



Hill Top Academy Parental Survey Response – Nov 18

Every child, every chance, every day!



On Parents' Evening, many of you completed the parental feedback form. There were some very positive comments and some useful suggestions about ways to improve further.

Here is a collection of the points raised and what we will do in response to these.

Thank you once again for taking the time to complete these – as always your feedback is highly valued.

*Mrs Macleod
Principal*

We asked: What do you think we do really well at school?

- Ensuring children are happy, nurtured and well mannered.
- Teaching is brilliant. All my children love their teachers, and have done since day one. After school clubs are great. Playground looks great and “the mile” is a brill idea.
- Children are very well educated and looked after whilst at school.
- Helping my child love school and enjoy every day!
- Good choices for dinners. Especially regarding Reception where children are exploring new foods.
- The small touches mean a lot for example my daughter’s first day at Reception the teachers handed out a thoughtful gift and poem for the parents.
- Literacy and Maths teaching
- Encourage manners and respect.
- Everything.
- I think that the school gives children confidence in themselves.
- Communication with parents, dealing with behavior.
- Both my children have been happy, well looked after and excelled. The teachers are all fab.
- Make the children enjoy learning, make school fun, letting the children shine to show their strengths.
- Listen to the kids, give them a voice.
- Listen to the children.
- Recognition, encouragement.
- Making learning fun.
- Activities in morning –always a different one. School meals –good varieties. Teachers- helping children feel welcome.
- Teaching.
- Embrace, encourage + reward really well. I feel that whenever or whatever is said this is taken on board and dealt with. The teachers always polite and welcoming, and my child enjoys schools and the LSA’s.
- Most things.
- Positivity in all aspects.
- You’ve been extremely supportive when we’ve requested help and it’s very much appreciated. I’ve nothing but good things to say about Hill Top.
- Everything we love it.
- Plenty of dress up days ect. Bullying is kept on top of and dealt with.
- Again extremely happy at the diverse range of break time and after school activities offered to my children - very welcoming and friendly teaching staff.
- Very understanding staff are amazing.
- Good levels of teaching, any extra help needed is provided for those who need it.
- I don’t have any concerns with the school and this year have had an incident where my son didn’t come straight home from school and the school spring straight into action until my son was found. I was really impressed.
- Very pleasant. Awards assemblies.
- Getting children settled in to new class.
- Keep my child safe, understand his needs and challenge him to his best abilities.
- Children’s safety, you are organised very well which helps children to do better work.

- I feel my daughter is safe at school which is important to me. You also do a lot of fun things which break the day up well.
- Good all round education.
- Everything.
- I am really impressed with the school in most areas.
- School clubs
- My son really enjoys learning you are doing a good job learning my son.
- Keep the children safe, make learning fun, my daughter has always loved school.
- Pretty much everything.
- Treating all children fairly.
- Range of learning activities.
- My oldest attended Hill top and did really well. He is now doing great in year 8 at STWCC.
- Outdoor activities, organisation, communication with parents.
- Encouraging reading and creative play.
- Reading and homework encouragement, after school clubs.
- Setting work that is engaging for the children, sports – lots of fantastic with a sports mad child.
- Overall an extremely excellent Education is given to Every pupil!! They understand every pupil individual needs and teach the children to their abilities. Fantastic communication to myself about my children!!
- Caters for all learning curves.
- Communicate with the children and parents/carers.
- Lovely staff who are good at their job and help children achieve their full potential. Smart uniform and safe environment with a range of different resources and activities available.

What areas do you think the school needs to improve on?

Attendance and related events

- I still don't agree with cinema event. Even my children are questioning why don't we get to watch the film, we didn't mean to be ill. I always make sure they see the film at home, but I think it is very confusing for my kids. But I don't know what could change.

Entering and Leaving School

- Open doors on time, my partner starts work at 9am and is often late leaving school, other than that no issues at all.
- More staff out in a morning to monitor behaviour some parent's language/ smoking etc outside.
- Still smokers at the school gates. Having to walk past it every day is disgusting for the children. There is no need to be at the school gates.. signs, massive signs, need putting up. Same people every time.
- The smokers on the gate at Hillside Drive are always in the way so we have to walk on the road. It's a very busy road and I feel unsafe.
- Car parking

Behaviour

- I think that there should be a teacher in playground first thing in the morning as a lot of yr 5 & 6 children come to school by themselves and need to be supervised.

