



# Rivington Foundation Primary School

## Parent Questionnaire Results

Dear Parents /Carers,

Thank you for your time in responding to the parent questionnaire **earlier this year**. In all we are extremely pleased at the very positive replies which we received. It was great to have a benchmark from which to build school improvement and your thoughts have been fundamental to this and have been built into the school improvement plan for the next three years moving forward. I want to make this school the best possible for all our children - some things can happen quickly; some, which can be frustrating, take a little longer. Fundamentally, your input is vital in order that we can see how to improve things.

Below are the **results from October** followed by an update of what we have done so far. **Please remember that being a small school means that a response from 1 person is worth 5%**. Thank you for your time.

	Strongly Agree / Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know	Positive responses	Negative responses
My child enjoys coming to school	95%	5%			95%	0%
My child feels safe at school	100%				100%	0%
My child is taught well at school	100%				100%	
My child is making good progress	95%			5%	95%	0%
My child is encouraged to work hard and do their best	95%			5%	95%	
My child receives an appropriate amount of homework for his/her age	90%	5%	5%		90%	10%
The school communicates with me effectively about my child's progress	90%	15%			85%	15%
The school communicates with me effectively about how to support my child's learning	75%	20%		5%	75%	20%
The school seeks my views and listens to my concerns	95%	15%			85%	15%
There is a good standard of behaviour at Rivington.	100%				100%	0%
The school deals with any incidents of bullying effectively	70%		5%	25%	70%	5%
The school is welcoming and there are opportunities to get involved	95%	5%			95%	5%
I think the school is well led and managed	85%		5%	10%	85%	5%
My child is encouraged to lead a healthy lifestyle	95%	10%		5%	85%	10%
My child is encouraged to positively contribute to the wider community including fund raising	80%			20%	80%	0%
I would recommend Rivington to another family	90%	5%		5%	90%	5%

Responses to the questions were overwhelmingly positive with many 90%+ endorsements of which we are extremely proud.

This is due to the continued commitment of governors and staff to ensure that Rivington provides an excellent nurturing environment which believes in: developing the whole child; the excellent support we receive from our families and the hard work of all our pupils.

### Parental Comments:

Many additional narrative comments also expressed very positive views. These include:

- Strong values of kindness;
- Amazing outdoor learning facilities;
- The teachers are all so welcoming – my child has grown in confidence;
- A school where there is a real feel of community spirit; where all the children know each other;
- Beautiful surrounding; excellent staff;
- My children have thrived here due to the positive attitudes taught not only by the teachers but by the older children;
- All the children are taught to look out for each other and are very tolerant and nurturing of the younger children;
- Great school and it's getting better;
- Children are challenged and encouraged to do their best;
- All staff go above and beyond for the pupils;
- My son loves coming to school;
- A caring and community spirit based ethos – excellent standards both in education and nurture;
- Friendly, welcoming – puts my child at ease as first year starting school.

Why we feel proud and an update on school improvement:

### **Main Priorities for School Improvement 2017-18:**

- 1. To continue to improve the quality of teaching across the school.**
- 2. For Pupils to make consistently good progress across all year groups from their different starting points.**
- 3. Improving Leadership and management at all levels.**
- 4. To improve the personal development, behaviour and welfare of all pupils.**
- 5. Improving curriculum provision for all year groups.**
- 6. To expand the capacity of Nursery provision, establish a 30hr offer and update staffing/systems to incorporate and cater for the new 3-4 year olds in school.**
- 7. For advantages of school site to be fully utilized, making the very best of our school grounds and our surrounding community.**

We are very lucky to have highly skilled and dedicated teachers but even so we are constantly working on ways to improve our teacher's skills. In school, new monitoring systems have been produced which involve all staff in the assessment of our School and of their own provision. Relationships with our cluster of schools mean that we can share and moderate best practice. We are continuing to develop a relevant and interesting curriculum which supports progress and develops independence, resilience and perseverance in all of our children. External advisors have carried out monitoring exercises to validate the assessment of our teaching.

The staff have worked collaboratively benefitting from each other's skills and expertise, planning and moderating work, moving standards even higher across our school. Teachers are observed every term, their books are monitored and we hold regular training meetings to ensure good standards for teaching across the school. The staff are currently planning for next year and working together as coordinators sharing ideas and resources for the future alongside our governors.

