



# **Analysis of Parents' Views**

## **Federation of Mowden Schools**

**153 Questionnaires Completed  
July 2017**

(187 completed in 2016)

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## Analysis - Parents Questionnaire July 2017 – Federation of Mowden Schools

### Section 1

153 questionnaires were returned (187 in 2016). Each person therefore represents just over 0.6%.

#### Total Percentages

Strongly agree:	45%	(46% in 2016)
Agree:	47%	(44% in 2016)
Disagree:	3%	(3% in 2016)
Strongly disagree:	1%	(1% in 2016)
Don't know:	5%	(5% in 2016)

Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding or because not every question was answered

**%**

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
1	My child makes good progress at school	49	47	2.6	0	0.6
2	My child enjoys school	54.2	42.5	2.6	0	0.6
3	The school keeps my child safe	55.6	39.9	0.6	0	1.3
4	The school deals well with any bullying	16.3	37.9	3.9	0	41.8
5	Children behave well in school	30.1	56.9	3.3	0	8.5
6	The school children behave well out in the community	30.1	52.3	1.3	0	15
7	Children from all backgrounds get on well together	44.4	47.1	0.6	0	7.2
8	The school encourages my child to adopt a healthy lifestyle	42.5	54.9	0.6	0	1.9
9	My child is proud of the school	58.2	37.9	0	0	1.9
10	The school has a good reputation locally	69.9	29.4	0	0	0.6
11	The school works well to ensure good attendance	51.6	41.2	0	0.6	6.5
12	My child is taught how to be a good citizen	43.8	47.1	0.6	0	8.5
13	Teaching is good in school	50.9	45.8	1.3	0	0.6
14	My child feels cared for by the staff	52.9	45.8	0.6	0	0
15	My child receives the right amount and type of homework	33.3	52.9	10.5	0.6	1.3
16	The school is clean and tidy	47.7	48.4	1.3	0	1.9
17	I am made to feel welcome when I contact the school by letter or telephone	58.2	38.6	0.6	0	2.6
18	My child's class teacher is approachable	63.4	32.7	3.3	0	0.6
19	Senior staff are approachable and helpful	54.9	37.3	3.3	0	3.3
20	The school is well led by the senior staff	49.7	39.8	1.3	0	8.5
21	My child feels safe from harassment	37.9	46.4	3.3	0	10.5
22	There is a good range of before and after school clubs	35.3	42.5	11.8	1.9	8.5
23	My child gets good support for his/her learning	42.5	52.9	1.9	0.6	1.3
24	I get good information about my child's progress	36.6	51.6	7.8	0.6	0.6
25	Written communication from school is good	46.4	50.9	2.6	0	0
26	There are enough opportunities to see what my child is doing in school e.g. class assembly, parents evenings, sports day etc.	50.9	41.2	3.9	1.3	0.6
27	School dinners are good	27.5	49.7	5.2	3.3	14.4
28	The school website is interesting and informative	27.5	65.4	3.3	0	2.6
29	Parents' Meetings are well organised, helpful and informative	39.9	55.6	0.6	0.6	1.9
30	I am happy with the range of subjects taught	45.1	52.3	1.3	0	1.3
31	Staff and pupils respect and trust each other	42.5	52.9	0	0	4.6
32	School reports give me a clear and accurate view of my child's progress	35.9	54.9	4.6	1.9	1.3

## Section 1 continued

The disagree/strongly disagree responses accounted for 4% of answers. 54 questionnaires gave a reason/s for any such answers:

- 17 comments were about homework. 7 parents thought there was too much, another 7 thought there wasn't enough, and a further 3 commented about a need for homework answers or about methods that were too difficult/didn't understand.
- 15 comments were made about the range of before and after school clubs. These included: too sport based, not enough or enough variation, unaware of them for the infants, difficult to attend across two schools.
- 10 comments were made about school dinners, including: food not being tasty or variable, small portion size, baked beans too common.
- 6 comments were about progress reports, including: difficult to follow, more opportunities to view, contradict previous reports or verbal discussion, not enough in Reception.
- 6 comments were about other children misbehaving.
- 6 comments were also about opportunities to visit school, including: only one assembly, not enough notice for assemblies, unaware of any sports days, more tickets please for grandparents, middle of the working day.
- 5 parents commented on dealing with bullying: a historical incident, children having strong personalities, uncertain how serious it was deemed, inconsistent.
- 5 comments were also made about parents' consultations, including: too negative, would like one in the final term, inconsistent, run late.
- 4 comments were about senior staff, including two naming Mr King (unapproachable, never seen now) and about resolutions being tokenistic.
- 4 comments were also made about written communication from school: short notice, not enough detail, more Marvellous Me please, reports used to be better.
- 4 comments were about the teacher being unapproachable: inconsistent, rude, messages being given to dad's partner not the main carer.
- 3 parents' comments mentioned that their child was bored/unhappy.
- The following areas each received 2 comments: child not making enough progress; toilet facilities; a wider curriculum please; the school website (out-dated, no feedback opportunity, not user friendly); inconsistent teaching; the Mowden Mile.
- The following areas each received 1 comment: parking; slow referral for special educational needs; out of school behaviour; the infant outside area; a lollipop person needed; not enough supervision of other adults (parents) on the premises during school meals week.

