

Parent Questionnaire Results January 2020

Dear Parents /Carers,

Thank you for your time in responding to the recent parent questionnaire. In all, we had a number of responses returned and we are extremely pleased at the very positive responses which we have received. Please find a summary of the responses below:

	Strongly Agree Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know	Positive responses	Negative response s
My child enjoys coming to school	57% 39%			4%	96%	4%
My child feels safe at school	71% 25%	4%			96%	4%
My child is taught well at school	64% 36%				100%	0%
My child is making good progress	54% 42%	4%			96%	4%
My child is encouraged to work hard and do their best	72% 28%				100%	0%
My child receives an appropriate amount of homework for his/her age	39% 49%	12%			88%	12%
The school communicates with me effectively about my child's progress	36% 50%	12%		4%	88%	12%
The school communicates with me effectively about how to support my child's learning	39% 57%	4%			96%	4%
The school seeks my views and listens to my concerns	42% 46%	8%		4%	92%	8%
There is a good standard of behaviour at Rivington	74% 32%			4%	100%	0%
The school deals with any incidents of bullying effectively	32% 28%			48%	100%	0%
The school is welcoming and there are opportunities to get involved	60% 40%				100%	0%
I think the school is well led and managed	68% 32%				100%	0%
My child is encouraged to lead a healthy lifestyle	52% 48%				100%	0%
My child is encouraged to positively contribute to the wider community including fund raising	48% 48%	4%			96%	4%
I would recommend Rivington to another family	84% 12%	4%			96%	4%

Responses to the questions were overwhelmingly positive with many 96% and 100% endorsements of which we are extremely proud.

This is due to the continued commitment of governors and staff to ensure that Rivington Foundation provides an excellent nurturing environment which believes in developing the whole child; the excellent support we receive from our families and the hard work of all our pupils.

Parental Comments

Many additional narrative comments also expressed very positive views. These include:

- Good class sizes
- Well behaved and polite children

- Improved teacher communication
- The local environment
- Family feel and the way it nurtures the children
- Family ethos and a lovely atmosphere
- Very welcoming. Always greeted with a smile
- Children enjoy school
- School values-particularly the emphasis on kindness
- Very happy and impressed with school so far
- It feels an intimate school where all the staff know pupils and parents
- Caring and friendly
- Family environment
- Keen to encourage and reward
- Children develop quickly
- Close links to all teachers- friendly and approachable
- Any questions or problems quickly answered/overcome
- High standard of behaviour/manners
- Focuses on social skills
- Small school but with big visions
- A very unique school
- Outdoor learning (forest school)
- Lots of opportunities to try different activities e.g. gym class, multi skills for free
- Allows parents to take part in activities
- Children come home excited to talk about their day
- Can't fault any of the teachers
- Classroom upgrades
- Maths programme
- Consistent staffing
- Keep doing what you're doing!
- Ongoing improvements to the school building

Suggested areas for development included (more than 3 comments)

- Better lunches- healthier:

We will keep on battling for these improvements – watch this space!

- Follow up on learning plans:

New ILPs have been developed in order to ensure more effective and worthwhile feedback.

- More sports after school clubs; sports in general:

We have increased our after-school sports provision this year and it is an area (with challenging grounds!) that we are determined to build upon.

- Maintain current staffing:

We are proud that (even with extremely challenging budgets) our staffing, unlike many schools, has always been, on-the-whole, very stable.

- Guarantee a place in Reception for Nursery:

Due to rules and laws around discrimination, we are no longer able to offer a point to children who have attended the school nursery – sorry - we understand your frustration.

- Making the most of the surroundings e.g. using the Anderton Centre; Sports/PE orientated lessons in the local area

Developing the further use of the surrounding area is a major focus for the curriculum over the next two years – I consider it to be one of the 'jewels in our crown'!

- More information about support given:

Through improved ILPs and communication we hope that this concern will see improvement.

- Reception/ pre-school sometimes smells damp and musty:

We have a problem with damp in the EYFS classroom and some work has been carried out to reduce this – being next to water and in a dip is not helpful! The drains at Rivington are an on-going issue and were made worse when the TreeHouse opened. We have people out to support this regularly. We are also changing the flooring in the EYFS and we hope that this further supports the issue.

- Harder/ more homework:

Please see comments below.

- Send one communication only with regards to events and date it:

Again, this is an area where some like a few reminders and others not. We will try to find a 'happy medium' and date it!

- Better communication with parents

Please see comments below.

