

Great Sankey Primary School



Parent & Carer Survey May 2024

All parents and carers at Great Sankey Primary School were surveyed in April / May 2024. We had 30 responses in total.

This survey was designed to assess current views and opinions and aid in the future planning of provision and priorities of the school. Results were extremely positive and a summary in response to comments is below. The number in the brackets link to the number of parents who gave that particular response.

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to respond to our survey.

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| My child is happy at Great Sankey Primary School and Nursery | <i>100% of parents / carers strongly agreed / agreed</i> |
| My child feels safe at this school | <i>97% of parents / carers strongly agreed / agreed (29) 3% of parents / carers had no opinion of this (1)</i> |
| My child is achieving well at this school | <i>87% of parents / carers strongly agreed / agreed (26) 13% of parents / carers had no opinion of this (4)</i> |
| The school has high expectations for my child and expects them to try their best | <i>94% of parents / carers strongly agreed / agreed (28) 3% of parents / carers had no opinion of this (1) 3% of parents / carers disagreed (1)</i> |
| The majority of pupils in school are well-behaved | <i>94% of parents / carers strongly agreed / agreed (28) 6% of parents / carers had no opinion of this (2)</i> |
| The school deals with any allegations of bullying effectively <i>(please leave blank if you have no experience or knowledge of this)</i> | <i>82% of parents / carers strongly agreed / agreed (9) 9% of parents / carers had no opinion of this (1) 9% of parents / carers disagreed (1)</i> |
| The school is a welcoming and pleasant place to visit | <i>97% of parents / carers strongly agreed / agreed (29) 3% of parents / carers had no opinion of this (1)</i> |
| I feel I could approach the school with questions or a problem or a complaint | <i>91% of parents / carers strongly agreed / agreed (27) 6% of parents / carers had no opinion of this (2) 3% of parents / carers disagreed (1)</i> |
| I know how to contact my child's teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team should I need to | <i>100% of parents / carers strongly agreed / agreed</i> |
| The school supports my child's wider personal development through offering enriching experiences (trips, visitors, sporting events, music events, roles and responsibilities in school etc.) | <i>100% of parents / carers strongly agreed / agreed</i> |
| The school offers a wide range of clubs and enrichment activities during the day and after school (not applicable to Nursery pupils) | <i>100% of parents / carers strongly agreed / agreed</i> |
| The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the term / year | <i>100% of parents / carers strongly agreed / agreed</i> |

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| I am kept informed about my child's academic progress and about how they are getting on through termly parents' evenings, end of year reports and more informal discussions | 100% of parents / carers strongly agreed / agreed |
| The school informs me of events and activities taking place through the weekly newsletter and other forms of communication | 100% of parents / carers strongly agreed / agreed |
| There are opportunities for parents to be involved in school events such as fundraising, Stay and Learn workshops, volunteering for trips etc. | 97% of parents / carers strongly agreed / agreed (29) 3% of parents / carers had no opinion of this (1) |
| The school is well led and managed | 97% of parents / carers strongly agreed / agreed (29) 3% of parents / carers had no opinion of this (1) |
| I would recommend Great Sankey Primary and Nursery School to another parent | 97% of parents / carers strongly agreed / agreed (29) 3% of parents / carers had no opinion of this (1) |

In the survey, parents and carers were invited to comment on the following questions:

