

Feedback following the Parent Survey 2019-2020

As a Governing Body, we would like to thank all the parents who took the time to complete a survey this term. This year we had 151 surveys completed and returned to school. Every survey completed has been read and analysed by our senior management team, who then created the following report, outlining the main findings and actions. On Friday 6th December 2019, all teachers discussed findings from the surveys, including comments made by parents, and then came up with actions to be addressed over the year. We really do read every single word that you write in this annual survey and where possible take whatever necessary actions are needed to make our school even better.

1. How happy are you that we are a welcoming and supportive team?

151 people responded (100% graded as good or better)

'We always feel supported by the team at Newdale and think everyone is very friendly and approachable'
'He has been in the school and nursery for 5 years and we have always found the school staff very helpful and keen to listen'
'All the staff are excellent at this school, from Breakfast Club to ASC.'
'It is handy to have a member of staff on the gate in the morning.'

ACTION:

We were very pleased to read so many positive comments about the Newdale team. We will continue to have staff on duty at the beginning and end of each day.

2. How happy are you that your child is safe at school?

151 people responded (99% graded as good or better)

'We like the gates being locked and only being opened just before pick up. It feels safe and secure.'
'I never worry or feel concerned for his welfare when he is at school or on trips.'
'100% know he is very safe at Newdale.'
'Children know about safeguarding and are able to manage their own safety.'
'Children are taught about online safety.'

ACTION:

The safety of your children is of great importance for us all at Newdale and it is great to know that you recognise the procedures we have in place to ensure everyone is safe. We will continue to follow our safety policies and keep them in line with any updates we receive from the Local Authority.

3. How happy is your child to come to school each day? e.g are they excited, motivated and challenged by their teacher?

151 people responded (92% graded as good or better)

'She is excited to come to school; she wants to do well for herself and her teacher. Her teacher does ensure she is challenged, but at the appropriate level.'
'She cannot wait to come to school each morning and is aiming for 100% attendance.'
'Both boys love school. This is a pure indication that their teachers are fab and the school day is exciting.'
'My child has always struggled with separation when dropping him off at school. His teachers are always patient with him and very encouraging.'

ACTION:

Teachers will continue to plan exciting and interesting lessons to make school engaging and enjoyable for everyone. Please can we ask that parents support us by talking positively about school, to encourage all pupils to be as excited as we are about the learning that is going on every day.

4. Is your child happy with the PE sessions they receive in school?

151 people responded (93% graded as good or better)

'She loves to receive star player!'
'My child loves PE and has built a great relationship with Mr Irvine and Mr Foggin who I believe deliver great PE lessons.'
'We are extremely happy. She has enjoyed the extra-curricular clubs and loves competing in various sports against other schools. Newdale provides lots of opportunities in this area of the curriculum.'
'Yes, my kid is happy with PE. Well done to Miss Jones for motivating the kids.'

'My child does not feel it's challenging enough.'

'My child has commented he sometimes misses the 'fun' bits as he is being pulled out to do extra writing which he doesn't enjoy.'

ACTION:

The PE lessons the children receive at Newdale are of a high standard. We know this as PE teaching is regularly monitored to ensure it is taught at an accurate level, in line with the National Curriculum. Staff ensure that important, targeted intervention only lasts 15 minutes at the most, so that the pupils are not missing too much of their PE time. Intervention is also staggered throughout the year, to not always affect the same children. In addition, we provide a great deal of sports equipment and have the sports coaches and a play leader out every lunchtime to ensure PE continues beyond the set lessons.

5. Are you happy with your child's progress in school?

151 people responded (95% graded as good or better)

'We are extremely happy because she has come a long way. The teachers have been amazing with her and knew what she was capable of and ensured they supported her to do so well.'

'My son always tells me about his PE lessons. He likes to show me what he has learnt.'

'She has come on really well with the DEN support.'

'Extremely happy. Parents evenings are important as if I listened to my daughter, I'd think she was failing, which isn't the case.'

'I would like to know how he's doing in comparison to peers.'

ACTION:

Teachers work very hard with keeping parents as up to date as possible with regards to progress. The level your child is working at is assessed by teachers against Government-set age-related expectations. For example, if your child in Year 2 is working 'at age-related expectations' then they are on target for their age. We will continue to keep you as informed as we can about your child's progress and attainment.

6. If you have a child with special educational needs, how happy are you with the support they receive?

45 people responded (98% graded as good or better)

'The support is very tailored to him which we really appreciate'

'He enjoys his time in the Den and we have noticed big improvements.'

'We have seen much more improvement this year with SEND co-ordinator and Miss Myler. Thank you!'

'I am unsure of what support she is currently receiving.'

ACTION:

Teachers meet with our Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) co-ordinator every term to discuss the progress and learning needs of every child in their class. If we decide your child needs to be assessed or added to the SEND register, then parents are informed. Parents are welcome to discuss any support their child is receiving with the class teachers during parents evening or with the SEND co-ordinator during the termly SEND drop in sessions, alternatively an appointment can be made through contacting the office.