- More comments in the planner

As stated below, we are looking at how this can be accomplished. This is harder to manage as children move up the school with less staff, more children and more to do! Writing comments is a timely task but we know that they are a fantastic way to communicate with you! 2 messages a half-term? Stamps? Children write their own? We are working hard to improve this.

- More out of school activities/workshops

We are always looking for opportunities to widen the children's experiences. We have been able to offer workshops during the day but many find these hard to attend and our evening ones have also had low numbers. The Lego and art clubs held with parents and children before Christmas were fantastic and a real success – so we will be seeking more of these! We will be offering a computer, gardening and cooking club in the next term. Any specific suggestions or ideas will be greatly appreciated- cost always has a major part to play in uptake.

- Parking- double yellow lines issue to be resolved

Like all of you, we are trying our best, alongside the local community and with the council, to ensure that all the children, families and staff at Rivington are safe and well-cared for.

Schools actions in response to parental feedback.

- The school deals with any incidents of bullying effectively

Many parents ticked 'I don't know' for this option because their child has never had to face this issue – which is fantastic. We have a robust anti-bullying policy and anti-bullying contract which all the children sign – this is backed up by our behaviours for learning, school values and constant high expectations. I like to think that we have ever-vigilant staff. The school deals effectively and swiftly with any cases of unacceptable behaviour.

- The school sets an appropriate amount of homework

Inevitably, homework will continue to divide opinion amongst parents with some parents feeling there is too much and some parents feeling there is not enough. At Rivington we try to strike a happy medium. We aim to provide activities which will be engaging, relevant and lasting the right amount of time. This year our reviews will result in the addition of popular outside activities during the summer term which recognise the importance of family time. We are also introducing My Maths/Times Tables Rockstars and more ICT-based opportunities. We will always continue to emphasise the immense difference regular reading at home and practise of basic number skills has on children's progress. We will continue to review our policy on an annual basis to see whether we can make any further positive changes. These are starting points and show us that we need to think more carefully in ensuring homework is challenging, useful and helps with progress

- The school communicates with me effectively about my child's progress and support learning

Parents are invited to three parent's evenings to discuss progress each academic year and strengths and areas for development (including discussion/ review of Individual Learning Plans- if applicable). Class teachers may also request a meeting if they were concerned with a child's progress and suggest how support can be given at home. Additional parental sessions are organised during the academic year e.g. key stage one phonics information, reading workshops and maths calculations. A full written report is sent home at the end of the school year. There is an opportunity at the beginning of the year to meet your child's new class teacher to share yearly expectations and strategies to support your child at home. We also provide mid-year reports and half-termly topic plans and class news. Our twitter feed and website is a great source of information about what the children are doing and how you can support them – please keep looking because it changes regularly. At Rivington we have an open door policy and would like to take this opportunity to remind parents who are worried about their child's progress to make an appointment to meet the class teacher and discuss

their concerns. We are at present discussing and deciding how to enhance the use of the planners. We are looking into holding an 'open-class' afternoon on a termly basis.

- The school seeks my views and listens to my concerns:

Individual feedback is always very welcome, especially when it is heartfelt and given to individuals. We do have an open door policy at Rivington. If you do have concerns please come and speak to a member of staff. This may be your child's class teacher in the first instant or a senior member of staff. We are here to listen to concerns and we want to get things right! In the future we will seek more feedback after organised events. Attendees will be asked to complete feedback forms and we will respond to feedback received. We will continue to seek informal and formal feedback as it is an important part of continued school development. Your voice in our continued route to improvement is vital. The Parent Council will meet this term so please keep an eye on the Newsletter to see when the next meeting is.

- I would recommend Rivington Primary School to another Family:

96% of parents would recommend Rivington to another family - which is brilliant. I love this school and our staff do to – it's wonderful to hear that it means as much to our parents and children because you are the heartbeat of this wonderful place!

The Governors hope that where there is any strong feelings about school parents would feel confident and comfortable to express their concerns directly to the school in order that they can be discussed and addressed. My door is always open!

Please note that any comments or suggestions you make are taken seriously and acted upon. Thank you so much for taking the time to complete the questionnaire.

On behalf of the governors and staff I would like to thank all parents for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. All comments will be carefully considered as we set our school improvement priorities for 2019 – 2020 and beyond.

If you have any further comments or suggestions to make, then please do not hesitate to contact either myself, one of the school's leadership team or a parent governor.

Best wishes

Mrs. S. E. Annette