

Willerby Carr Lane Primary School



Whole School Survey - September 2014

Please see below for a complete list of parents' contributions in response to the last question on the survey:
"Question 10: Add Additional Comments".

Please note that all comments have been reproduced exactly as they were contributed.

The Head teacher's responses follow the comments in Blue Italic.

Thank you to all parents and carers who responded to our whole school survey. Your feedback is very useful and helps us to continually try to improve the quality of education and care that we provide. Please remember - if you have any concerns, please let your class teacher or myself know: the sooner we know, the sooner we can do something about it.

Thank you.

*Mr Sean Smith
Headteacher*

Very Happy with Carr Lane Primary - both girls love the school and I have found the level of teaching and care exceptionally high.

Thank you.

Unable to answer some questions due to my child only just starting in foundation but all is going well so far and I'm impressed with everything so far

Thank you.

Son only started a few weeks ago so feel unable to comment on trips, shows and sports as yet.

Our daughter only began school at the start of September, so we haven't as yet got much experience of how the school works.

We are new to the school that's why some answers are 'not sure'.

We have had quite a few responses on the same lines. I will move the timing of our survey towards the end of the summer term to allow for our new EYFS intake.

We have been very pleased with our boys education at Carr lane. One of our sons has a heart condition and this has been handled with great care and consideration .

Thank you. I am proud to have such a caring staff.

The staff are extremely friendly and approachable. My children thoroughly enjoy school life, speak enthusiastically about their teachers and activities being undertaken

Thank you.

Thank you - both my children have attended/attending Carr Lane and it is such a warm and friendly place. Thank you.

Thank you. We think so too!

Thanks for looking after the future. regards.

Thank you. If the future is in the hands of children like the ones who attend WCLPS, then we have nothing to worry about!

Only answered not sure as child only just started this term so not experienced these things yet. Very happy with how quickly my daughter has settled and seems to love coming every day! Think the parents meetings so far have been very interesting and informative.

Thank you.

Only reason for the not sure's is my child is in foundation and hasn't experienced those things yet! We love the school!

Thank you. We love it too!

Really happy my daughter has settled quickly and is really loving her new school. Only put 'not sure' because not experienced yet.

Thank you.

Really happy with the school. My son only started in September so can't comment on one or two things. Very happy overall, at the moment. Thanks

Thank you.

I have always been impressed with how well planned and organised the school is; it is a great benefit to us parents to know dairy dates well in advance. Even though my boys can never remember a single thing they have done at school when I ask them, they make amazing progress and are always happy to go to school everyday. Thank you for caring for them and helping to mould them into lovely, respectful and happy little people.

Thank you. The children are, genuinely, an absolute delight and a real credit to all the parents.

I have only answered not sure for most of the questions as my child has only been with the school for 3 weeks so too early for me to answer honestly!

If Ben is happy at school then the school must be doing something right. Thank you Sean (and your staff) and keep up the good work & standards.

Thank you. I am very proud of my very hard working staff.

It's a great school. The children are thriving. Keep up the good work. Thanks.

Thank you.

My child as come on so much since been at willerby carr lane I am very proud of her

Thank you. That's great to hear.

My child has only being in the foundation year for 3 weeks, so it is hard or me to make comment on some questions hence why I have answered not sure. However from the 3 weeks that she has attended I have been very impressed with the level of communication from the school.

Thank you. It's something we are always trying to improve. Look out for the new website coming soon...

My child has only just started in the foundation class, so I have not had chance to experience some of the school events. But I have heard good comments about the school and hope that my child will be encouraged to their full potential under your care and tutelage.

Thank you.

my child has only just started school in foundation (this is his 4th week) which is why I can't answer many of the questions. He does seem to be really enjoying school

Thank you. That's good to hear. They do seem to always be having a lot of fun in EYFS!

My child has only just started so I don't feel able to comment yet on many of these questions.

My child has only just started, and is taking a while to settle in.