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| <p>What do you believe to be the greatest strengths of Great Sankey Primary School and Nursery?</p> | <p><i>There were so many comments about how amazing and friendly the staff are and how positive the relationships are right across the school. Parents commented on how approachable, and available, leaders and staff were and how they felt listened to and communicated with. Parents appreciated being met in the morning with a smile from leaders and staff, and how everyone always seemed happy in school, it was mentioned that there is a real 'family feel'.</i></p> <p><i>Alongside the holistic comments were those around the excellent progress children were making and the many curriculum and enrichment opportunities we provide for them to ensure they thrive in our school.</i></p> <p><i>The comments were wonderful to read, and we are glad that you feel the same way about our school as we do. The strong positive relationships, the culture and ethos and the nurturing environment which we provide for our children are just some of our many strengths. Here are just some of the many positive comments we received:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fantastic school which fosters a love of learning. Excellent opportunities for the children beyond the usual curriculum and classroom. We couldn't be happier with the progress our children are making. • Everyone in the school truly cares about the children and wants the best for them. The fact that the children are happy and thriving is proof of this. It's such a welcoming environment and this is noticed by everyone who walks in. • Friendly and approachable nature of staff. The amount of learning opportunities available to children. • The effort made at Christmas / Easter / any other holidays or special occasions. The extra activities on offer. Excellent communication. The Twitter pages. • Willingness to discuss ideas and concerns from parents. • The staff all go above and beyond. As a result children are seen for who they are and aren't just a number. Little extras (like music and easter bunny) go a long way. • I regularly sing the praises of GSP, my child is happy and safe here, he loves to go in each day and I feel I can approach the staff and ask any questions. • The way the children are taught, so many interesting ways that they are taught about different subjects it really helps to bring different topics to life. • Approachable & helpful staff. Good communication with parents. Very supportive when needed. |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school offers lots of opportunities for children. • Happy and safe place. • Living the school values. • It feels like a community. • Fantastic teachers. Enriched curriculum. Amazing trips and experiences. Supportive and approachable staff. Fantastic learning environments. • The welcoming feel of the school and the feeling of community. It is really nice to arrive most mornings to a member of staff or Mrs Wilding greeting the families at the school gate. The school feels personal – we feel like the staff know our child well even though there are lots of children in the school. • The school has a positive happy approach for both students and staff alike. Thus creating a conducive environment for strong attendance and natural learning and growth. • The class teacher has been brilliant – very supportive of my child and all feedback given is constructive and helpful. • GSP provides such a lovely environment for my children and I have been so impressed with the way in which staff manage to provide excellent teaching whilst remaining so nurturing and caring. I really think the school has managed to achieve an excellent balance between focusing on academic progress and pastoral support and development. • Wider enrichment of the children, transparency with parents, creating a community feel so that school is more than just a place for traditional learning. • The weekly update email is very helpful. The teachers are approachable. The head teacher is so welcoming and approachable, always greeting pupils and parents in a morning and willing speak about any issues. There is great investment to the outdoor space. • The caring nature for every child, • Staff approachable and friendly. My children enjoy coming to school. • The children all seem happy to go to school. Also, the teaching assistants and other staff feel just as much a part of the classes as the teachers and it creates a really great learning environment where the children value all the staff. • A well-presented school with knowledgeable and confident staff. Everyone is very friendly, and it really shows you're a close team and the centre of your focus is the wellbeing and education of the pupils. |
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| <p>What would you like us to do better at?</p> | <p><i>We really appreciate you taking the time to respond with suggestions on how we can continue to improve at Great Sankey Primary. Below, we have tried to answer some of your suggestions around reoccurring themes.</i></p> |
| <p>Communication - class communication is inconsistent</p> | <p><i>Whilst the survey was extremely positive about the information sent out from the wider school such as the weekly newsletters, there were some comments around the inconsistency of communication from the different classes. The main areas were around last-minute changes to PE days and giving out information around homework and spellings. We absolutely take these points on board and will look to improve. Staff will be reminded to communicate information via Arbor in a timely manner with messages around any changes to PE days, class trips etc and to only send reminders around information already shared with parents on Twitter or Google Classroom. Homework should all be posted on Google Classroom for the children to access. There is a messaging service with this platform, but please note that the teachers are not expected to check it daily. If there is anything you need a response to, then we ask that you email into school admin@greatsankeyprimary.tcat.uk.com and make it for the staff member's attention or give us a ring and we will call you back at the end of the school day. A member of SLT is on the gate</i></p> |

