



Parent Questionnaire Feedback

November 2018 Survey

My child is happy at school	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
	63%	37%				100%

Some Parent Comments:

A happy school that always has a happy welcoming atmosphere. Well done Meir Heath for creating a loving friendly environment for our children
On the whole, the school is a very good school and our children enjoy it.

A friendly environment.

My child loves everything about school – thank you for helping settle her in so well.

Our response:

We are delighted that 100% of you are confident that your children are happy, and this fits with our school motto 'happy, hardworking and caring'. This overwhelming response doesn't surprise me though, as when I greet children on the playground of a morning or visit classrooms during learning time, they bubble with happiness and embrace school life with a smile.

My child feels safe at school	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
	69%	30%	1%			99%

Some Parent Comments:

The children seem to enjoy the school and our child is happy and safe when at school.

Our response:

Safeguarding our children is one of our highest priorities. We take the safety of our children extremely seriously. We have a range of policies and

procedures in place to ensure that our school is a safe school. We also have effective filtering systems for our internet and teach our children how to stay safe online. We work closely with our local police and have visits and workshops, particularly for our older children of the school, to teach them how to stay safe. Our curriculum is also designed to teach the children how to stay safe in areas such as road safety, firework safety, bikeability, basic hygiene and how to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

My child makes good progress at this school	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
	64%	36%				100%

Some Parent Comments:

All the teachers are great, ensuring good progress is made in classes.

Our response:

Each child's progress is tracked and monitored closely by their class teacher on a day to day basis, as well as by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) on a half termly basis. SLT meet with teachers on a half termly basis to discuss pupil progress. Where appropriate, children with specific needs are identified early and intervention and support is provided to ensure that every child stays on track to meet their end of year target. Some children are identified and targeted to make accelerated progress and this is also monitored closely by SLT.

My child is well looked after at this school	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
	69%	31%				100%

Some Parent Comments:

The teachers create a caring and family atmosphere.

Our response:

I think that the overwhelming 100% speaks for itself. I am proud to say that all of our teachers and staff care greatly about all of the children in their care, and view their job not as a daily paid task but as a vocation.

I am happy with the homework set for my child	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
	44%	47%	5%	3%	1%	91%

Some Parent Comments:

I feel that the quantity of homework on a weekly basis is fine. It is the half term projects that you set that I feel is not allowing the time to enjoy their free/ rest time.

In general, homework levels are fine. I do, however, disagree with homework set over the holidays. This should be for fun and family time. I feel that a little more homework would be beneficial – if the children are advanced then push them, but equally if children struggle then this will give them more support.

Would like more homework – spellings and maths.
 Homework could be made a little more challenging.
 I don't agree with homework as I think the children are in school long enough.
 Perhaps more ability based homework so those who need it can be challenged .

Our response:

As you can see from the very mixed responses and comments – we will never be able to please everyone. Homework is statutory, which means that this has to be set, and the purpose of homework is consolidation of work covered in class. We have a whole school approach to setting homework, and this is audited by SLT to ensure that we have a consistent approach. Homework is set on the same day across school so that it is easier to manage for parents, and we ensure that this can be completed at the weekend, or during the week to suit all family routines. The type of homework set is to provide opportunities for children to practise age related key skills – this way, we hope that the vast majority of children can complete this more independently. The key skill that we promote at home is reading, as this is the root of academic success. If a child struggles to read, then they struggle to access the rest of the curriculum. Research shows, the more you read, the better your vocabulary and the more complex and higher quality writing you produce – if you read lots, then this can only aid progress in other areas of the curriculum.

From the majority of comments, we feel that we have the weekly homework balance just right, although we will take on board the comments related to holiday projects. I would, however, like to continue to link a home project to our annual World Book Day Exhibition – this will remain an optional holiday homework, but hopefully one that you can enjoy together – we have always had good feedback from parents for this one and many comment on how much they enjoy completing the project together.

The school makes sure that pupils are well behaved	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
	49%	43%	1%		7%	92%

Some Parent Comments:

There was no direct comment linked to pupil behaviour.

Our response to the data:

Behaviour at Meir Heath is exceptional and all who tour the school comment on how well-mannered and polite children are, and how focussed they are on their learning. Whenever I visit lessons, children's behaviour is exemplary. I am a very proud Principal, and your children are a credit to you!