Thank you. It is a big move for our little friends. If you are concerned about them not settling, please see the EYFS staff after school.

My child is always happy to go to school. I am very pleased with her progress and all the efforts all the teachers have put in through her education. I wish to thank all the staff for all her support at her school.

Thank you.

My child only started this year in the EYFS and thus has only done 7 full days at the school. I have answered honestly but it is from a lack of knowledge and experience with the school- not because the school does not inform me!

My not sure answers are because my daughter has only just started at WCLPS. So far so good, she really likes school and is keen to arrive in the morning, reports back all sorts especially about yummy lunches. She enjoyed the harvest festival and is looking forward to the panto!

Thank you. That's what we want: SAFE - HAPPY - ACHIEVING

My son has autism and the school is very cooperative and always listens to my concerns.

Thank you. I'm very lucky to have such a good team with specialist skills to support all of our pupils.

My son has only just started in foundation this term so I've answered 'not sure' to the questions I at present don't have any experience with.

Myself and my husband are completely satisfied with the school and have highly recommended it to others with young children looking at schools.

Thank you.

I could not fault the school at all . Thank you for providing my daughter with a first class rounded education

Thank you. It means a lot to be able to pass that on to the hard working staff.

I am particularly impressed with the additional responsibilities that children in Y6 are given. The many varied monitor roles have increased my daughters confidence, sense of belonging and organisational skills in a very short space of time.

Thank you. The Year 6 are real stars and amaze us every day with their attitude.

I am more than happy with the school. I am proud that my daughter attends such a lovely school.

Thank you.

I am extremely pleased with the progress my son has made in the school considering he is one of the youngest in his year and does sometimes struggle. I only hope the support continues as he grows though the final few years left at carr lane.

Thank you.

Have no complaints. I think its a wonderful school...and staff are all approachable. I tell people all the time what a great school it is!!.

Thank you. We like it too!

Great school, my boys are very happy, so I'm happy :)

Thank you.

As my son has only just started school, I feel unable to answer some of the questions. However, he does seem very happy and we are looking forward to future events and performances. Following these, I would feel better equipped to answer this survey.

Thank you.

Communication

much more initial feedback for EYFs parents in first few weeks. First time for most parents and we are not told anything about how children are settling in. They are only four!

Thank you for your feedback. I know the EYFS team are looking to redesign the various meetings and information they provide prior to and through the EYFS year. We do have a parents' evening in week 6 or 7, but I agree that we should explore ways of providing more information on how the are settling in, in the early days. In the meantime, please feel free to drop by after school and come in and ask the class teacher.

My son has only just started school so I do not feel able to answer some of the questions. So far he seems to be really enjoying it and I found the foundation information evening really interesting and helpful. However, my main feedback for the foundation year is that parents could be provided with a bit more information about how our children are settling in in those first few weeks. My son has had tears on some days and has come home saying he hasn't had any lunch or that no-one has played with him etc. I realise children get confused so doubt that this will be accurate but it would put my mind at ease if the teachers put a little note in his bag if he's been upset or had any difficulties, or if he's been mixing with new friends etc. I feel its a big change for parents going from a lot of daily individual information at pre-schools to very little at school. I realise teachers have a larger number of children to look after but the odd note would be reassuring.

Thank you for your feedback. You are right, it is a very different environment from pre-school where parents often see their child's key worker every day as a matter of course. As mentioned in the previous response, the EYFS team are looking at all aspects of their communication. I will pass this feedback on for them to consider. Please remember, we have an 'open door' policy and you are more than welcome at the end of any day to call in and have a chat with one of the teachers which may help put your mind at rest. Thank you.

Would appreciate more early admissions support for younger starters beyond the initial two weeks.

Thank you for your feedback. I'm not sure exactly what you mean - could you please raise this in more detail with myself or the EYFS lead. Thank you.