Pupil progress meetings mean that we are constantly monitoring the progress of children and actioning intervention when needed. **This year we were came 11<sup>th</sup> in the top 50 schools in Lancashire (around 250-300 in total) and were in the top 1% for attainment in writing and mathematics nationwide. We were also 244<sup>th</sup> in the country out of more than 12,000 schools.**

New leadership is working hard to drive school forward and make even better progress. Training has been accessed for all teaching staff to support school development – all of our teaching staff are leaders and work hard to drive school forward.

Generally the behaviour is excellent in school. We have reviewed our behaviour policy to look for further improvements. As a result of work on our school values and linking these into the reward and sanction system we have seen children developing an even stronger and more determined attitude towards their work whilst demonstrating the attributes which will make them outstanding citizens in the world as they venture forward. At Rivington, incidents of poor behaviour are extremely rare. These positive behaviours are shown in lessons and around the school but are also reflected in the less structured times for example in the lunch hall and playground.

This year, we refined and unified our behaviour systems to celebrate those children who 'do the right thing' each and every day. Systems are in place to not only give sanctions to low level disruptive behaviours but to celebrate our

behaviours for learning and the values that we as a school hold dear. We want to recognise the hard work, determination and kindness of our children.

We take all incidents of bullying very seriously and on the rare occasions it occurs will follow it up rigorously. If you have any concerns about incidents of bullying in school please do not hesitate to contact me personally. I have always found the quickest and most effective resolution to these issues is through good communication between home and school.

Through enriching our curriculum, we aim to achieve the best attainment for our children, provide them with the skills to be life-long learners and to create lasting memories. These are memories that they will take with them when they leave for Secondary School and beyond. Events such as our 'Out and About' week, where the children spend the entire week learning outdoors, ensure children not only make progress, but do so in a way in which they are happy, independent, and resilient - in ways that they are encouraged to face challenge and persevere.

Encouraging and promoting healthy lifestyles is as crucial to us as developing the academic well-being of our children. We have implemented a new PHSE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education) scheme of work alongside the many external agencies that come to work with the children in school e.g. the NSPCC, Magistrates programme and Money Matters curriculum. At the moment we are developing a 2 year rolling-programme centred around British Values, our school values and our Rivington Remarkables.

Physical Education is central to driving improvements with health. Alongside our existing providers, we have introduced new sports specialists into school and have made a commitment to new competitions through Chorley Sports Partnership. We are also looking to improve and reduce costs around swimming.

Breakfast Club and After-School Club have now come under school control and this has allowed us to make improvements with the menus so that they are in-line with Healthy Schools guidance.

Concerning School dinners, we recognise that there have been a number of issues with portions sizes and occasionally with the quality of food provided. I would like to reassure you that the school takes your concerns about this seriously. As I write this we are not in position to comment further but we hope to be able to provide you with more information soon on how we hope to resolve these issues. In the meantime, I am happy to talk to you individually if you have any concerns.

We want our children to make a positive contribution to the world whilst they are at school and we want to further strengthen their values in order that they become valued citizens of our world. We celebrate Anti Bullying Week, Children In Need, Macmillan Coffee Morning, The Children's Society Christingle, NSPCC, fire safety, the magistrates programme – just to name a few!

Training and inset days have been organised for staff and governors including child protection training, strategic planning, safeguarding, Ofsted and first aid. Staff are first aid trained and able to provide advice should the need arise. Parent mail and text messages are available to all of our parents across the school and newsletters are sent out and uploaded onto our school website updating everybody about school life and events.

#### **Suggested areas for development from the questionnaires (more than 3 comments):**

- Listening to the views and concerns of parents.
- Homework.
- The school communicates with me effectively about my child's progress and support learning

#### **Schools actions in response to parental feedback:**

- Listening to the views and concerns of parents.

At Rivington Foundation Primary School we strongly believe in listening to all our stakeholders. Parents are a crucial part of a child's education and the wider success of our school. There are a number of ways to let us know your thoughts:

1. There is a member of staff on the door every morning. This is a good opportunity to mention to staff anything that may need passing onto a class teacher or to arrange a meeting. Sometimes you may wish to discuss an issue in more depth and if a teacher is available this may be possible immediately. We will always endeavour to

Speak over the phone or return a call as soon as we can. Alternatively, you can speak to Miss Redmayne in the school office who will be more than happy to arrange a convenient time for you to come in.