The school deals with bullying effectively	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement

	26%	35%	3%		36% **		97% **
<p>Some Parent Comments: **We haven't had to deal with bullying, hence the 'don't know' mark. **I have no experience of how the school deals with bullying and so feel it would be unfair to comment – I would assume that it is dealt with effectively and not tolerated</p>							
<p>Our response: Bullying is not tolerated at Meir Heath, and is taken exceptionally seriously. School Council are asked this on a regular basis and they say that there is no bullying at Meir Heath – what they do say, is that children do fall out and can be mean to each other, but that they know who to go to and that they are happy that staff support them and deal with any issues that arise. **parents who answered 'don't know' said that this was because they haven't experienced any bullying and therefore we have included their % in the 'Total % in Agreement' – (see above) as they are not in disagreement with the statement</p>							

The school is well led and managed	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
	55%	43%	1%		1%	98%
<p>Some Parent Comments: School values are strong and well communicated to pupils</p>						
<p>Our response: Our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) is committed to self-reflection and school improvement. We strive to fulfil the school values of 'happy, hardworking and caring'. We care greatly about all of our children and will continue to endeavour to provide a high quality education in a loving and caring environment, so that all children are valued and nurtured and are guided to become good citizens of the future. Every school decision is made with the child at the centre. Our termly Multi Academy Trust School Effectiveness visits carried out by Mr Brislen our Chief Executive Officer (CEO) echo your views. We are a successful school, with results that sit high above the national average – more importantly, though, we are a happy school that provides an exciting curriculum with lots of opportunities for enrichment.</p>						

The school is a welcoming and pleasant place to visit	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
	75%	25%				100%
<p>Some Parent Comments: Staff and teachers seem very approachable A strength of the school is the Meir Heath Family and approachable staff</p>						

The atmosphere and the feeling you get as you walk around the school is fantastic
 A very welcoming school.
 A strong sense of community and involvement with faculty and parents

Our response:
 We are delighted that you feel welcomed and the overwhelming 100% proves that we are successful in creating a happy Meir Heath Family.

The school response to any concerns that I raise	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
	44%	47%		1%	8%	91% **99%

Some Parent Comments:
 There were no comments directly linked to this section of the questionnaire

Our response to the data:
 **We believe that the 8% of parents answered 'don't know' as they have not had any concerns that have needed to be dealt with. I am keen to promote an open door policy, so that we can work together to solve any concerns that may arise. As with any family, there will from time to time be issues that crop up, but I would always urge for you to come into school and make us aware so that we can work through these together.

I receive valuable information from school about my child's progress	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
	45%	40%	15%			85%

Some Parent Comments:
 Only receive valuable information on progress at parents evenings, otherwise don't hear anything
 I feel more communication about your child's progress would be appreciated
 More regular feedback would be nice, especially as the children progress. Allows parents to decide whether they would like to offer interim support

Our response:
 As a school we formally communicate your child's progress via our two parent progress meetings and then in the final term by the way of a written report to summarise progress for the academic year. On these three occasions we communicate your child's attainment levels, attitudes to learning and their next step targets. For children with specific needs, we meet with parents on a more frequent basis. Throughout the rest of the academic year, if we have any concerns about a child's progress, then we would request to speak to you and share these concerns with you and, therefore, you would be aware if your child needed extra support in their learning. So, no news is good news. Likewise, if you have any concerns linked to your child's progress, we would always encourage you to share these with us.
 In light of your responses, will certainly review when we hold the parents' meetings for next year as some of you said that the first meeting was too early.

We would like to introduce an 'Introduction to the Curriculum Meeting' early on which will be linked to your 'Welcome to Year Group Meeting' and that way you can touch base with your teacher early on, and then attend the first progress meeting in the autumn term 2.

We could consider reporting on a termly basis. However, this would add to teacher workload and therefore take time away from planning enrichment and exciting learning opportunities. If you have any specific ideas on how we can improve this area of school life please call in, as I would be more than happy to listen and discuss suggestions in more detail with you.

There are a good range of extra-curricular activities for my child to enjoy	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
	20%	54%	21%	1%	4%	74%

Some Parent Comments:

My child loves to participate in after school clubs: athletics, rugby etc and this would be great if this was more regular

The extra-curricular at the school is excellent and is the best that I know of from a school

This term I have seen more clubs, but most of the time I've been a parent at the school there has not been much choice. I hope that this continues.

Would like more activities after school

Improve the range of extra-curricular activities and who they are available to

Often feel extra-curricular is very sports based.

Extra-curricular is very limited for KS1

It would be nice to see more clubs for the infants i.e. art/ creativity, drama and computers

Sports opportunities are wonderful, but feel that there is a lack of other opportunities across year groups

Our response:

At Meir Heath we are extremely fortunate to have the wonderful Mr Wilkinson who provides us with a multitude of clubs at no extra charge; not many schools have this facility and actually lots of schools source coaches in and charge this to parents. I am extremely grateful to Mr Wilkinson who plans the year carefully so to maximise opportunities around the dark nights, competitions entered and the stage being out in the hall and in use at certain points in the year; he gives up his own time freely to provide Meir Heath with an excellent after school timetable for sport. I think that it is important to note that due to the nature of Mr Wilkinson's teaching commitment, he does not have the same workload pressure that a classroom based teacher will have and therefore he can channel his time after school back to your children in order to enhance the provision of his subject area.