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| | <i>each morning and staff are also available to speak directly with at the end of the school day. As a school, we protect our staff wellbeing outside their working hours which is why there is no direct access for parents to message or email staff.</i> |
| By dealing with behaviour better | <i>The behaviour at our school has been described by many visitors as 'exemplary' and 'impeccable'; school is a warm, nurturing and calm place to be, and we pride ourselves on this. There are 356 children in our school and the vast majority of them demonstrate our school values and school rules consistently on a daily basis. However, as with any school, there are a small number who can sometimes exhibit negative behaviours. These are dealt with effectively by staff as soon as they are made aware of any incidents; the parents of the children involved are also made aware and a way forward is discussed with those parties involved. There are clear rewards and sanctions in place as outlined in our positive behaviour policy.</i> |
| Lost property | <i>We promise that we do our very best to make sure children take home the same items of clothing that they came to school in, however, at break and lunchtime, some children leave items hanging on fences and forget to collect them. If they are not named or the name has washed off, we struggle to return them to the rightful owner. We know it can be frustrating for parents to keep purchasing items of uniform which are misplaced so we ask that everything is named and if your child accidentally brings home someone else's jumper or cardigan that you return it. We do have a lost property box near the front office which you are welcome to look through and we also put lost property out on the front each half term for parents to look through on the way to and from school.</i> |
| Uniform – not have the girls' kilt as it clashes with the tie. | <i>People comment on how smart our children look in their uniform, and particularly the kilt. We take your point that it is a slightly different shade of red to the tie, but we love it nevertheless and there are no plans as yet to change it.</i> |
| Run a holiday club | <i>We currently run a very successful wrap around link club, Treetops, and extending it to offer holiday care could be potentially something we could think about in the future. We have just started to let our premises for holiday clubs and the Wolves ran a club over Easter and there may be plans for another organisation to run a holiday club for 3 weeks in the summer. We will keep you posted!</i> |
| Better communication from lunchtime staff feeding back any incident which have occurred / lunchtimes being rushed | <i>We have a very committed team of midday assistants who support the children in the dining hall and in the outdoor spaces. This time of the day is generally a very positive time where the children have the opportunity to play and socialise with peers, but we do recognise that it can also be unstructured which can sometimes lead to poor behaviour with a few pupils. As a school, we have invested heavily in our outdoor spaces to ensure the children are kept busy and occupied. Developing the pitch, the different zones with equipment have all supported a reduction in incidents of poor behaviour. However, we do still have times when negative incidents occur. Middays are aware of the positive behaviour policy and have training around managing behaviour and are generally very proactive in dealing with it and ensuring information is fed back to the teacher or a senior leader for further investigation. We will ensure that we continue to remind all staff of the importance of communicating around playground incidences. Our younger children in Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 have around 30 minutes to eat their lunch in the hall which is ample time. The older ones also have this amount of time but are usually finished much quicker. Any child who needs longer to eat is encouraged to stay in the dining hall to finish what they can, the middays are very good at ensuring children eat as much as they can before being allowed to go outside to play.</i> |
| Wellbeing activities during the day or set as homework | <i>As a school, we know how important wellbeing is; if a child is mentally fit and happy then they have every opportunity to thrive academically. We already build in wellbeing activities using the running track and other resources for brain breaks such as cosmic yoga, breathwork, drawing and colouring as well as ensuring all pupils in KS2 will have the opportunity to participate in yoga sessions as part of their PE lessons before the end of the year. We are also a My Happy Mind school which teaches the children to be mentally well and supports mindfulness and wellbeing through weekly lessons and opportunities to journal. We will look into setting some mindfulness activities alongside homework (or instead of on some occasions) to support wellbeing at home as well as in school.</i> |

