



# Governor Newsletter

## October 2016



Thank-you to everyone who completed our end of year survey. 159 of you completed the questionnaire representing 206 children, half the children in the school! The results have already been fed back to staff and over the course of the year governors will be monitoring the actions that have been raised and will let you know what actions have been taken.

### Communication with the school

The Blake School operates an open door policy. Parents/carers are welcome to come in to school to chat to teachers, to volunteer in a classroom, to share expertise, or to raise concerns. 99% of you said that you felt able to approach school staff with any concerns or questions.

The vast majority of you (97%) felt that parent's evenings, along with curriculum evenings, provide good information about your children's progress and how to support them with their learning. This year there will be some significant changes to parent's evenings in order to give your children more of a voice and to enable them to share their achievements and the next steps in their learning. We hope that this will provide you with even more useful information.

Although most of you said that you feel The Blake School communicates well with you, this was clearly an area where there is still more work to be done and a number of you made good suggestions for improving communication with you. How Parentmail can be used to best effect and improving navigation around the school website will be particular areas of focus this year.

### Behaviour

Almost all of you feel that the children at The Blake School behave well but also know what action to take if you feel your child is being bullied. At their recent meeting governors discussed how to better inform parents regarding the school's behaviour strategies and this will be shared with you in due course. The school's positive behaviour policy can be found on the [school website](#). The children are aware of what behaviours are expected of them in school, please do talk to them about this and about the class rules that they have agreed this term.

99% of you reported that your child is happy at The Blake School; you also feel that your children are well looked after at The Blake School.

Although the vast majority of you feel that all children are treated fairly and equally at The Blake School, some of you expressed concern about how participation in school events is decided. Staff are committed to ensuring that *all* children are able to join in the full range of activities offered at The Blake School. Governors will be monitoring how this takes place throughout the year.

### **The School's ethos and values**

It was clear from the survey that you feel that the Christian character of The Blake School impacts positively on your child's understanding of Christian and universal values.

The introduction over the past year of the weekly values certificates has provided an opportunity to celebrate the ways in which so many of the children demonstrate the school values week in and week out. It is a joy each week, as part of the Friday act of collective worship, to hear how the children continue to try and live out the school values.

Governors are aware of their responsibility to ensure that children are made aware of British values and feel part of the community in which they live and go to school. Staff and governors work hard to ensure that all children have a strong sense of belonging and the valuable part that they play as part of the school community.

### **The broader curriculum**

Many of you made some very positive comments regarding both the breadth of the curriculum that is delivered in school and the extra-curricular activities offered by the school.

Almost all of you reported that your children enjoy break and lunch times. Over the past year the governors have supported the introduction of a games club, where children can play in a quieter and more ordered area. The governors also continue to monitor and support the work of Mrs Bishop who regularly introduces new playground games and often runs sports clubs during lunchtimes.

99% of you (a significant increase on the 2015 data) feel that your children have accessed, enjoyed and benefitted from a broad range of experiences and opportunities in addition to the main school curriculum.

At The Blake School we are committed not only to academic success but to the education and development of the whole child. We are continually reviewing the whole school day to try and ensure that the children's experience is a positive and enjoyable one. In addition, the school is constantly reviewing the extra-curricular provision at either end of the school day to ensure that it offers children a broad range of exciting opportunities to help them grow and develop as rounded individuals. Thank you for your suggestions in respect of how we can further develop this area.

97% of you would recommend The Blake School to other parents. Thank you for your warm and generous comments regarding why this is so. Everyone at The Blake School has a part to play in creating the warm, fun, caring, friendly and welcoming environment that so many of you commented upon. Senior leaders, teachers and Teaching Assistants work exceptionally hard and it was heart-warming to know that you appreciate this and recognise their dedication to each of your children.