2. Every Tuesday morning at 10:00am Mr Sands (Chair of Governors) will be in school to meet with myself. If any parents/ carers have anything they wish to discuss please let us know in advance and we will make sure we are available.
3. Every term the Parent Council meet to discuss issues or concerns about school which they then present to myself and the Governors to address. All are welcome at these meetings – carried out in the wonderful surroundings of the Lower Barn. **The next meeting is on the 13<sup>th</sup> April at 10am.**
4. We will carry out annual surveys to gauge parental opinion on the broader aspects of our school and assimilate these views into our school development plan. This will be done again in the Summer term.
5. Next term will see the start of the Headteacher's open office – an opportunity to come and talk to myself about any issues or concerns you may have about school. The dates for these are:
  - **Nursery/Reception Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May;**
  - **Y1/2 Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April;**
  - **Y3/4 Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May;**
  - **Y5/6 Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May.**
6. At the end of the year the moving year group parents will be given an opportunity to meet with the Headteacher to discuss overall feelings towards the year and to plan improvements for the year ahead. The dates for these are:
  - **Y6 22<sup>nd</sup> June;**
  - **Y4 29<sup>th</sup> June;**
  - **Y2 6<sup>th</sup> July;**
  - **Reception 13<sup>th</sup> July.**

#### **More details to follow.**

- The school sets an appropriate amount of homework.

Inevitably, homework will continue to divide opinion amongst parents with some parents feeling there is too much and some parents feeling there is not enough. At Rivington we try to strike a happy medium. We aim to provide activities which will be engaging, relevant and last for the 'right' amount of time. In school, we have introduced 'Maths of the Day' which marries Maths with outside, active learning – this is something we want to expand into the home particularly in the Summer months as we know how valuable family time is. We are also looking to purchase a computer based Maths and spelling system which children can log onto at home – making homework challenging, engaging and fun. We will continue to review our policy on an annual basis to see whether we can make any further positive changes.

This will be a topic for discussion at the next Parent's Council on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 10am. The minutes from these meetings will be shared with school and home so that we can gain a good understanding of what we can do to improve home learning.

I can only reiterate that homework should not be taking up large amounts of a child's evening. If this is the case, then the parent needs to indicate how much time the child has spent on the task and that they found completing it difficult. Our children leave Rivington very well prepared, organised and attuned to the fact that they need to work and study hard to achieve what they want for themselves in life. Sometimes this means trying hard on a homework task which they find difficult, but we are trying to encourage independence and resilience. Developing good learning habits, such as giving a tricky task your best attempt, will be key to continuing to make rapid progress at secondary school.

- The school communicates with me effectively about my child's progress and support learning.

We are pleased with the levels of progress across the school. We see all our children as individuals and have systems in place to find out where they are, what their gaps are and we then use this to plan their next steps in learning. The teachers work really hard at meeting individual needs for children at all levels of abilities, leading to good levels of progress for all – as demonstrated by our KS2 results. The determination to secure even better rates of progress for all

of our children is central to all of our efforts at Rivington. Even if we are doing great there is always room for further improvement – and it is this never settling, the constant drive to improve that will continue to serve our children well.

At the present time, Parents are invited to three parent's evenings to discuss progress each academic year and strengths and areas for development. Class teachers may also request a meeting if they were concerned with a child's progress and suggest how support will and can be given. Additional parental sessions are organised during the academic year e.g. key stage one phonic information, reading and maths calculations.

We are, at the present time, reviewing the school planners for their use and effectiveness as a means of communicating progress and targets throughout the year.

Alongside this we are developing a more unified means of communicating targets for the children at the start of each term so that parents feel they have a more on-going understanding of where their child is and where they need to go next. New national systems around assessment have presented schools with challenges as to how updates should be presented.

At Rivington we have an open door approach and would like to take this opportunity to remind parents who are worried about their child's progress to make an appointment to meet the class teacher and discuss their concerns.

We are, at the present time, developing a new website and Twitter presence so that you can celebrate your children's learning more frequently.

It was pleasing that some parents wanted to offer to help in school. The PTA are always keen for parents to help with their events or join the committee. If you feel you can support the PTA in any way, then please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office. To help with other school activities, we have to obtain DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) clearance. If you would like to offer your time then, again, let us know and we will complete the necessary arrangements.

I hope that I have responded to most of the comments you have made about school - they were very interesting and most importantly extremely useful to read. I will continue to address the issues mentioned over the coming months. If you ever have something you feel strongly about, let me know and we can see what we can do as a school to improve this for you. We also love to hear your positive comments so come and find me and tell me these too.

Thank you again for your time, it really is a very worthwhile exercise and it really does influence decision making in the school.

Best wishes

*Sarah Annette*