



Parents Questionnaire and Responses February 2021 (90 responses)

1) My child is happy at this school.

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know |
|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| 58% | 42% | | | |

This is so important to us, to ensure all pupils are happy at school, we try our very best for the children – so we are pleased that 100% of you agree! Thank you!

2) My child feels safe at this school.

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know |
|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| 68% | 32% | | | |

It has been an extremely challenging year with Coronavirus. We have worked hard to ensure that we have adhered to COVID safety measures. This is extremely reassuring to know that your child feels safe in school in very difficult circumstances. We work very hard to ensure all children feel safe and comfortable at school. Again, 100% agree.

3) The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know |
|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| 59% | 40% | 0.5% | | 0.5% |

Again, a delightful response. We communicate with parents regularly in newsletters about policies. Teachers often work closely with parents to support where we have concerns about behaviour. A log of behaviour is monitored weekly by SLT and children/ parents are spoken to if behaviour becomes a concern. Rewards and sanctions are used effectively to help behaviour management. We have many systems in place to encourage positive behaviour - Praise assemblies both remotely and in school, stickers – both in planners and personal, mentions in newsletters, certificates, weekly Golden Time rewards –although some of the rewards have been limited due to the pandemic we still reward positive behaviour. There are also end of term treat afternoons. If you are still not sure about behaviour at school see 'The Behaviour Policy' on the school's website. We agree with you, that staff and children work together to ensure behaviour is consistent and fair.

4) My child has been bullied (several times on purpose) and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.

| My child has never been bullied. | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| 86% | 11% | 1% | 0.5% | 0.5% | 1% |

A wonderful response to see that so many of you know how seriously we take this issue! 98 % of you know that school does not accept this type of behaviour. This is a topic that is spoken about throughout the year in PSHE and RRSA.

This is what the school does to further support this:

Due to COVID restrictions we could not hold our usual 'Meet the teacher' session at the beginning of the year. However, we did send out a PowerPoint that explained the expectations – this also explained our 'bullying' policy to you –Several Times On Purpose (STOP).

Pre-Covid, we have trained pupils to be Peer to Peer Supporters. Unfortunately, due to restricting outside visitors within school this programme could not take place this academic year. As soon as we are able to we will resume the Peer Supporter program as evidence shows that 'Peer support programmes' lead to measurable outcomes ▶ can reduce bullying & improve behaviour ▶ develop communication, negotiation, social skills ▶ builds leadership & team working ▶ positive effect on staff and pupil relationships

Unfortunately again, due to Covid restrictions and 'bubbles' being established and not able to mix it has been extremely difficult to establish our Rights Respecting Champions. This had been planned to be re-established in January 2021, until Boris Johnson announced National Lockdown. Work in classes and remote learning have continued their work about children's rights. The RR Champions will be re-established as soon as it is safe to do so. We work really hard to ensure that children understand their 'rights'.

Parents Questionnaire and Responses February 2021 (90 responses)

Anti-bullying week took place with very positive outcomes. Over the past six years we have brought in 'Bully4U' theatre workshops for Yr 3/4 and class sessions – this year due to Covid 19 restrictions, the event took place remotely. Rec and KS1 and Yr 5/6 also learned about bullying in classes. From pupil voice, it is clear that children have a better understanding about the difference between bullying and being unkind.

We had 'Safer Internet Week' in February, which was highlighted in assemblies, lessons at school and remotely, to make children more aware of social media. KS2 children worked on the issues about 'Cyber Bullying', the dangers of social media etc. and what to do if they experience such issues. Children learn about this area throughout the year, in computing, PSHE and RRSA lessons. We also add E-safety and the Safeguarding element to our Newsletters to inform parents at home regularly. We are really pleased that 98% of you either agree or have had no experience of this matter. If you feel that your child is being treated unfairly please come and talk to us, so that we can help! We're sure that you will have read the pupils' voice regarding this subject in a recent newsletter.