Communication

- Keeping parents better informed on daily activities/progress.
- Giving more feedback on the children.
- Better feedback to parents records their child's learning on a daily basis. The parents do not know what their child is learning.
- I would like to have more contact with my children's new teacher prior to the beginning of their attendance in their classroom.
- Change timings on parents evening. Always running late, always behind. 40 min waiting.
- Parents evening are too soon after starting back in September. I feel teachers need more time to gather evidence and hold parent's evenings in January.

School Dinners

- More hot meals choices, mix them up so not same every week.
- A milk bar shouldn't be on the menu, especially when parents have to pay for the meals.

Home Learning

- I feel like the homework situation is a little too much. I like my child to feel she can come home and relax and on weekends we like to do family activities and most times find ourselves "cramming" homework in on a Sunday evening. I think they have enough through the week to be doing it on weekends as well.

Trips

- My children have no extra- curricular trips planned for the year 4.
- More school trips, days out.

Curriculum/Extended Curriculum

- I think there should be more after school clubs.
- Teaching parent's method the kids use esp Maths. My kids bring homework homework home and when they need help I'm told it's not the way do it, so feel I can't help them. I am mind boggled when they try and explain as my way or the "old way" seems so much easier and simpler. An explanation or step by step sheet would be helpful.

Uniform

Footwear policy until last winter we thought boots were allowed and always wore them during winter. A couple of school letters then outlined the allowed footwear stating no boots. Despite this most girls continued to wear boots, creating a dilemma of do we follow the crowd or the policy?! Girls school shoes tend to be mary-jane/ inadequate for winter and I feel bad for them having to wear them in the playground in cold weather. Taking extra pairs to change into would just result in chaos and shoe loss.

Mrs Macleod's response...

Attendance and Cinema Event

It is both an Academy and Local Authority drive to promote and encourage good attendance and we are delighted to report that our attendance is currently 96.86% which is above national. The cinema event has proved to be an excellent incentive to the pupils to focus on their attendance. However, we appreciate that some children are disappointed not to attend after an illness, so therefore in order to continue to reward excellent attendance we will be running the cinema event on a termly basis, with children invited to attend if they have had at least 1 half term of 100% attendance in order to ensure that every child has the opportunity at some point throughout the year to achieve this. In addition, we are also running other attendance initiatives where if children achieve 100% attendance through target weeks, they will be entered into a raffle with the chance to win a prize. Each week the winning KS1 and KS2 classes for attendance receive a biscuit and we also give out our 100% certificates. We understand that children do get poorly at times and that it is necessary for them to take the time to get well. We explain this to all pupils through our attendance assemblies so that they have a good understanding of it.

Entering and Leaving School

Over the past twelve months, I have sent out Health and Safety reminders to all parents about the importance of parking in a safe and sensible manner and also smoking and blocking the entrance for children and parents entering school. I have personally spoken to several parents about this issue but unfortunately, as they are not on our premises, I can only request parents are mindful of others and act in a respectful manner at all times. We will continue to monitor this situation. I have reiterated the importance of time-keeping to all staff and our Office Manager is looking into the Academy having a bell to indicate start and end of the Academy day.

Behaviour/Break Time

Our Academy Day starts at 8.40am and ends at 3.20pm; before and after these times, it is the responsibility of parents and carers to supervise their children. With regards to the older Key Stage 2 children, it is at the individual discretion of parents and carers to allow them to attend and leave school alone and unsupervised. If at any time, parents are unhappy with behaviour of individual pupils within the playground, then please pass on these concerns to a member of staff as soon as possible.

