys and hope that I have been able to address any issues raised. This is an extremely difficult time for schools as pressure on budgets has never been as great as you will hear in the news frequently. I write to assure that you that myself and the wonderful staff team at Brookfields are working extremely hard to ensure that every child receives the very best education they can.