

Hilltop Infant School

Survey of parents' and carers' views of school life.

FINDINGS

This is a summary of the responses from the questionnaire distributed in January 2011. 59 forms were returned. Not all people answered all questions. The numbers below are the number of responses to each question, not percentages. The school will be taking action on some of the issues raised and will keep you informed about progress.

What do you think about the following school issues?	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
The curriculum (including themes taught)	38	20	0	0
Discipline.	36	19	0	1
Behaviour	33	23	0	0
Open evening and consultation arrangements	27	28	3	0
The school building	30	29	0	0
The school grounds	32	25	2	0
What sort of reputation does the school have within the community?	35	19	4	1

Comments on any of the above areas:

The reputation of Hilltop Infants is better than that of neighbouring schools

How do you feel?	Yes	Mostly	Rarely	Not at all
When you visit the school are you made to feel welcome?	46	13	0	0
Does the school have a caring attitude?	50	8	0	0
Do you feel able to come and talk to the staff or head about your child?	48	5	3	0
Do you feel the school works in partnership with you and your child?	50	6	1	0
Are you pleased with the number and range of clubs that the school offers? (<i>only answered by KS1</i>)	17	12	1	1
Are you happy with the school's uniform?	27	1	0	0
<i>(Only answered by EYFS parents)</i>				

Uniform

Please would you share your views with us about the following:

Price	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many said that the price of uniform was a reasonable /good price • One said it was expensive but good quality • One person said they do not use the school official uniform • A few people said the uniform in supermarkets is cheaper • Very reasonable • One thought that the jumpers are too expensive • Cheap options easy to find • On par with other schools
Quality of garments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good quality (8 responses) • The jumpers lose their logos and you can't tumble them dry • Fair • Excellent • Stitching poor • They don't wash well • Fine quality • Poor quality (2 out of 3 garments were defective) • Comparable with other brands
Ease of ordering and purchasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 3Rs website is easy to use but expensive • Good (3 responses) • One parent said they would like to be able to purchase cardigans with the school logo on (2) • Very easy (4) • Helpful having uniform sold in school • Difficult – I like to try garments on my children before buying

Your child	Yes	Mostly	Rarely	Not at all
Is your child happy at school?	48	10	0	0
Does the school enable your child to make good progress?	54	3	2	0
Are you happy that your child is safe in school?	52	7	0	0
Has your child ever complained of bullying in school? If so, please explain what happened and if and how the school resolved the situation in the comments section below.	3	0	2	49
If your child had a problem in school do you feel she/he would be able to talk to his/her teacher / headteacher?	46	7	3	3

Comments on any of the above areas:

- *Two people commented that there had been an incident for each of their children but that each was dealt with quickly by school and that they were very happy with how situations were handled*
 - *One person mentioned concern over the security around the playground with unlocked gates and doors*
-

Communication

Are there enough opportunities for you to meet staff and talk about your children?	46	10	3	1
Are the school's booklets, letters and other information written in a friendly way that is easy to understand?	50	10	0	0
Do we send home an appropriate number of letters? (only answered by EYFS parents)	28	0	0	0
	Yes	No		
Would you like us to have a suggestions box?	40	14		
Do you find the text messaging form of communication useful?	58	1		
Would you prefer to be contacted via email?	8	49		
Would you like to become part of a parents' forum? <i>This is an opportunity for parents to get together and discuss issues concerning the school and their children.</i>	14	37		
Do you find the school's website useful? (answered by KS1 parents only)	31	0		

Comments on communication

- A request was made for the option of ordering school lunches online
- One person requested confidential meetings with teachers
- People find the text messaging useful

Homework in KS1	Yes	No
Do you feel that your child receives an appropriate amount of homework?	29	1
Of the following types of homework, which would you like your child to receive?		
projects	12	15
weekly activities or worksheets	25	0
tasks which include parent involvement	23	1
tasks for children to complete independently	23	0

Comments on homework

A wide variety of responses were given:

- *The variety of homework is good*
- *Foci are not always stuck into Home School Diaries*
- *Varied and relevant*
- *One person requested not to have projects*
- *Another mentioned mixed feelings towards homework being given*
- *One request was for no homework to be given during holidays*

EYFS – How did you find out about Hilltop Infant School when you were looking to decide where to send your child?