Communication

Communication between our Academy and parents is vital and this year we are proud to announce the many ways we are working to improve this service. We have distributed an annual calendar of key dates and events to ensure parents have prior notice of special/themed days, concerts etc and also provide half termly newsletters – these are also available on the Academy website which also has information about the pupils' learning, data outcomes etc. Our electronic Parent Pay system is well established and is improving the efficiency of paying for dinner monies. In addition to these systems, are our Academy Twitter and Facebook accounts, which regularly post updates and photographs of our pupils' learning, enrichment activities and achievements. The suggestion of meeting your child's teacher at the start of the academic year is an excellent idea and one which we will be implementing from September 2019, where time will be allocated during the first week to drop in and meet the new teacher and look at examples of work your child will be required to

produce during that academic year. Regarding Parents' Evening, we are considering running appointments over two nights, in order to give teachers and parents more time to discuss targets and learning needs etc.

Home Learning

As a staff, we are currently reviewing our home learning policy, linked to frequency of types of learning and the frequency it is set. Explanations of home learning should be provided for parents in order to support their child. In addition, we have tried to introduce the menu of activities for home learning which allows the child to have an element of choice and independence. The outcomes are often measurable by the level of challenge and input applied by the child themselves, although many of the activities are projects whereby all members of the family can be involved.

Curriculum/ Educational Visits

At Hill Top Academy we pride ourselves on the varied curriculum and offer of enrichment activities outside of the school day. We are proud to say we now have extended curriculum school clubs running for both Key Stage 1 and 2; Recorders, Dance, Football, Guitar, Drama, Basketball, Athletics, Tag Rugby, Fitness and Choir with Breakfast Clubs starting in January 2019. Each year it is important to us that children experience enrichment, although we are aware that educational visits can be costly. Last year, every child was taken on a trip or a pantomime visit and certain year groups had enrichment days within school, where artists were paid to come and deliver alongside the children. Physical exercise is extremely important to us at Hill Top and every child has two hours dedicated Curriculum time as well as experiencing the Daily Mile each week within class. Our Curriculum teaches Gymnastics, Dance, Taekwondo, Dodgeball, Basketball, Football, Kwik Cricket, Multi Skills, Swimming (Y5), Hi Five, Rounders and Athletics

Meal Choices

The daily meal choice is designed for children to have a variety of choice and encourage them to try different foods. We advertise the menu choices on our website, parental notice boards, in class and if parents request, a copy is given out at the Main Reception.

Uniform

Our Policy for footwear is black, sturdy sensible shoes. Ankle boots are acceptable for uniform providing they are not high heeled and have a sturdy grip. Several children were coming to school in Ugg type boots which were not practical for playground surfaces in Winter.

We asked: Any other comments you would like to make about the school?

The school has a very good reputation, by word of mouth from other parents whose children don't attend the school. I am happy with every aspect of the schools promise of education, motivational ideas that are effective in getting kids to want to achieve and improve this learning and confidence building.

I absolutely love the staff at Hilltop including the reception. They have been amazing to all 3 of my children, I couldn't ask for more!! They look after my children like they are their own children!! LOVE HILL TOP!!

Overall, I am extremely happy with the school and the support that is given to students. I am very proud that my children attend here

The teachers and office staff I have met during my child's time at Hill Top are lovely. The teachers have been very caring and have always made my child feel special and for that I can't thank them enough.

I think the school is great, as do my kids

My son has only just joined Hill Top in September and is really enjoying school now, the school has made him feel really welcome and feels safe.

Great school great teachers great support. Thanks for all your help.

The school itself is lovely and my children are very happy all staff are approachable.

My kids love to go to school.

Just an excellent school.

Great school great staff keep up the good work.

Overall I am very happy my daughter attends this school. The teachers seem well engaged and have the pupil's interests learning journey at the top of their agenda keep it up!!

It's a great school that has a positive impact on the children in its care the community which it serves.

Overall my daughter is really happy in school and never had any major problems.

So far my experience of Hill Top School has been fantastic, my daughter really enjoys it.

My daughters loved foundation and her teacher. The school is approachable.

Fantastic leadership who children look up to, great teachers who are making learning fun, great learning environment.

Thank you so much for the comments and feedback you have provided in the survey. This has been extremely useful and we will continue to improve the areas you have raised. The comments about the Academy are great to hear for myself, governors and staff. We are continually striving to improve and endeavour to provide the best possible education we can for all the pupils at Hill Top. Parents play an important part in this and we are always keen to listen and try to address all your points to improve the school further.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey

Mrs Macleod

Principal

