

Elmhurst School

Making a Positive Difference to the Quality of Learning
Headteacher ♦ Mrs Rachel Lee



20 June 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Feedback to parents/carers following analysis of parental questionnaire returns.

Feedback from the April/May 2018 parental questionnaire shows another high rate of positive responses from parents with 99% of parents saying they are happy with their child's experiences at Elmhurst. 99% of parents said their child was taught well and their child feels safe at Elmhurst.

We thank those parents who found time to respond to the parental questionnaire, which we asked you to complete recently. Responses were received from a high number of parents, representing six out of every ten children at the school. We value greatly the feedback we receive from parents and use this to tackle any areas of concern which you may raise, as well as to build on those areas of school life that you tell us are strong. A number of parents also made additional written comments about the work of the school, with the great majority of these praising the commitment of school staff and saying how much their children enjoy coming to school. Governors have looked very carefully at the feedback from parents/carers and plan to share parental views with school staff.

The responses to all of the questions were positive.

At least 97% of parents were in strong agreement or agreement with **all of the statements shown below:**

- My child feels safe at this school - over 99%.
- My child is making enough progress at this school.
- The school meets my child's particular needs.
- The school ensures my child is well looked after - over 99%.
- My child is well taught at this school - 99%.
- The school helps my child to develop skills in communication, reading, writing and mathematics.
- The school helps me to support my child's learning.
- The school responds well to my concerns.
- The school keeps me well informed.

In addition, 97% of parents who responded said that they would recommend Elmhurst School to another parent. This is very reassuring feedback and strongly endorses what the school is doing to care for, support, nurture and teach your children.

These responses also show that parental satisfaction with Elmhurst School remains at a high level.

.../2

✉ Dunsham Lane ♦ Aylesbury ♦ Buckinghamshire ♦ HP20 2DB

☎ 01296 481380

💻 office@elmhurst.bucks.sch.uk

🌐 www.elmhurst.bucks.sch.uk

As governors we also compared the responses from parents to this recent questionnaire to the responses to identical questions sent out to you in March 2016 and in March 2017. This allows us to look at whether parents' views about the school are changing over time.

I am pleased to report that the analysis shows that your responses to this most recent questionnaire (April 2018) were similar in most respects to the very positive responses from the March 2017 questionnaire.

However, there were some areas where the level of positive responses were slightly lower than in 2017 and these have been discussed by the governors at the school.

An issue raised by a small number of parents related to school communications. In response to this a number of actions have been taken. The school introduced a weekly newsletter (The Elmhurst Herald) at the start of May giving parents whole school information. This is e-mailed to you every Friday. We hope that you like the new format. In addition to this, the school has set up a "Twitter" account - @Elmhurst_School - with daily updates on school activities. We also switched to electronic communication with parents from the start of this term. We thank you for your co-operation in providing e-mail addresses. We hope that these developments will give you the information you need in a timely fashion.

A small number of parents also raised some concerns about bad behaviour in some lessons. We have discussed this issue with senior school leaders and are reassured that behaviour management remains a strength of the school. This is reinforced from the outcomes of a recent independent audit of teaching and learning at the school conducted in March by a large external education trust. Teaching experts visited all classes at the school and reported that pupil behaviour in lessons and around the school was good. In addition, our senior leaders undertake regular focused "learning walks" to monitor teaching and learning, including pupils' behaviour in lessons. Feedback from the "learning walks" is positive. Governors meet a group of children from across the school each year to discuss their views on behaviour and how they and the school deal with any behaviour concerns and how positive behaviour is rewarded. It should be noted that Elmhurst is an inclusive school and we do have a small number of pupils who, at times, exhibit challenging behaviour. Our staff are trained to respond appropriately should any poor behaviour occur to allow learning to continue in lessons, and any incidents of poor behaviour are followed up rigorously. Please encourage your child to report poor behaviour if it arises.

The continuing confidence and strong parental satisfaction with the work of the school are due to a number of reasons, but most important are the leadership shown by Mrs Lee and her senior team, as well as the commitment of all teachers and all support staff.

Finally, thank you again for the high return rate to the recent parental questionnaire. Your feedback is crucial in informing what we do as a school and helping us improve.

The full analysis of the recent questionnaire can be found on the school website at www.elmhurst.bucks.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely



Dr David Gamble
Chair of Governors