We are aware that children will sometimes have disagreements with their peers. We have agreed with children that Bullying is defined at Blanford Mere as "Several Times on Purpose" as it helps them to distinguish between a "one-off" incident and an ongoing problem that would be described as Bullying and needs treating as such. We take all 'one-off' incidents seriously and deal with them promptly, so that no further incidents take place.

Please look on our website for the school's Bullying policy.

5) The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know |
|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| 45% | 54% | 0.5% | | 0.5% |

It is fantastic to know that you receive valuable information from school about your child's progress. Staff work really hard to support pupils with their learning in order for them to make progress from their starting points. We provide additional support on a daily basis for children who are underachieving or struggling in certain areas of the curriculum. Staff talk to parents if this is affecting the child's progress; not just at parent consultations. Due to restricting access to the building we have not been able to hold face to face consultations with parents – however, we have had termly telephone parent consultations and provide a written report about your child's progress every summer. Since the Lockdown in January 2021, staff have called parents and children regularly who have been working remotely to offer support, guidance, help with technology to ensure that child is progressing through their learning. Staff have also spoken to children to give praise or encouragement so that the child knows that we value their contribution of work at home, even though they could not be in school at such a difficult time. Pre-covid, we know that parents valued their child's education by attending parent workshops, parents' evenings, sports day, breakfast events, World Book day etc. We are happy that 99% of you know how your child is progressing and areas to support further.

6) When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.

| I have never raised a concern. | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| 43% | 20% | 36% | 0.5% | | 0.5% |

Again, a remarkable response from parents. We do our utmost to deal with any concerns immediately. The responses indicate that four parents were not happy with the way in which their concern was dealt with; we take all concerns very seriously and do our best to resolve any concerns you may have in a swift manner. We can only conclude that those who indicated that they didn't know, haven't had cause to complain.

Parents Questionnaire and Responses February 2021 (90 responses)

- 7) My child has SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability), and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.

| My child does not have SEND | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| 98% | 0.5% | 0.5% | 0.5% | | 0.5% |

At Blanford Mere we treat each child as an individual. We recognise that each child is unique. We are extremely glad to know that parents feel that we enable children with SEND to learn using a wide variety of teaching and learning techniques in school. We also use the expertise of outside agencies to ensure our SEND children have a bespoke curriculum to meet their needs.

- 8) The school has high expectations for my child.

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know |
|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| 49% | 50% | 0.5% | | 0.5% |

We are overwhelmed with this response. Our staff work tirelessly to have high expectations for all pupils to achieve the best that they can be. Our behaviour policy links with this, so that children know that if they are 'green', they are ready to learn – having all the necessary equipment to support this! Staff have maintained the high expectations for children who have been working remotely too, by calling regularly and commending children's/parents high standards of work and for the few children who were not engaging initially. Parents and school working together enables us both to have high expectations for your child.

- 9) My child does well at this school.

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know |
|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| 55% | 44% | | | 1% |

Fantastic response, we work relentlessly on this area. Teaching and learning is at the heart of all we do, it is great to know that you agree with our findings.

- 10) The school lets me know how my child is doing.

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know |
|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| 53% | 47% | | | |

As mentioned above, 100% agree that we work together with you to ensure that you know how your child is progressing. Staff regularly talk to parents if their child is struggling in certain areas of the curriculum, so that they can share ideas on how to support your child further. Staff have provided daily feedback regarding children's learning throughout the lockdown by responding to work that has been uploaded to Teams. This enables parents to see what their child is doing well and how they could further progress. If you feel that you are not sure how your child is progressing, then please speak to your child's class teacher, who will be happy to discuss your child's strengths and development points.

- 11) There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know |
|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| 56% | 43% | | | 1% |

We aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum across the school –this is shared with you in curriculum newsletters at the start of each term. However, due to the National Lockdown the past half term's curriculum content was not shared with parents – please accept our apologies for this. The curriculum content has slightly changed so that children in school and those working remotely have had the same learning experiences – the skills that have been covered remain the same. It is wonderful to know that you agree that the school provides a wide range of subjects too!