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| <p>Be better at supporting pupils' mental health</p> | <p><i>Many parents have commented on how caring, supportive and nurturing our school is and we are extremely proud of this. We recognise that academic achievement is important, but we also understand that a more holistic approach to how we teach and respond to children is equally as vital. Our universal offer to support all pupils' mental health is a robust one. All children in our school have access to weekly Personal Social, Health and Economic lessons alongside weekly My Happy Mind sessions. Both teach pupils about understanding their emotions and offer strategies on how to keep mentally and physically fit. Alongside this, we build mindfulness activities into our timetables and have a wide, and varied sports offer which supports both physical and mental wellbeing.</i></p> <p><i>Despite this offer to all pupils, there are some children who require a more bespoke approach to support them with aspects of self, home, or school which they may be struggling with. Again, we are proud of the support we give our pupils and families around this. We employ a pastoral support worker, Miss Leah, who is also trained as an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA). Miss Leah has dedicated time on her timetable to meet weekly with referred pupils for pastoral or ELSA support interventions. We are also extremely lucky to be able to have the support of a mental health counsellor who works on a 6-week 1:1 programme with key pupils each week as well. In addition, we have drawing and talking intervention therapy facilitated by one of our trained teaching assistants. Interventions by their very nature are short-term and the aim is to support the child to understand their emotions and feelings and to equip them with strategies to try out independently. Time away from the intervention is then given to allow this to happen. If we feel that there is still a need for further support, we will look at alternative programmes. This could include external support or through pastoral support in school. Miss Leah also offers light-touch intervention through class drop-ins to check on key pupils and all pupils who have previously been referred for pastoral or ELSA know that they can have 'bubble-time' with Miss Leah if they need it – this can be a drop-in chat at any time throughout the school day. - lots of children take her up on this offer! However, we like to think that our pupils can speak with any of the adults they are familiar with in school. We would also hope that if parents were experiencing problems with their child or were worried about them and they wanted some advice, guidance or support from school then they would come and speak with us: we would encourage this. In school, we sometimes do not see the child exhibit certain behaviours that they may demonstrate at home when in the comfort and security of their surroundings so it is always beneficial to come and have a chat with us to see how we can work together.</i></p> |
| <p>More feedback on how we can support our child's academic progress</p> | <p><i>Formal feedback on your child's academic progress is given each term through parents' evenings and through the end of year written report. However, we always say to teachers and parents that if you have any concerns or questions, please do not wait for parents' evenings. If parents want to know how their child is in a certain area, then please speak to the class teacher at the end of the school day.</i></p> <p><i>We also offer twice-yearly Stay and Learn workshops which not only give you the opportunity to see learning in practice in the classroom which gives great tips, but also offers information around the expectations of the focus subject and how parents and carers can support at home. Google Classroom, the class pages and subject pages on the school website also offer useful resources and links. Inside your child's reading planner are age-appropriate key facts, knowledge and spellings which also offer guidance for parents and carers.</i></p> |
| <p>Small numbers in Enrichment Clubs</p> | <p><i>We are proud of the many enrichment clubs we offer our children at lunchtime and after school. The vast majority of these are run voluntarily by our staff and we are very grateful to them for giving up their own time to enhance the experiences for our children.</i></p> <p><i>Some of our clubs have limits of 12 on the numbers of pupils who can access them due to the nature of the theme or the age of the children the club is aimed at. However, the vast majority do offer more places in particular the sporting ones – cross country has almost 40 participants and choir has around 30 members.</i></p> |

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| <p>Would you like to add any further comments?</p> | <p><i>We really appreciate you taking the time to respond with comments and suggestions. Many of you commented that what we were doing was enough as GSP was simply 'amazing' and you just wanted to thank us – which is so lovely!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• My son came from a different nursery and since he has joined Seedlings he has developed so much. He's writing his name, recognising letters and numbers, counting, adding numbers, identifying parts of books like the blurb etc. The list goes on. We love GSP!• Treetops is a great service.• Thank you for being such an excellent school and for making my child feel happy and safe. My child proudly tells everyone that he goes the best school in the world.• Our children report to being rushed to eat at lunchtimes. Our children report that dinner staff are inconsistent with behaviour strategies used in classrooms.• We are really happy that we chose GSP for our son. He is happy and flourishing in all that he does. The school really is a wonderful school.• My children are happy in school and love the range of activities and opportunities made available through the curriculum, trips and visitors. My children are doing extremely well academically. Communication on Google classroom is really effective from Beech Tree teaching team. I love how both of my children come home with a story to tell from their day, often telling me things they have enjoyed from their lessons.• Really happy we chose this nursery provision and it encouraged us to change our preference of schools for reception as it has been such a positive experience!• Thank you to all the staff who work so hard to provide for our children with such a positive experience; my children love coming to school.• I'm very impressed with Great Sankey Primary and I have recommended this school to others. I will continue to do this also. |
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