



Governor Newsletter

April 2018



Many thanks to all of you who completed the annual survey for parents and carers. The results have been fed back to senior staff and governors and are already being used to help agree development priorities for the next academic year, these priorities will be shared with you prior to the summer break.

Your children

It was heartening to read that the vast majority of you feel that your children are happy at The Blake School and also that your children are well looked after whilst at school.

Overwhelmingly you agreed that your children enjoy their learning and that their individual learning, behaviour and emotional needs are well met. Everyone at the The Blake School has a part to play in ensuring that this is so, and it was heart-warming to know that you recognise their wholehearted commitment to each of your children.

It was also clear from the survey that the majority of parents/carers feel that the Christian character of The Blake School impacts positively on their child's understanding of Christian and universal values. Staff and governors believe that it is more important than ever that children are given opportunities to be reflective and self-aware in order that they can grow into independent, mature and confident individuals.

Sport and extra-curricular activities

Staff and governors at The Blake School are committed to ensuring that all children experience an innovative, broad and balanced curriculum, access learning indoors and out and have opportunities to excel whatever their strengths.

91% of you said that your children benefit from a wide range of experiences and opportunities at The Blake School. Staff and governors are committed to ensuring that these opportunities are retained alongside on-going academic rigour.

Overwhelmingly you agreed that your children enjoy break and playtimes and even more of you than in previous years commented that your children are encouraged to get involved in sport and to be active.

Opportunities to further develop outdoor learning, including further changes to the school site, are being explored by governors with the intention that more children can benefit from additional opportunities for learning outdoors.

If you wish to get in touch with the governors you can leave a message with the school office, or contact them via governors@blake.oxon.sch.uk

Behaviour

Whilst most parents/carers responded that they believe The Blake School deals quickly and effectively with poor behaviour, a number of comments suggested that not everyone is aware of the school's behaviour policy.

A copy of the school's ['Positive Behaviour Policy'](#) can be found on the school website along with two summary guides, one relating to the policy itself and the other regarding playground behaviour.

Do ask your children about the standards of behaviour that are expected from them and how poor behaviour is dealt with.

Consistency, in terms of managing behaviour, continues to be explored and whole staff training is in place to allow staff to share their practice and agree the practical outworking of the policy.

The comments made by parents/carers were very helpful for staff and governors to consider alongside the raw data. Particularly where there were recurring themes these are being discussed and explored.

Less than half of parents/carers left comments regarding development priorities for 2018/19. Comments that were left related to a wide range of areas from Forest Schools to communication and behaviour to provision for those identified as more able. All suggestions will be considered alongside feedback from ODST and the data collected from staff, governors and children prior to priorities being agreed.

Communication

As in previous years it was pleasing that overwhelmingly you feel able to approach school staff with any questions or queries.

The Blake School operates an open-door policy and 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. If you do have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to any member of the school staff.

Parents' evenings, along with curriculum evenings continue to be seen as providing good information to you about your child's progress and how to support your child.

It was encouraging to read that all of the means of communication available to you are valuable. Different means of communication clearly suit different people and so this is an area that governors will continue to monitor over the coming year.

Introducing social media had a very mixed response from parents/carers and so this is something that will need to be considered further prior to a decision being made.

During this challenging season for the school it was encouraging to read that the majority of parents/carers continue to see The Blake School as providing their children with a quality education and to be a place that they would recommend to others. Thank-you for your warm and supportive comments, which were much appreciated.