7. Are you happy with school/home communication?

151 people responded (95% graded as good or better)

'The communication is very good. We love that she has a book which we can comment in and it is read and responded to. The text messages are also really handy.'

'Emails/texts always keep me up to date on school news/events etc. All notes in books are replied to daily and any queries answered.'

'Fantastic website- would be good if all updates on the website automatically sent to email.'

'School/home communication is second to none. We are particularly pleased with the constant updates on learning methods/ topics to enable support at home- thank you.'

'Love Parentpay and the regular texts. I feel very well informed. Website very informative too.'

'The communication between teachers and parents are faultless.'

'I still have issues with correspondence going primarily to their mother only!'

'Entries are read daily by the teaching assistant and mostly commented on. This is good as we are assured that if we write anything important, we know it will be read.'

'Mrs Clarke is outstanding at home communication. I never have any worries that she won't read and reply or Mr Banfield.'

'No improvements needed. Reading diaries are checked every day and we are kept up to date via email, text and on the website.'

'I am happy to communicate through the journal on his behalf, but I sometimes feel I need to speak in person, as it can sometimes come across in a different way.'

'We have felt as though (reception) could be better.'

'Why not have a newsletter each term with topics on and important dates- always email/ website based.'

ACTION:

It is great to hear how successful the home/school communication books are, and we will continue to use these. We are also pleased with the introduction of the ParentPay system this academic year. Are you signed up to our website? We input all events into the calendar on the website. This is the best way to receive notifications about any events or work your child is doing in school. For more information please see our office staff who will be happy to help.

8. How do you feel about the changes we have made to the homework provision?

151 people responded (78% graded as good or better)

'Right balance of spelling, timetables and reading.'
'Happy that it involves the whole family.'
'My child enjoys the Times Tables Rockstars and can get quite competitive which is beneficial to her learning.'
'Although not always keen to complete, we can see the benefit of homework.'
'My child likes the online homework (Read Theory/Timestable Rock Stars)'
'Just the right amount of homework for year 2.'
'Confused by online. Do we use or not?'
'Could we have an afterschool maths club? We are happy to pay for it.'

ACTION:

We try to offer a broad and balanced homework which develops the children's key skills in reading, spelling and multiplication. We are mindful of children who take part in their own additional clubs and commitments outside of school. We will further clarify online homework.

9. How do you feel about how we promote good behaviour in school?

151 people responded (93% graded as good or better)

'We feel that Newdale encourage good behaviour and the children have a lot of respect for the staff. If a child was not promoting good behaviour, there is always members of staff to help guide them in the right direction.'
'I am happy to see him learning the importance of behaviour at home and in school.'
'Very happy with this. The SMART code is consistently applied very effectively.'
'When visiting the school, it is clear that good behaviour is well promoted as the children are calm, polite, friendly and well behaved.'
'House points work well.'
'The behaviour of the children before and after school is a little wild at times. Numerous occasions of bikes, skateboards and scooters flying towards me and my daughter and other children have been knocked over.'
'More enforcement of the SMART code might be needed out of the classroom.'

ACTION:

Staff are always on duty before and after school however it is the parent's responsibility to care for children before the bell goes. Please support us by reminding your child that they need to walk with their bike whilst on the school playground.

10. 'We say NO to bullying.' How happy are you that this statement reflects our school?

151 people responded (95% graded as good or better)

'I have had a few instances where I've had to speak to teachers, and they have been fab. Any concerns are addressed straight away and sorted.'
'Bullying is not tolerated at Newdale.'

ACTION:

We are delighted with the outcome of this question! We will continue to work hard on educating children about what bullying is and what to do if they witness or become a victim of bullying, including online bullying. We have a zero tolerance attitude towards this and take any hint of bullying very seriously.

11. We offer a wide range of clubs. How happy are you with our offer?

151 people responded (85% graded as good or better)

'Can you start the maths club again? It made my daughter more confident and excited.'
'Afterschool club would be good if it could accommodate children that don't always go but for parents that need to work late sometimes like breakfast club.'
'More opportunity for art and music as well if possible.'
'The clubs are a bit expensive.'
'A discount rate for those that do ASC too would be a bonus as we rely on ASC for childcare, so we aren't paying twice! I like him to do sports clubs so he's active, but we need to keep the ASC place open.'
'We would love to see a holiday club at school.'

ACTION:

We try to offer a range of clubs throughout the year. Keep your eyes peeled for other clubs, for example times table club, later in the year. We will look at the homework offer in After School Club, as we appreciate that children (and parents!) can be too tired to do it if they are late home. After School Club children having the chance to take part in other clubs is also something we will investigate.

12. Are you happy that we are promoting healthy eating and lifestyles?

151 people responded (94% graded as good or better)

'Yes, we do, we have seen wheelie days take place on a number of occasions. There is also a really good salad bar on offer. We have letters too.'

'The themed weeks (Healthy Lifestyles Week) are great for promoting these.'

'We enjoyed the daily running sessions involving parents.'

