

Witley C of E Infant School

'Love, learn and flourish together'



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Headteacher: Mrs H Szczepanski BA Hons, PGCE

May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Parents/Carers Survey January 2023 – Governors' Response

I would like to thank those of you who took the time to complete our survey earlier this year. Your views and comments are of great importance to us to help us improve your school in all areas and help the Governors here at Witley C of E Infant School understand the key areas for development.

We received 41 responses to the survey compared with 52 in the summer of 2022. Whilst the results are not reflective of you all, they do offer a proportionate indication of your views. The Board of Governors have discussed the results in detail with Mrs Szczepanski and we would like to take this opportunity to pass on some thoughts and comments to you all.

The overwhelming picture from the responses to the survey is that Witley continues to improve in the areas of safeguarding, communication, dealing with friendships, responding quickly and effectively to concerns and promoting good behaviour through our Christian values.

A few points which you have highlighted as areas to review are:

- appropriate home learning
- helping you to support your child's learning.

We have also noted the following areas for development from individual comments and will work closely with Mrs Szczepanski and her team so improvements can be made:

Safeguarding and safety

Our fence and new entry system has certainly improved safety but it has not been without its issues. The fact that it is wood and in keeping with aesthetics of the building has meant that the weather has impacted on the gate reliability. This has now been resolved. The previous metal gate did not meet the safe height requirements and had to be replaced. We will continue to be vigilant to ensure safety for all.

We will look into improving the lighting in the playground late in the evening when parents collect children from our after school club.



The road continues to be a concern amongst parents and although a 20mph zone was introduced recently many vehicles do not heed this warning. This summer we have a special 'Road Safety' show visiting to help the children learn about road safety and staying safe.

We will investigate providing further sun protection/shaded areas for our playground during hot weather.

Communication

We have increased the number of Open Classroom events this year on different days of the week as these have proved popular.

We have introduced an interim report, distributed in January/February to help inform parents of their child's progress and attainment. We will continue to review the effectiveness of these channels of communication.

We have increased the depth of content in our weekly newsletter to include more curriculum news coupled with photographs of our pupils learning.

Curriculum

Mrs Stanton, our Forest School Lead, and Mrs Graham have been looking into ways to timetable more opportunities for outdoor learning with the children. This summer Mrs Stanton is trialing Year R experiencing an afternoon of Forest School every week and this will be replicated in Year 2. The Governors are very excited to see the continuing expansion of outdoor learning at Witley.

We will work on further stretching and challenging our higher attaining pupils to provide more opportunities to flourish.

Personal Development

We have reviewed our curriculum to deepen our understanding of diversity and inclusion through our themes, wider learning and enriching books. Our Jigsaw PSHE (personal, social and emotional learning) programme is supporting children in their own understanding and tolerance of others.

We will continue to look into ways to embellish the current curriculum offered to our children i.e. through musical opportunities, introducing more global themes.

Whilst we are a Church of England school we welcome families of all faiths and we will endeavour to ensure our children have a deeper understanding of different faiths and cultures.

Wrap around breakfast and after school club

We are constantly working with our wrap around care provider to ensure we offer maximum sessions. Hen House is a private setting registered with Ofsted and as a business they look carefully at attendance/costings. In the future we will be looking into offering alternative activities if Hen House cannot provide any of the sessions.

Next steps

The feedback we receive from parents and carers helps us to define priorities for our ongoing School Improvement Plan, and helps us to understand the progress we are making towards them. It also hugely strengthens our school community. The current School Improvement Plan is available on the school website, and will be updated for the start of the new school year.

It was reassuring to see so many positive comments in response to our survey. We know we can't get everything right, all of the time, for each and every one of you, but we have great pride in the dedication of our team in helping each individual child flourish at Witley.

Here are some of your comments regarding the best things about our school:

'So pleased I sent my daughter here, she has learnt so much in such a little amount of time'

'The way the children come out happy, you can tell they are having a good time at school.'

'Friendly village school with a great community feel.'

'The staff and how supportive they have been of my child.'

'My child is happy here, especially the Forest School.'

'A warm, caring, safe environment.'

'The friendly and welcoming atmosphere.'

Governors will also refer to the results of the survey when planning their visits to the school, which they use to observe that changes and challenges are being acknowledged and effectively addressed. They will pay particular attention to the areas described above in the coming weeks and months.

Again, I would like to personally thank the individual parents who took the time to participate in our survey. We really appreciate your comments which have helped us to focus on the key areas that matter to you.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to our wonderful staff for their care, experience and dedication in helping our children learn, love and flourish together, so thank you.

As always, if you have any concerns or issues you wish to discuss, you are most welcome to contact Mrs Helen Szczepanski, Headteacher, Mrs Phillipa Allison, our Senior Teacher/SENCo or myself.

Kind regards

Sue Edwards
Co-chair of Governors