



Parents Questionnaire and Responses February 2022 (52 responses)

1) My child is happy at this school.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
50%	46%		2%	2%

This is extremely important to us, to ensure all pupils are happy at school, we try our very best for the children – so we are pleased that 96% of you agree! Thank you!

2) My child feels safe at this school.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
62%	36%	2%		

It has been yet another turbulent year with Coronavirus. We have followed the guidance from the DFE and Public Health to ensure that we have followed COVID safety measures. This is really good 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, 98% agree.

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

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
42%	52%	2%		2%

We communicate with parents regularly in newsletters about policies and published information about our behaviour system at the start of the academic year. Teachers often work closely with parents to support where we have concerns about behaviour. If the behaviour system does not meet the needs of particular children – then we have worked with parents to adapt and modify this. 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 - weekly praise awards are given in school, stickers – both in planners and personal, mentions in newsletters, certificates, postcards to parents, 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
70%		11%	2%		17%

A wonderful response to see that so many of you know how seriously we take this issue! 81% of you have said that your child has never been bullied or we deal with it quickly and effectively. 17% of you are unsure if your child has been bullied – the definition of bullying is outlined in your child’s planner. 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 in person ‘Meet the teacher’ session at the beginning of the year. However, we did hold a virtual session via Teams and uploaded the PowerPoint for each year group that explained the expectations – this also explained our ‘bullying’ policy to you – Several Times On Purpose (STOP).

We have trained pupils to be Peer to Peer Supporters. 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

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Rights Respecting Champions work really hard to ensure that children understand their 'rights'. The RR Champions was paused temporarily from November to February, we will be re-established now. This is modelled every day in class by staff and pupils – children are really knowledgeable about their rights and we refer to children's rights when teaching many curriculum areas!

For many years we have bought in 'Bully4U' theatre workshops for Yr 3/4 and class sessions for Yr 5/6, KS1 and Reception. From pupil voice, it is clear that children have a better understanding about the difference between bullying and being unkind.

In November, we started our work to mark 'World Kindness Day' this year with a virtual LIVE assembly. Children had the opportunity to participate in an Assembly which was hosted by the Director of Kindness for 52 Lives, Greig Trout. Topics covered included the importance of kindness, the science of kindness, and the impact it has on our well-being. They used real-life case studies of people helped by the 52 Lives charity, and also showed a brief video from a Paralympian discussing the kindest thing someone has ever done for her.

Following on from that, we celebrated our differences on when we took part in 'Odd Socks day 2021'. Most importantly, Odd Socks Day was designed to be fun! It was an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! It was super to see so many children and staff wearing their odd socks! Throughout 'Anti-bullying' week the children had many opportunities to explore various topics surrounding 'bullying' and could confidently share their thoughts and ideas

We also took part in 'Safer Internet Week' in February, which was highlighted in class assemblies, lessons at school and to make children more aware of the use of the internet. On Tuesday 8th February and throughout this week, we joined other schools and organisations across the UK in celebrating Safer Internet Day. The theme this year was 'All Fun and Games? Exploring respect and relationships online'. This was a fantastic opportunity for children to discuss how to make the most out of their time online and ensure they were staying as safe as possible. KS2 children worked on the issues about be 'SMART', the dangers of social media etc. and what to do if they experience such issues.

Stay safe online

Remember the 5 SMART rules when using the internet and mobile phones.

S

SAFE: Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information when you're chatting or posting online. Personal information includes your email address, phone number and password.

M

MEET: Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present.

A

ACCEPTING: Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!

R

RELIABLE: Someone online might lie about who they are, and information on the internet may not be true. Always check information with other websites, books or someone who knows.

T

TELL: Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

Find out more at Childnet's website ...

www.kidsmart.org.uk

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 KidSMART

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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 the majority of you either agree or have had no experience of this matter. The one parent who feels their child is being treated unfairly please come and talk to us, so that we can help!

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
48%	50%	2%		

It is incredible to know that you receive valuable information from school about your child’s progress – 98% - WOW!

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 they are concerned about a child’s progress; not just at parent consultations. Due to the need to restrict access to the building, we have not held face to face consultations with parents – however, we have had termly telephone parent consultations and continued to provide a written report about your child’s progress every summer.

We have also done the following in school:

We have provided ‘Covid catch-up sessions’ for many children with Mrs Monkton – if your child has been involved in these session, then a text message has been sent to parents to notify them of the area of learning that she is concentrating on to close gaps.

We have also provided ‘School Led Tutoring’ for some pupils – the DFE intends to help close the education gap which widened as a result of COVID-19. They know that disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils faced more barriers during school disruptions including problems in accessing digital devices and difficulties in studying autonomously at home.

At the start of the academic year – we held virtual ‘Meet the Teacher’ sessions, this enabled parents to know the curriculum expectations of the forthcoming academic year. We also send out termly curriculum newsletters, this outlines the topics that children are going to cover over the forthcoming term.

Nursery and Reception have access to Tapestry to enable parents to see their child’s learning and parents regularly upload their child’s learning at home – this is wonderful to see!

Regularly in our newsletters, we show photos of children’s learning and add pupil voice to share learning experiences in school.