Parents Questionnaire and Responses February 2021 (90 responses)

12) My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know |
|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| 39% | 43% | 1% | | 17% |

Since schools closed last March 2020, we have been unable to provide a range of clubs after school – this is due to different bubbles being unable to mix. As soon as it is safe to do so, we will begin to provide after school sports clubs. We will also restart Music Club as soon as the DfE and Dudley Local Authority say it is safe to do so! We also take part in a variety of competitions outside of school e.g. maths, sporting competitions – Virtual Games –these will or have taken place. Again, pre-Covid the school has taken part in a variety of activities throughout the year to include: Masterclasses, Residential visits, theatre visits, school trips, whole class music lessons, outside visitors etc. We hope that all of these wonderful experiences will resume as soon as it is safe to do so. All of these activities enhance our school curriculum further and ensure children have a wide range of experiences both in and outside the classroom.

13) The school supports my child's wider personal development.

| Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know |
|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| 44% | 54% | 1% | | 1% |

At Blanford Mere, we work tirelessly to create a curriculum that supports children's development. We support children's interests outside of school and celebrate their achievements in assemblies and newsletters. We aim to equip each child for the next stage in their development, so that they can fulfil their opportunities in life! We are really pleased that you agree with us.

14) I would recommend this school to another parent?

| Yes | No |
|-----|----|
| 99% | 1% |

We really appreciate this response – it makes us extremely proud and speaks volumes. We are so pleased to recommend us to others!

The Coronavirus restrictions, National Lockdowns and Partial opening of schools have all been extremely difficult times for parents, children and staff, who yet again have had their routines disrupted. We know that it has been a very stressful time for parents, trying to juggle 'work commitments' as well as remote learning with their child. So many of you who are remotely learning have fully embraced Teams; it has been a learning curve for both parents, staff and pupils. But it has been very successful and many children have fully embraced the curriculum and learning opportunities provided. We really appreciate the support that parents have provided for their child whilst working at home. You should be commended – thanks again! It is important to know that children at home and in school have received the same learning opportunities too!

Many parents have thanked us in person, verbally on the phone, by email or the Teams learning platform, for all that the school have done this half term to support children's learning in school and at home – staff really appreciate this. It boosts staff morale to know that their hard work and the learning that they have provided is appreciated by so many of you – so thank you for taking the time to say this!

For staff, they have been working relentlessly both with children in school and also providing learning opportunities and feedback remotely to children at home. All staff have had to adapt quickly to new guidance and routines to keep themselves and children safe.

We have tried our best throughout this difficult time to do the following:

- *to keep the school open for key worker and vulnerable children, through a booking system*
- *to provide your child with an education through remote learning*
- *to provide laptops and Sim cards to a small number of pupils*
- *to provide 'paper learning packs' for children who could not access the remote learning*
- *to provide 'live' spelling, maths, story time and good work assemblies*
- *to keep children and staff in school safe at all times, making the school 'Covid secure' following all health and safety guidance*
- *to communicate well with parents/carers*

Parents Questionnaire and Responses February 2021 (90 responses)

- *to call parents, carers, children to provide support, reassurance and to alleviate any worries that you may have had experienced with remote learning*
- *to inform you through SchoolLife, , emails and our website of any announcements and what this meant for children at Blanford Mere*
- *to follow Safeguarding procedures and follow up any concerns raised*
- *myself and Miss Stanton have written letters to children who are working remotely*
- *to provide risk assessments*

It has been an extremely busy, unusual, but productive and challenging time for everyone.

There was an overwhelming number of positive comments about how well the school communicates with parents; particularly updating the school website with letters that have been sent out and a lot of information on the schools newsletter. It came across loud and clear that you felt up to date with what was happening in school, via text message, email or/and 'The School Life app'. If you are not receiving this information then please inform the school office so we can add you to the list!

We really do read and take on board all of your comments and particularly appreciated that some parents came to talk to us about the responses. We will look particularly at the suggestions you have made for areas to develop. We like to hear your thoughts and try to act upon your suggestions.

I'm sure that you would agree by the responses, that the majority of parents think the school is providing very positive learning environment for your child both in school and remotely.

We would like to thank you for your time, effort and responses to this year's questionnaires.