

Report on the survey of parental views on the operation and management of Clare Primary School October 2017.

Introduction.

In preparation for the School Development Plan Review, the parents of children attending Clare Primary School were asked to complete a detailed questionnaire concerning four key areas of the School development.

- Personal Development and Wellbeing
- Achievement, Standards, Teaching & Learning
- Care, Guidance & Support
- Leadership & Management

The purpose of the survey was to help staff and Governors assess the views of parents regarding the progress we have made in teaching and learning, and to evaluate attitudes towards school improvement. The survey helps to identify areas of focus for continued improvement for the future. Views and opinions expressed by parents in the survey are taken into consideration when we devise our School Development Plan.

Methodology.

Each pupil was given a copy of the questionnaire to be handed to their parents. Each parent was invited to answer selected questions against each of the four key headings and score their perceived response on a scale of 1-5 below.

1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neither agree nor disagree
4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree

A “not applicable” (N/A) choice or “Don’t know” option was not made available in the scoring options.

There were 79 questionnaires returned by parents and the responses to each question were converted to percentage responses.

Personal Development & Wellbeing	1	2	3	4	5
My child is happy and likes coming to school.	65.8	27.8	3.8	2.5	0
My child feels safe at school.	79.7	16.5	3.8	0.0	0
Clare PS has a happy atmosphere.	69.6	25.3	3.8	1.3	0
My child knows that if he/she has a problem that there is someone they can speak to.	63.3	30.4	3.8	2.5	0
The information I received when my child started school was very good.	67.1	27.8	5.1	0.0	0
Any issues my child has had have been dealt with, e.g. medical needs, dietary requirements etc.	63.3	22.8	11.4	1.3	1.3
I support the school's promotion of a healthy lifestyle and healthy eating.	84.8	12.7	1.3	1.3	0
Staff members encourage my child to become independent.	74.7	21.5	3.8	0.0	0
School trips and visits are worthwhile.	78.5	16.5	2.5	1.3	1.3
I see the benefits of my child participating in school performances and Sports Events.	75.9	17.7	5.1	1.3	0
COMMENT:					

Observations and comments:

Achievement, Standards, Teaching & Learning	1	2	3	4	5
The school supports my child to work hard and achieve his or her best.	68.4	26.6	2.5	2.5	0
My child is making progress in line with their ability.	68.4	22.8	8.9	0.0	0
My child receives appropriate home-learning opportunities (homework).	64.6	22.8	8.9	1.3	2.5
I am generally clear about the homework my child is expected to complete.	49.4	24.1	8.9	15.2	2.5
I can refer to the Year Group Curriculum summary sheet to get information about the curriculum my child is following.	57.0	35.4	7.6	0.0	0
COMMENTS:					
Too much homework. No Special Needs teacher this year. Good amount of homework to keep them focused on their learning.					

Observation and comments

The results show that 15% of parents disagree with the question that they are generally clear about the homework that their child is expected to complete.

Leadership & Management	1	2	3	4	5
I am always made to feel welcome at Clare PS.	70.9	24.1	5.1	0	0.0
I am kept up-to-date and informed about what is going on in the school, e.g. texting service, website, newsheet etc.	77.2	21.5	1.3	0	0.0
I would appreciate a school Facebook page	29.1	13.9	35.4	6.3	15.2
I refer regularly to the school website throughout the year.	41.8	32.9	22.8	2.5	0.0
Clare PS is led and managed well.	68.4	25.3	3.8	2.5	0.0
I know I can approach teachers and/or the Principal with questions or a problem.	73.4	21.5	3.8	1.3	0.0
The school deals effectively with bullying (please leave blank if you have no experience of this within Clare PS).	15.2	10.1	70.9	2.5	1.3
I am willing to support the school in the implementation of its policies (e.g. Child Protection etc).	77.2	19.0	3.8	0	0.0
I am confident the school follows correct procedures set out by DENI in the vetting of staff and volunteers.	62.0	26.6	11.4	0	0.0
I receive valuable and regular information from the school about my child's progress.	43.0	32.9	17.7	6.3	0.0
Parent/Teacher Consultations are useful.	79.7	15.2	5.1	0	0.0
The 'Focus for Development' section from my child's Annual Report is helpful as it enables me to support my child at home.	63.3	29.1	7.6	0	0.0
I am aware of some of the names or know some of the members of the Board of Governors.	22.8	29.1	21.5	16.5	10.1
I am aware that the school follows a School Development Plan.	45.6	36.7	13.9	3.8	0.0
<p>COMMENTS: P-T consultations in November are useful. I feel another opportunity to meet with teachers in term 2 would also be helpful.</p> <p>It is clear that a lot of effort is put into school leadership and management and the benefits are accordingly evident.</p>					

Observation and comments

The strength of feeling among parents regarding a Facebook page is not strongly positive with approximately 20% not in favour.

It is apparent that some parents are not aware of the names of School Governors.

Care, Guidance & Support	1	2	3	4	5
The school works closely with parents/guardians.	53.2	38.0	5.1	3.8	0.0
The child's additional needs are catered for and he/she is well integrated into the school community.	51.9	35.4	10.1	2.5	0.0
There is good provision for children with Special Educational Needs (please leave this blank if you have no experience of this within Clare PS).	37.5	43.75	0	12.5	6.25
The children are well behaved at Clare PS.	64.6	32.9	1.3	1.3	0.0
The school encourages my child to be respectful of others.	74.7	24.1	1.3	0.0	0.0
My child is proud of their school.	74.7	19.0	5.1	1.3	0.0
The school provides an interesting range of activities outside the classroom, e.g. after-school clubs, educational visits etc.	68.4	27.8	2.5	1.3	0.0
I am prepared to pay for additional extra-curricular activities from outside agencies, e.g. CR Hockey, Burns Soccer etc.	58.2	29.1	11.4	1.3	0.0
As an adult I am aware of how I report a safeguarding/Child Protection matter to the school.	58.2	39.2	2.5	0.0	0.0
COMMENTS:					

Observation and comments

Within the 79 survey returns there were 16 responses in relation to special needs provision. The percentage responses are therefore related to the 16 responses. Approximately 19% of the 16 responses indicated that in their opinion there was not good provision for children with special educational needs. In contrast approximately 81% (13 parents) were content with the provision.

What do you feel to be the particular strengths of the school?
COMMENT: Friendly, happy atmosphere. Various afternoon clubs. Support shown to pupils. Dedicated staff. Strong sense of pride around school by both staff and pupils. Staff approachable. Extremely well organised school. Good manners and behaviour. High standards of education provided. Discipline issues are handled in a firm, fair manner, so that children can feel they are supported to learn from mistakes and move on. School works with children in line with ability which enables them to flourish.
Please add any comments about the school which you think might help to make it a better place for your child(ren)
COMMENT: Breakfast Club / Homework Club. Car parking facilities.

Would you recommend the school to another parent?
COMMENT: 77 families out of 79 said they would recommend the school to another parent. 'I love this school, as do my girls'. Clare Primary school is an exceptional school, putting the pupils' education and welfare at the forefront of their ethos.

Observation and comments

Conclusion and recommendations

It is encouraging to see such a large number of parents completing the questionnaire and availing of the opportunity to have their views and opinions considered when the School Development Plan is subject to the review procedure.

We were encouraged by the extremely positive responses by the parents.

The survey has highlighted some areas in relation to internet communication e.g. Facebook, homework policy and to a lesser extent evaluation of Special Needs Provision which require consideration.

Elizabeth Briggs

Principal