Communication needs to be better between teachers and parents maybe a system where if anything has happened at school that teachers think parents should be made aware of but are unable to catch at school leaving time maybe a note in book bag if child had accident for example I know it's all time consuming but highly annoying if not told anything at all

Thank you for your feedback. There are numerous minor bumps and grazes that can happen during a day and whilst it is not really practical to write a note for each of them, all head injuries or significant injuries are followed up with a telephone call as well as a note in the book bag. If your child has had a significant accident and you have not been informed, please let us know so that we can follow it up. Thank you.

Think teachers need to speak to parents alot more about any matters that have happened during the day as some parents have had here children come out with bruises and grazes and bumped to the head. an not been informed of these injuries Theres not alot of feed back from teachers about how the children are doing this would help put alot of parents minds at rest

Thank you for your feedback. It is school policy to report ALL head injuries by telephone as well as by note (just in case a note is not seen). Often these are extremely minor little head bumps, but we still telephone to be on the safe side. If this has not happened please let the class teacher or myself know so that we can investigate. Thank you.

Queuing

School playground for year 1 is very chaotic in a morning. Very difficult to manoeuvre with siblings in pushchairs.

Thank you for your feedback. I agree. The EYFS and Year 1 staff have looked at the problem and the EYFS children are now entering via their own playground door with EYFS parents waiting on the EYFS playground. I think this has helped alleviate the over crowding on the Year 1 playground.

Only issue is that our Year 1 teacher doesn't wait and take the whole class in together so the 5 year olds are unsure if they've gone in etc. It would be much better I believe to have the children in line and to all walk in together as a class with the teacher leading.

Thank you for your feedback. I have asked the Year 1 teachers to wait on the playground and make sure that they see all their class go in.

I am finding the morning ritual for year 1's absolute chaos. There are no real lines, parents are everywhere, I get we all want to see our kids in safe but need to give children room to line up & allow all parents to see their children in safe. Both classes seem to merge.

Thank you for your feedback. Following such feedback we have made the changes outlined above and I think this has certainly alleviated the problem.

I think year 3 should queue in a better position as where they queue at the moment causes congestion

Thank you for your feedback. I agree. Following such feedback, Year 3 children are now being asked to not line up. Instead, they should continue to play on their Y3/4 playground and then, at 8.50am when the bell goes, they can simply enter via the Year 3 door without lining up.

Great idea to change entrance for EYFS children in a morning. Please can you look at changing year 3 morning queuing as it blocks the pathway and have to fight to get through with the pram and my daughter or go through the boat play area. Some people have mentioned they aren't receiving the texts or emails. If a child is hurt it would be nice to know from the teacher at the end of the day or little note in their book bag would be appreciated. Thank you.

Thank you for your feedback. The queuing issue has hopefully now been addressed as described above. If anyone is not receiving a text or email then they should immediately contact the office to check that we have their up to date contact details. This is vital in case of emergency.

Bullying

I don't think bullies are quickly dealt with. A lot of pressure is put on the parents that care regarding homework. I understand the pressure teachers and schools must be under, but feels very much like emotional blackmail at times. Overall, a very good school.

Thank you for your feedback. We are committed to sorting out any issues of bullying. Where there are problems between children it is important for us to know as soon as possible either from the child or the parent. We have a clear anti bullying policy and will start a bullying investigation log where there is any alleged case of bullying.

Our homework policy was developed in partnership with parents and increases gradually as children move through school. It is not motivated by external pressures - we don't for example send whole SATS papers home every week in Year 6 as some schools do. Rather, it is aimed at helping parents best support their child in partnership with the school.

There has been an increase in complaints about bullying which do not seem to be very well dealt with.

Thank you for your feedback. If you have an issue with bullying, then please raise it with the class teacher in the first instance and, if not resolved, then with the Headteacher.

Lunch

My son is yr 3, and on several occasions already this year he has come home and none of his packed lunch has been eaten, this happened in yr2 as well as yr1. It is a long day for him to be going without eating, or anyone for that matter. I have raised this issue previously. I feel there should be more supervision ensuring the children have eaten their lunches.