Previous contacts with the school **5**

Recommendation from friends or neighbours **14**

Websites including the Ofsted site **16**

Newspaper adverts or articles **0**

Playgroups **3**

Other (Please specify) **3** (1 – County council issues place 2 – had siblings here previously)

EYFS – Before your child started	Yes	No
Did you attend an open morning in October/November 2009?	16	10
Is so, did you find it helpful in decided where to send your child?	18	0
Did you visit the school on a separate occasion?	16	10
Comments:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>One parent commented that it was nice to be shown around by the pupils and they were left feeling very positive about the school</i> 		
EYFS – Induction	Yes	No
Did you find the home visits useful?	23	2
Is there anything else that you would have liked us to include in the home visits? Please specify.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>One parent said how excited their child was when his teacher visited his home</i> • <i>No – they were excellent all round</i> 		
What did you find useful in the intake meeting before the children started school?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>It was good to see all the staff and to get a general feel for the school</i> • <i>The information pack was very informative</i> • <i>They were impressed with Mrs Mackenzie</i> • <i>Story sessions</i> • <i>Very well organised and briefing was comprehensive</i> 		
Did you find the workshops that were run last half term by Mrs Bagshaw useful?	15	0
Would you like more workshops later in the year?	18	1
Are there areas that you would like to be included in the workshops?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>One person said they did not realise that the workshops were being run</i> • <i>Anything</i> • <i>They were invaluable. Could they be held for each next stage of development?</i> 		

Environmental

	Yes	No	
Are you interested in purchasing recycled, second hand uniform?	10	48	
Do you use the clothes and shoes recycling banks at school?	20	33	1 – will do so

General

What do you feel are the major strengths of the school?

- 14 people said referred to the friendly, welcoming environment of the school
- 13 responses appreciated how approachable staff are, with an additional 6 describing the staff as 'caring'
- Home school partnerships and communication was regarded as a strength by many, along with 'brilliant children's welfare' and good results

Other responses that were received:

- The dedication of staff
 - Availability of teachers
 - Children always seeming 'so happy'
 - Children are well supported
 - Children are valued
 - Shipmates
 - The positive comments of teachers
 - Mrs Mackenzie being a 'hands on' teacher
 - The strong leadership of the school
 - All children being involved in school functions
 - The tight knit community within the school
 - Partnerships between teachers and parents
 - Praise and encouragement
 - Safe environment
 - Settling in processes for children in Reception classes
 - The staff
 - The school's reputation
 - Information provided on children's progress
 - Building children's confidence
 - The welcoming atmosphere of classrooms
 - The good variety of playground equipment and apparatus
 - A good curriculum
 - Good teachers
 - An excellent standard of teaching
 - High levels of achievement
 - Fantastic Ofsted report
 - 'Every member of staff is a credit to the school'
 - The school teaches to individual needs
 - Social and mutual respect is taught as well as 'the 3 Rs'
 - Good learning environment
 - Activities are good
 - The approach to learning
 - Facilities and opportunities
 - Good discipline – several remarked on this
 - Expectations of good behaviour
 - Small classes
 - Putting children first
 - Texting
 - Support provided where needed
 - The availability of teaching staff for a quick chat before and after school
-

Are there any improvements you would like to see?

- By far, the greatest response was for improved parking around school (8 responses)

Other comments:

- A Breakfast Club
- Greater choice of after school clubs
- Ordering and paying for lunches online
- Longer consultations at parents' evenings (2 responses)
- Menu – not good to include pizza on it
- Events held in evenings as well as during the day
- A bigger hall
- More communication with parents when child care is used (e.g. a change of P.E. day)
- After school clubs for EYFS (3 responses)
- Fair discipline
- Tougher on parents who fight in the school grounds
- Soap dispensers (2 responses)
- A more welcoming reception in the school office

Does your child attend any clubs outside of school? If so, please list them.

- *Ballet*
- *Swimming*
- *Gymnastics*
- *Football*
- *Dancing*
- *Karate*
- *Theatre*

Has your child gained any awards (e.g. swimming certificates, dancing levels etc) during the past year? If so, please list them.

Swimming, dancing, football

Would you like the school to run any workshops e.g. on supporting your child to read at home, the teaching of phonics, or 'number' in Maths?

If so, what would you like the workshops to be on?

Reading (popular response)

Maths

Phonics

Anything/everything!(popular response)

Suggestions on dealing with children's behaviour at home

A question and answer session

Additional comments centred on parents being very pleased with the progress their children have made in school and how happy they are here. Many thanked members of staff for their care.

'Thank you for such an excellent school - I am extremely happy that my child is here and desperately hope my second child will get in 2011.'

'I feel that my child has made the transition from pre-school to school so easily and confidently, aided by the caring and hardworking staff at the school. I am very pleased with her progress and developments and would highly recommend the school to other parents.'