



# St. Francis Xavier's RC Primary School

*The spirit of God shines in our hearts*

## Questionnaire for Parents and Carers April 2019

152 responses received

Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Ticks put between (RI?)	Disagree	Don't Know
My child is happy at school	74%	24%	2%	-	-
My child's favourite subject/s ( <i>every subject, maths, reading, writing, topics including geography, RE, science, French, PE, computing, dance, 'Welly Area,' history, construction, art and craft and singing.</i> )					
My child feels safe at school	84%	16%	-	-	-
My child makes good progress at school	76%	23%	0.6%	0.6%	-
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	78%	21%	0.6%	0.6%	-
My child is well looked after at school	80%	18%	-	0.6%	-
My child is taught well at school	82%	18%	0.6%	-	-
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	65%	32%	0.6%	1.3%	-
The school introduced learning logs for homework September 2018. What do you think about having learning logs for homework? Responses: Very positively received with all parents, except one, who stated that they did not like the learning log approach. The majority of parents stated that they have found the approach stimulating and far more enjoyable, with the children keen to participate and research information independently.					
The school makes sure pupils are well behaved	80%	15%	-	0.6%	-
The school tackles bad behaviour effectively and follows up issues to help children resolve disputes.	72%	20%	-	0.6%	3%
The school is well led and managed	88%	9%	-	-	-
The school responds well to my concerns that I raise	75%	19%	-	0.6%	1.3%
Would you recommend this school to another parent?	Yes – 100%		No- 0%		

*Where totals do not add up to 100% - questions were missed out on the questionnaire.*

### **Greatest strengths of our school**

#### **Teaching staff**

The amazing teachers who care for all children as individuals. 'Huge effort put in by all staff for all children.' The teachers are all so hard working and committed to the children. Staff are very approachable, they are caring and supportive. The school feels like a big family. Teachers are compassionate and caring. Teachers listen and respond to concerns. There is an individual approach for children with personal attention given.

#### **Quality of teaching**

The quality of teaching is always to a high standard. There is a breadth of experiences and teachers have high expectations of the children. Pupils are always encouraged and achievements are greatly valued. 'The school gives the children an excellent start to school life – teaching the children to respect others and believe in themselves.'

#### **Safety of the children**

Children are safe and well cared for. Citizenship is valued and children respect one another. Children are taught to be kind and support one another.

#### **Discipline and behaviour in school**

Discipline within school is a strength and children are taught to care and respect each other.

#### **The school is a community**

There is a strong community within the school. The school is welcoming, warm and friendly. 'The school feels like a real community – teachers, staff and parents genuinely care about each other.'

#### **Positive communication**

Communication is good – parents are kept up to date and are well informed. Teachers are open to the children's and parents' needs. Tapestry in Reception is very helpful.

## **Leadership and Management of the school**

The school has great leaders and is well managed. There is a caring ethos where morals are taught alongside strong values. Issues are dealt with effectively and are sorted out.

## **Religious Education**

The religious education is a strength – children learn to be kind to one another and inclusive. The assemblies and Masses are valued.

## **Homework**

Learning logs for homework: brilliant idea and very enjoyable. ‘My children have enjoyed the learning logs for homework. They have been more willing to research the information needed and have been more creative in their projects.’

*Comments about excellent, passionate teachers came through very strongly with fantastic teaching and learning. The caring, loving environment was highly praised within an environment of strong values. The support for individual pupils was commented upon as a wonderful strength.*

## **Areas to improve**

Many parents stated they were very happy with provision in school. Where comments were made for improvement they included the following:

Parking arrangements for parents, to have free dinners in all year groups, to start school at 8.30am, to provide a nursery facility, to increase the amount of homework, not to have so much homework, to increase the amount of electronic homework, increase the number of after school clubs for KS1, to have more after school clubs and a greater variety, to have more contact with teachers at the end of a day, to increase the amount of feedback to parents, to have greater amount of time to learn outside, to be able to discuss religious views in greater depth, increase the amount of time learning music, swimming, sport, singing, science, history and geography, to increase the support for parents facing social pressures with the use of mobile phones and fortnite and to introduce Forest School in the curriculum.