'We feel as though limitations placed on the sandwiches (no cereal bars for snacks) decreases the choice that we can provide. This is made worse when school dinners are serving pizza, chicken nuggets etc.'

'More variation for school sandwiches please.'

'Healthy events should be run more often.'

ACTION:

The school meals team follow strict guidelines on the amount of salt, sugar and fat that go into each meal. Now that the school sandwich bar system is set up and is proving to be a success, we will look further into the variation of school sandwiches on offer.

13. What do you feel about the events we organise in school? E.g. Family lunch, grandparent's tea party etc...?

151 people responded (92% graded as good or better)

'Always nice to feel apart of your child's school day. Family lunch enables me to see what they get up to and spend time in their school environment.'

'I like that they happen on different days of the week- allows me to attend on my day off.'

'We have family at other T&W schools who don't do half as much as Newdale.'

'It is a lovely way to spend time with my child and for him to show off his school.'

'I think it should be any relative invited to some events to include those without grandparents.'

'It is difficult for me to attend to due work commitments - this means a disappointed child.'

'It would be nice if the days varied so working parents could attend. This also applies to Christmas and summer fayre which are always on Thursdays.'

'Family lunch- can be quite hectic! Maybe stagger dates for different years.'

ACTION:

We are conscious that school events need to fall on varying days of the week to help working parents. We will continue to take this into account when booking future events. We really do understand how hard it is for working parents to attend, as many of us are working parents too!

14. Are you happy with how we prepare your child for moving on? E.g. Moving classes or moving to secondary school.

151 people responded (93% graded as good or better)

'I already feel that she will be well prepared for secondary school by the end of year 6.'

'She has found the jump in workload between year groups very hard each time, but I am not sure what more could have been done to help her.'

'They talk to us about their move to the next class so positively.'

'I think the school should give a list of open dates for all secondary schools via email or on the year 6 page on the website.'

'More transition sessions with their teacher would be beneficial so they feel comfortable.'

ACTION:

We take transition very seriously and ensure that children are fully prepared to move on to their new year groups. Each year, all Year 6 children are given a booklet at the start of the academic year which shows the open evening dates for the secondary schools. We will continue to do this next year and ensure that dates we are made aware of are on our website. We hear from secondary colleagues and from parents of children who have moved on, that we prepare Newdalers really well for this major transition.

15. Teaching the children about online safety forms part of our curriculum. We take this aspect of education very seriously. Do you have any suggestions of other ways in which we could support you and/or your children about keeping safe online?

'You already do a fantastic job in this matter.'

'I think we will need bit more information on what is covered in this area as parents are told very little on what and how skills are educated in the area.'

'You could run an online safety workshop for parents.'

'Provide any insight on websites and apps that are a concern for school for example 'whisper'- anonymous chat application.'

ACTION:

Online safety is an important part of our curriculum and we appreciate your ideas. We currently share E-safety Top tips on the school website every two weeks to support you at home with online safety. Unfortunately, when we have run workshops in the past they have been poorly attended by parents. We are prepared to try again but need to be mindful that workshops take a lot of time for a teacher to prepare, if only a handful of parents attend.

Any further comments

'We have a daughter at another school and we just wanted to say how great the communication is at Newdale. We get updates in her book and this really helps. Even when it's just a little tick we know that our comments have been read.'

'If I could have her stay at this school as her secondary school I would. Everyone is amazing and I couldn't have done half of this without your support. So, thank you to each and every one of you.'

'Newdale is a fantastic school, seeing my 3rd child through Newdale, now in year 5 also achieving in high standards show that the school has excellent standards. I believe a good mixture of home and school life are essential to a happy child and their learning.'

'I am now in the tenth year of having a child at Newdale. It's a fantastic school, amazing teachers and the standards never slip.'

'We are so happy our child got into Newdale school. He loves being here and loves to learn, thank you.'

'Would love more info on what they do in ASC, child always says the same thing, so wonder what activities they have on offer. Maybe needs refreshing. Newdale is fab, everyone works hard for the kids.'

'Have you considered inviting parents into your star of the week assembly. I would love to share in their celebrations.'

'I am concerned about steps up to year 1 classes with the weather getting worse - congestion at the top and adults rushing!'

'It is not uncommon to hear parents swearing in the playground and on site. Would a no swearing policy on school premises be possible?'

ACTION:

It is lovely to read so many wonderful comments about our school. We will continue to hold the class sharing assemblies to give parents the opportunity to see the fantastic work their children are doing in school. Each week, a photo of the children who have received an achievement award is shared on the school website along with the reason they have been chosen. Finally, please be aware that we do have a no swearing policy and we challenge any adults who are swearing when it is made known to us.

And to end...

'We are always very happy with Newdale. There is such a lovely ethos! My two older lads are very successful, and this is due to their time here.'

Many thanks for the time you took to fill a survey in. We find the information you give us invaluable in our desire to keep Newdale 'outstanding' for all of our children now and into the future.

Kind regards,

Miss Cook and School Governors