As noted in the parent comments, this half term we have tried to source a wider variety of clubs, other than sport and for KS1, and will continue to do so as our aim *is* to enhance this provision – if you know of any external facilitators who would be interested in running an after school club (not necessarily sport), then please let me know, subject to relevant DBS checks.

The school has a good reputation within the local community	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
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	46%	44%	1%		9%	90%
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Some Parent Comments:
 Lots of activities to get families involved
 There are too many events in the summer term. Can these be spread out to alleviate pressure?

Our response:
 We are delighted with this response and Meir Heath continues to be a popular choice for newcomers; we have had an increase of 21 children across the school (not counting the reception children) within this academic year – mostly from nearby schools and two families moving into the area.
 We are included in the local community newsletter, as I write a piece to inform the wider community of our success and of course we have had a great success this year with our Tweets – now having 293 followers.

The school offers a broad and balanced curriculum	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
	45%	50%	1%		4%	95%

Some Parent Comments:
 My child often talks about lessons he has had, specifically English – his detail in retelling and his enthusiasm are wonderful and a clear sign to me that he has enjoyed his learning and that it is engaging and effective.
 The school provide excellent opportunities through trips and activities to make the learning 'sticky' and offer new experiences for the children – thank you
 My child is always happy to come to school and I know that this is down to the hard work and commitment of the staff to provide a varied curriculum
 There are a lot of dress up days, which is great for the children but when you have two children it can be quite costly
 The school offers a good, varied curriculum for students
 Excellent residential trip to Condover Hall in Y6– my child loved it!
 Sporting levels are high.

Our response:
 We are extremely proud of our broad and balanced curriculum. We are always reflecting and looking for new ideas, so that we excite the children and make sure that what they are learning is current and relevant in today's world, as well as covering the statutory national curriculum, of course. This academic year we have appointed a new curriculum leader who will be seeking ways to improve our whole school curriculum even further.

The school communicates effectively with parents	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
	47%	47%	5%	1%		94%

Some Parent Comments:

The school is very good at letting us know what is going on via texts and newsletters
 Explore easier ways to pass messages on via pigeon holes and keeping us up to date as to how and why our children have earned dojos so that we can congratulate them
 Sometimes there is a lack of communication, but the new app is a lot better
 Consider the amount of dress up days perhaps, as they can become hard to manage as a working parent
 School provides useful information about the curriculum

Our response:

We are delighted with this response, as we have tried hard to work in line with the agreed school communication strategy. We feel that giving you the calendar of dates at the beginning of the year provides you with advanced notice so that you can manage events around your work commitments. We endeavour to send text reminders to help out. We try our best to have a number of adults on the playground in the morning and Mr Wilkinson on the hall door armed with a clipboard so that you can pass any messages on – or request a call back, whichever is more appropriate. We have also introduced an age appropriate, whole school approach to informing you of milestone dojo points to keep you up to date with their achievements i.e. text home or dojo slip.

We have also taken on board the comments about the amount of dress up days. I have discussed this now with a number of parents, so that I can ‘feel’ the balance needed – the children love it; there’s no doubt about it. However, I recognise that this needs to be manageable and not costly for parents. Therefore, we will aim to give you plenty of notice and keep ideas simple. For example, we will make masks in school for the ‘Wind in the Willows’ trip and then the children can wear ‘earth’ coloured clothes/or whatever they have in their wardrobe and we will keep the World Book Day as an open dress up rather than narrowing the choice by adding a theme. I hope that this will be a help moving forward.

Would you recommend Meir Heath Academy to another parent?	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total % in agreement
	66%	33%			1%	99%

Some Parent Comments:

I have always thought the school is fantastic and I would highly recommend Meir Heath to anyone.
 The school has a ‘happy’ feeling about it that you can’t even explain. Wouldn’t have my kids go anywhere else.
 Very caring school, positive atmosphere and good results! Well done Staff! It’s not easy. 😊
 The school is very good at nurture, care and progress.
 Very happy with all areas of the school, and we have just applied for our younger child to start Meir Heath in September. 😊
 I love this school and everyone that works in it and I think that you all do a fantastic job!

Our response:

This is an overwhelming response – and I agree, we are a wonderful Meir Heath family and I am proud to say that I am your Principal! Lucky me!!