Thank you for your feedback. We do try to supervise children at lunch time and what they are eating but obviously with 420 children staying hot dinners or packed lunch, it's not possible to oversee everybody. We do insist that no packed lunch contents are thrown away so that parents can see for themselves what their child is eating and talk to them. If your child is regularly not eating their food, please inform the class teacher and we can ask the lunch time staff to keep a special eye on them. Thank you.

Teaching

In my opinion there are too many part time teachers, student teachers, assistants, support staff etc that pass through the classrooms, this does not give consistency or build a relationship with the children - too many cooks spoil the broth !

Thank you for your feedback. Equal opportunities legislation rightly prevents discrimination between part time and full time staff. Whilst student teachers bring a lot of positives to a forward looking school, we do, in line with your sentiment, carefully restrict the number that we accept each year. As for Teaching Assistants, we are lucky to have a skilled and dedicated workforce of TAs and each class has an assigned TA who are regarded as a positive addition to the class team.

My children are happy at the school. I feel I play a key role in this by encouraging them to get a good education, through listening and behaving well and respecting their teachers. Unfortunately over the years I have had some concerns about the teaching (certain individuals) who I don't think really get the best out of the child's potential and at times make them feel anxious and so less productive. I would hope that teachers work more with the parents and be less defensive. My children love sport and would welcome more competitive team sport with other schools.

Thank you for your feedback. I agree that children should not feel anxious. Success is built on security and confidence. Of course, we are a school, and if a child is not behaving appropriately then they will get told off. I'm sorry if you have found teachers defensive. If you have issues, please raise them with teacher in the first instance and, if you are not satisfied, then please see the Headteacher.

On the whole, my child enjoys school and I have been happy with teacher's responses to any issues that may have arisen. However, I think it very much depends on the individual teacher and TA attached as to whether a child settles into each new class every year. Perhaps emotional intelligence training could be rolled out to the TAs supporting classes, as my experience of the TAs attached has ranged from excellent support to questionable. Thank you.

Thank you for your feedback. I agree that well trained TA's play an essential role in creating our calm, friendly and supportive atmosphere in school. Our school counsellor, Martin, has recently given training to all of our TAs in 'emotional intelligence' and how to best understand and interact with children who may be presenting a range of behaviours based on their emotional state. This sort of training is something that we will be looking to continue.

Trips and Visits

Not always impressed with the quality of the trips. I think £7.50 is excessive for a trip to a free museum in town? I don't think bullying issues are dealt with very effectively by the school. I think a clear anti bullying policy should be developed.

Thank you for your feedback. Over half the cost of the visit is accounted for by the cost of the coach. Although the museums are free to walk into, the trips we arrange to the museums are not usually free. This is because we usually take part in 'led sessions' where an expert curator leads the children through a range of specialist educational activities often 'behind the scenes' and using a range of practical hands on resources not available to the public. The children can get so much more out of their trip through these expert led activities although there is a cost associated. Please note that there is no profit made from any trip - indeed many trips are subsidised by the school.

School trips could be reviewed, these seem to have reduced. There are lots of places to visit locally that are relevant to their studies even if this replaced the pantomime trip - leaving this for children to do with their families. Don't agree with children watching movie DVDs at school towards end of terms to free teachers up when absence to attend Drifffield show etc (educational day) is not allowed.

Thank you for your feedback. I am not aware that school trips have reduced. We consulted with parents over the cost of trips and the consensus was that parents would support trips which cost approximately £10-£12 per term. Teachers use this yardstick in planning their trips through the year - a trip one term might be less and the following term might be more - so long as it balances out over the year.

It is the case that in the xmas week we organise class parties and children may also watch a DVD. The children might also watch a DVD at the end of the year. We think that this is appreciated by most parents and pupils as a nice thing to do. Term time leave is a separate issue - granting term time leave for parents to take their children to places they consider educational is not permitted by National and Local policy.