Our school website has details of curriculum content for each year group too.

We are happy that the vast majority of parents, who have taken part in the survey, know how your child is progressing and areas to support further. Thank you!

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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
32%	23%	41%	2%		2%

Again, a remarkable response from parents. We do our utmost to deal with any concerns immediately. The responses show that nearly everyone felt that their concerns have been addressed and resolved; we take all concerns very seriously and do our best to resolve any concerns you may have straight away. We can only conclude that those who indicated that they didn't know, haven't had cause to complain.

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
82%	4%	2%	6%		6%

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; this has been extremely difficult for many schools to access throughout the pandemic, this means that for some children we have been unable to access the assessments or support that were required – we have tried our best to support children's need's using our own staff. This has now improved somewhat – but as you may expect there is a backlog for support from outside agencies!

We also recognised that for some children their emotional development needed further professional support. We have sought outside agencies to support groups of children or individual children and their parents, to enable them to develop strategies to support their emotional wellbeing.

8) The school has high expectations for my child.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
39%	55%	2%	2%	2%

Another great response from parents. Our staff work relentlessly to have high expectations for all pupils to achieve the best that they can be. The staff have had to learn to adapt swiftly to new challenges and ways of working throughout the recent unprecedented times.

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! 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
46%	50%	2%		2%

Fantastic response, we work relentlessly on this area. Teaching and learning is at the core of all we do, it is impressive 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
31%	52%	13%	2%	2%

As mentioned above, 96% agree that we work together with you to ensure that you know how your child is progressing. Staff regularly talk to parents if your child is finding aspects of the curriculum challenging, so that they can share ideas on how to support your child further. Staff have also provided feedback remotely, when children have needed to isolate by responding to work that has been uploaded

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to Teams. This has enables parents to see what their child is doing well and how they could further progress. We hold termly parent consultations and provide a written report at the end of the year too. 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
36%	58%	2%		4%

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; it was also shared at the 'Meet The Teacher' virtual meeting in September – if you were unable to attend the PowerPoint slides were uploaded to the newsletter on the school website. . Over the past two years, due to Covid, some of the curriculum could not be delivered as we had intended as there were restrictions in place. However, since September all areas of the curriculum have now returned – this is fantastic to see – especially hearing the children singing!

It is wonderful to know that you agree that the school provides a wide range of subjects too!

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

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
29%	57%	6%		8%

Since September, we have provided many sports clubs after school – these have been offered to different year groups to include tennis, football and gym. We also held a Year 5/6 Music Club before Christmas and the children performed at the Church Service. We have taken part in competitions outside of school where possible e.g. sporting competitions/ Virtual Games –these will or have taken place. At the end of this month we are delighted to be taking Year 6 on their annual Residential visit. Reception and KS1 also visited the theatre before Christmas. We have seen the welcome return of school trips, whole class music lessons and outside visitors etc.

We are ecstatic that these wonderful experiences have resumed to enrich the children's experiences and opportunities. All of these activities enhance our school curriculum further and ensure children have a wide range of experiences both in and outside the classroom. The children have responded really well to all of the extra opportunities provided and their behaviour outside school has been exemplary – we were really proud to hear positive comments from external providers.

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

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
20%	62%	8%	6%	4%

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 classroom assemblies. Many staff members talk to the children about their activities outside of school – this is superb to see. We aim to equip each child for the next stage in their development, so that they can make the most of their opportunities and fulfil their potential in life.

If your child takes part in out of school activities and you would like this to be shared in the newsletter, please email info@blanford.dudley.sch.uk with the written content and we will gladly do so!

14) I would recommend this school to another parent?

Yes	No
96%	4%

We really appreciate this response – it makes us feel tremendously proud and honoured to know that all but two parents, would recommend us to others! Thank you!

We are very aware that the Coronavirus restrictions for schools have all been exceptionally 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 when they or a family member has needed to isolate. So many of you and the

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staff have become experts in learning remotely via TEAMS, so that children's education has had the least possible disruption. We really appreciate the support that parents have provided for their child whilst working at home. Fortunately, we have not had the need since September to close whole bubbles!

We have had some lovely comments from parents on their questionnaires. Some parents have thanked us in person, via this questionnaire, by email or the Teams learning platform, for all that the school have done to support children's learning in school and at home – staff really appreciate this – 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 remote learning opportunities and feedback to children who have needed to isolate.

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

- *to keep the school open*
- *to provide your child with an education through remote learning, if they were unable to attend school due to isolation*
- *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 keep children and staff in school safe, making the school 'Covid secure' following all health and safety guidance*
- *to communicate well with parents/carers*
- *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*
- *to provide risk assessments*
- *provide virtual class assemblies*
- *school trips*
- *end of term treats*
- *Christmas breakfast*
- *Santa visit*
- *Christmas parties*
- *Theatre trips*

It has been yet another extremely busy, unusual, but productive and challenging time for everyone. But thankfully, we have been able to continue to provide teaching and learning for your children, both those in school, and those who have worked remotely; this has continued to be exceptionally challenging and certainly not been an easy task. The children have been resilient and embraced the learning opportunities provided within school – well done to all of them!

There were 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. 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 a 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.