## Section 2

The main **benefits** and **concerns** (if any) of sending your child to our school?

98 (64%) questionnaires listed benefit/s,  
of which, 68 (44%) questionnaires listed benefits only.

35 (23%) questionnaires listed concern/s.  
of which, 5 (3%) questionnaires listed concerns only.

50 (33%) were left blank

78 (51%) questionnaires listed more than one benefit.  
15 (10%) questionnaires listed more than one concern.

### Benefits

The figures above show that most questionnaires listed at least one benefit. The school's good reputation, the location and the quality of teachers/teaching figured highly, with more than 20 comments about each. The next most common comments (between 10 and 20) praised the approachability of teachers and staff, the high progress and achievement, a happy child and good leadership/well run. 5 or more comments were about the safe environment, the link to secondary school, the friendly ethos, a good school, the curriculum, caring, nice atmosphere, a strong community spirit. 4 parents appreciated school's good facilities, school's approach to learning and the range of sports. 3 parents appreciated the attendance (and holidays) policy, the Mowden Mile, discipline, the quality of the school dinners, the small school feel and the school meals week for parents. Beyond this there were many other individual positive comments listed once or twice.

### Concerns

Far fewer concerns were listed than benefits and most mirrored the common disagree points from section 1. The only concern to be mentioned more than five times (9) was about size: larger class sizes or school gradually becoming larger in the next few years. 3 comments were made about bullying/child scared to come to school and about parking (from parents' and residents' perspectives). 2 concerns were raised about senior leadership responses, school meals (nutrition, a sandwich option preferred), sometimes too many events/activities taking place and dining hall equipment (wet trays, small cups). Beyond this there were a few individual negative comments listed once.

# Mr King's Response

## A. Response to the agree/disagree questions

I am very pleased that the results are once again positive and that only a small percentage show an element of disagreement with what we are trying to achieve.

In this section I shall make a comment about any category where 5% or more of parents disagree/strongly:

- Before and after school clubs, 13.7% disagree/strongly (25.3% in 2016). Although still the largest issue for parents, the reason for the big improvement since last year is the introduction of our before and after school childcare run by Kids Fun Klub. Because they need our largest indoor space, this does restrict some other after school clubs, but a glance at the list of activities on our website (<http://www.mowdenfederation.co.uk/learning/extra-curricular>) shows that we have a rather full programme. We are always open to new ideas, such as the Computing Coding Club and the Being Girls Club, which have started in the last twelve months.
- Homework, 11.1% (9.4% in 2016). Parents will see from previous comments in this analysis that it is impossible to please everyone on this issue; an equal number believe there is too much homework as too little. A new initiative planned for 2017-18, to enable parents to help their child with some of the trickier aspects of the curriculum will be the 'Mowden Master Class'. It will hopefully involve our own teachers producing online, helpful videos. More details later this term.
- School dinners, 8.5% (20% in 2016). Last year we promised a school meals week for parents, which was held in June. Although some parents were critical of the food, most were positive and also about the initiative in general. We therefore hope to make it an annual event. In January 2017 the school meals service introduced an alternative meal option each day to improve choice. I eat a school meal each day and on the rare occasion it isn't good enough, I will say so.
- Information about child's progress, 8.4% (6.3% in 2016) and school reports, 6.5% (7.3% in 2016). At present we don't have any plans to change our reporting processes. As well as the two consultation evenings and the annual report, your child has a termly mentoring meeting (and report) with his/her teacher. It is now two years since national curriculum levels were abolished, and without fixed assessment points in most year groups, I can understand that some parents will find it a little confusing. We try to quantify progress as well as we can but please always speak with your teacher if there is anything that you don't understand.
- 5.2% (6.8% in 2016) of parents said that there aren't enough opportunities to come into school. As well as the class assemblies and the larger Christmas and end of year events, the number of other events such as music concerts that I attended just before the summer was a reminder to me that we do offer quite a lot. Individual parent comments mentioned such as notice for assemblies and that events can be difficult for working parents, which I do acknowledge cause some difficulties.

I am proud of the hard work of all the staff in our school so I was very pleased to see the very high recognition rates of this in the questionnaire in such areas as children's progress, their enjoyment, the reputation of school and the quality of teaching.

## B. Response to concerns about our school

Just as last year, the other main common area for concern that came out of this consultation was around the growth of the school. Nine parents mentioned it, although some just as a consideration. The infant school is now full and so won't grow any further. The extra (third) class per year group in the juniors is now up to Year 4 and so there are a couple more growth years left. It is true that some of the morning class sizes will grow in the juniors in the coming years, and yes, a reduction in school funding is partly to blame, but mostly we are just filling up the rooms over time, as was the original expansion plan. Mowden

schools are larger than they were in the past, but they were never 'small schools' and our popularity goes alongside the high standards. We also try to keep a 'small', relaxed, community minded ethos and the number of positive parent comments about this in the questionnaires bears this out.

**And finally...**

Thank you to those parents who completed the questionnaire and I hope that you recognise your viewpoint somewhere in this summary. I feel that they have been completed responsibly with most being very complimentary. I enjoy analysing the results and even where only a small minority raise an issue it is reflected upon or is discussed within school. I have tried to be fully open about all the responses but please contact me if this analysis raises any further points with you.

*Peter King  
Headteacher  
September 2017*