The only thing that bothers me is the cost of certain visits. £14 is too much for one visit. Next year I will have two children attending this school and will struggle to afford all visits for them both.

Thank you for your feedback. We recognise the economic difficulties that our community face. As stated in a previous reply, having consulted with parents, we have set the cost of trips such that it should balance out over the year to approximately £10 to £12 per term. If it is more one term, it should be less the next.

Homework

The not sure boxes are ticked as these are grey areas and require more than a tick box, the debate over too much homework to reach attainment targets is one such question.

Thank you for your feedback. The survey was designed so that you could raise issues in the open ended box. Our homework policy has been worked out with parental consultation so that whilst it gradually increases each year, it is also restricted to age-appropriate amounts. We see the value of homework as being rooted in our home-school partnership. It is about helping parents be involved in helping their child and giving them the 1-1 support that is not always possible in a class of 30.

Too much homework there is no need for it

Thank you for your feedback. We do believe that homework including listening to your child read, in the right balance, is very beneficial to the children.

Other

I hope that children can learn more knowledge

Thank you for your feedback. We agree!

There are no provisions or flexibility to cater for hard working parents who work shifts and are unable to take family holidays during the school holidays. It would be nice to see schools being more accommodating and offering alternative times to make up for missed education due to these valued family holidays ie coming in for a week of the six weeks holidays or Saturday mornings .

Thank you for your feedback. Legislation and LA policy do not allow term time holidays to be authorised - this is not a school decision. Opening schools at the weekend or summer is possible but is a political decision which would require significant tax and spend decisions. It currently costs £1.5m per year to provide education during term time at WCLPS. Given that my teachers already work very hard on their marking, planning and preparing most evenings and at the weekend, I would need to recruit and pay for extra teachers and ancillary staff.

Feel that there should be more feedback. Also do not feel comfortable that mothers from the same class read with children. I don't accept that it is a co-incidence that in the majority of these cases their children appear to have progressed to being 'free readers' before others. It also appeared that the teacher was reading more frequently with these children with others. This is not objective nor is it healthy as I don't want to feel that my child is being compared to their child. They should read with children in the opposite class or even another year.

Thank you for your feedback. I know that parents naturally compare their children's reading book level to other children, but it really should not be seen as a race to the end of the scheme. Children are best served by being on the most appropriate level and developing their fluency and comprehension. I am very concerned to hear that you think some children are treated more favourably than others. This is a serious allegation and I would ask that you please contact me directly with information so that I can investigate it thoroughly.

I think swimming should be available in all years in KS2 not just one.

Thank you for your feedback. Swimming is arranged by the Local Authority and our arrangement is typical across the county. There are many competing demands for curriculum time and different parents may have a higher regard for different curriculum areas such as music, art, maths etc. Our job as a school is to design a broad and balanced curriculum which covers all areas of learning within the constraints of the timetable.

There should be more sport and music offered without parents having to pay LOTS extra!

Thank you for your feedback. We provide 2 hours of PE and up to an hour of music within the curriculum each week. We do also offer lots of free sports clubs such as football, netball, rugby, cricket, athletics and rounders for various age groups. We also run a choir and provide free specialist percussion teaching in Years 4 and 5. I am very grateful to the staff who volunteer of their own time to run clubs and to arrange sporting events. We do also host other external fee paying clubs such as the dance, drama, judo, soccer skills clubs which allows parents the convenience of booking their child into an external club but as a natural extension to the school day. We also host peripatetic music lessons which, whilst needing to be paid for, are subsidised by the school. We will continue to review whether we have managed to strike the right balance. Please look out for the Sports Report on our new website when it is up and running.

Try not to loose children's things

Thank you for your feedback. We understand how frustrating it is for children to lose their jumpers etc. If they are clearly labelled with their name and class, we will do everything we can to get them back to you.