## **Responses**

**Parking** outside school raises more comments than any other aspect on a frequent basis. We are incredibly fortunate at St Francis Xavier’s School to have the kind permission of RNCB to be able to use their parking facilities at Point4 for morning drop off and end of day collection. Many schools in the city of Hereford do not have this option. Please could I urge you to continue to park safely, especially in the mornings, and to leave plenty of time to bring your child to school every morning. At the end of the Spring Term I had to contact our Community Support Officer due to the irresponsible parking of a few parents, that sadly put their own children at risk and also the safety of other drivers accessing Venns Lane. The vast majority of parents do park safely for which we are all grateful. Please don’t wait for an accident to happen before you use Point4. Please use the parking at Point4 and keep all our children safe every day. Thank you.

## **Free dinners for all pupils**

In September 2013, the government announced that from September 2014, all children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 at state schools in England would be offered a free school lunch, regardless of their family’s financial circumstances. Children in Years 3 to 6 still have to pay for lunch, unless they are eligible for free school meals because their families are on a low income. If there are changes to legislation from the government lunches could be provided for all pupils but not unless there is a change in government policy.

## **Starting school at 8.30am**

If parents would like to drop their children off before the school gate opens, Breakfast Club is available from 7.45am onwards at a charge of £2.50 per session.

## **Homework**

97% of parents agreed (65% strongly agreed and 32% agreed) that homework was appropriate for their child’s age group. The majority of parents commented that the learning logs had been inspiring and a huge success with children being more willing to participate and get involved with creative projects. One parent would prefer no homework, one parent did not like the learning log style and some parents commented that there was not enough homework set.

## **School Clubs**

In recent years, KS1 after school clubs have been introduced as younger children can become very over tired during the school day. The space currently used within school for clubs is at maximum capacity with wet weather plans in place should the need arise. Teachers at St Francis Xavier’s School choose their club options are very willing to give of their time to provide an after school club, which many teachers in other schools do not offer.

## **Behaviour**

A few parents were unsure of our Behaviour Policy a copy of which you will find on our website along with our Anti-bullying Policy under 'Key Information' followed by 'Policies.'

## **Nursery Provision**

The school has recently looked into providing a nursery, but at the current time it has been decided this is not a viable option and that Herefordshire is well served by nurseries.

## **Contact with teachers**

The arrangements for the school's reporting to parents is outlined on admission to school with parents' evenings twice a year, target reports twice a year and a full academic report once a year. Teachers are extremely vigilant in bringing to a parent's attention any issue that has arisen during the day that requires parental attention. If there is at any time, a concern that parents wish to raise, please contact the office to make a mutually convenient appointment with the class teacher.

## **Increasing time to learn outside**

The school maximises opportunities to learn outside as it has many benefits for our children. With the summer months ahead of us, we look forward to increasing children's learning outside.

## **Religious Views**

The school has introduced P4C (Philosophy for Children) into our curriculum which encourages pupils to discuss, debate and put forward their own opinions on different subjects. It is very important for children to share their views and we welcome their contributions during discussions.

## **Extending the Curriculum**

The design of the curriculum is very carefully structured by the leadership team at school to enable children to have access to a broad and balanced National Curriculum, as guided by the government. On our website under 'Key Information' followed by 'Our Curriculum' we have outlined our approach to the curriculum to maximise learning opportunities for our children during their weekly timetables. The children in Reception Class have a wonderful 'Welly Area' that facilitates outdoor learning with elements of 'Forest School'. Other classes throughout the school are able to utilise this area to support curriculum themes throughout the year.

## **Support for parents with social media**

The school has run several parenting workshops with our safeguarding governor, Ivan Powell, and with the NSPCC. These workshops have been attended by a handful of parents when they have been organised. If parents would like additional information and support with pressures involving social media, I would be very happy to set up a working party with parents to look into this further. Please do get in touch to make an appointment.

## **Message from Mrs Pearce**

Finally, if there is anything that arises during a term that you would like to discuss with me, please make an appointment to resolve any issues that do arise. Thank you.

With kind regards,

Mrs Diana Pearce