

Barkway First School Parent Questionnaire



Areas of Success/Improvement arising from this year's survey

- **My child enjoys coming to school**

I am delighted that every survey return indicated that your child enjoyed coming to school. We aim to make Barkway an exciting and stimulating place to learn in line with our vision and values. Our new strap line reads, 'A small school that does big things!' We want all our children to flourish and develop as confident and independent learners.

- **My child is safe at school**

Safeguarding and keeping children safe is our first priority at Barkway. I am glad to see that this is reflected in the survey. At Barkway, I believe we have a positive ethos and culture that is seen in our everyday practice.

- **My child is taught well at school**

I am delighted that everyone responding in the survey recognises the great role that our teachers are playing in providing your children with high quality education. This was echoed in many of the positive comments. As stated in our school vision, "We are a school in which every child understands his or her individual goals and feels encouraged and supported in reaching and exceeding them."

- **My child is making good progress at school**

I am glad that everyone responded positively to this question. Progress is at the heart of our work, moving children on in their learning and providing the right amount of challenge and support so that all can flourish whatever their ability.

- **My child is encouraged to work hard and do their best**

Survey responses were all positive. One of the school's development points on the School Improvement Plan is to "Further ensure that expectations are consistently high so that pupils make the best possible progress." Staff have high expectations of

all the children. This year we have implemented a new presentation policy and marking and feedback policy which provide clear guidelines for staff.

- **My child receives an appropriate amount of homework for his/her age**

There was no neutral or negative feedback for this question. We feel strongly that additional time at home to practise and consolidate what is being taught in the classroom enhances a child's education and instils good learning habits for life. Homework also engages and informs parents about children's current learning. Clearly homework should not become an onerous task and we would ask that you let us know if that is the case. Homework needs to be carefully targeted and not handed out without a clear purpose in mind.

- **My child enjoys a stimulating range of extra-curricular activities**

All responses were positive. After school clubs and wrap-around care have been introduced this year at Barkway and Barley. We endeavour to keep the costs down for parents and believe that the sports and art clubs offered are good value for money and hugely enjoyed by all participants. If there are other areas in which you think a club would be well received then please let us know and we can investigate.

- **The school communicates with me effectively with me about my child's progress**

Your comments and judgements about this question were very positive. Our parent information evenings and the yearly reports are designed to give you as great an insight as possible into your child's learning. It goes without saying that if ever you have any concerns about your child's education then please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher in the first instance.

- **The school communicates with me effectively about events and activities**

We are pleased that you feel you are adequately informed about what is going on. Our new Friday Folder system seems to be working well. We wanted you to receive all the letters of the week on one day rather than a scattering of materials throughout the week. We aim to update the website on an almost daily basis and chalk messages onto our blackboard but do tell us if there is something we can improve on here.

- **The school seeks my views and listens to my concerns**

All responses were positive. I was very pleased to read the encouraging comments around this theme. In the next academic year, I intend forming a steering group and actively involve parents in aspects of the two schools' federation journey.

- **There is a good standard of behaviour at Barkway**

I am pleased that the high standards of behaviour we endeavour to instil are apparent in the way our children conduct themselves around the school. We aim to reinforce these continuously.

- **The school deals with any incidents of bullying effectively**

There were no negative comments about this question. We do not accept any bullying of any kind in this school and encourage the children to report immediately any circumstance that they feel is unfair or unkind and such incidents will be investigated straightaway and appropriate action taken. Through PSHE and the Christian values we share in our assemblies, the work we do in National Anti-Bullying week and regular discussion in our Pupil Council, the children are encouraged to be friendly in their interactions with others.

- **The school is welcoming and there are opportunities to get involved**

Responses were very favourable on this question. We recognise that attending our school is a choice for you as a parent and we want to make our school as welcoming and inviting as we can so that everyone feels part of our school community and not left on the outside. We are delighted that so many of you give up your time to come in and help in classrooms or help with projects inside and outside the school. We are always very grateful.

- **I think the school is well led and managed**

I felt very humbled by some of the very positive comments written on the questionnaires and I thank you for these. I believe that we have in this school a strong team of teachers and teaching assistants who care very much about the educational outcomes of their young charges.

- **My child is encouraged to lead a healthy lifestyle**

Everyone was in agreement over this point. At Barkway we endeavour to publicise the importance of a healthy lifestyle and the development of good habits at a young age. We have an excellent PE regime across all key stages and a school kitchen that offers healthy food. We are in the process of putting together a leaflet promoting healthy lunchboxes which we hope will inspire you when you have little time or energy to spare!

- **My child gets on well with children from other backgrounds**

There were no negative comments about this question. At Barkway and Barley schools we have formed a very successful link with a large London primary school where there is huge cultural and ethnic diversity amongst pupils. We want to teach our children to value diversity and tolerance and this link makes this possible. Our partner school enjoy visiting us to see how different things are in a small rural village school so this is very much a reciprocal arrangement.

- **My child is encouraged to positively contribute to the wider community**

In this area all comments were positive. We share with the children our belief that it is important to take part in local community events. We gathered Church, Community and School together in our Pancake Bonanza event in February. We continue to support the Water Aid project, an idea that came from a former pupil.

- **I would recommend Barkway School to another family**

Thank you for your very positive support here.

Parental Comments

We received lots of written feedback, both positive and constructive. Thank you so much for this. Overall there was consensus about the school's strengths, with particular mentions for the school's sense of community, its caring, enthusiastic and motivated staff and the warm and welcoming atmosphere. I will be sharing the outcomes of this questionnaire with the staff and governors and this in turn will be addressed within next year's school improvement plan.

We are also extremely grateful for the positive feedback which we receive during the year in either person or via email. We received a 60% return on the questionnaire forms. If you didn't complete one this year, I hope you will consider doing so next year. It is incredibly informative to know what you are thinking about the school and helps us with our direction.

If you have any further comments or suggestions to make, then do contact me or one of our parent governors.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Brown

Acting Headteacher, Barkway School

Deputy of the Collaboration

May 9th 2017