



# Birches First School

**Believe, Grow, Succeed ...**

*...to be the best 'me' I can be.*



## Parent Questionnaire Results - December/January

The response to the survey was brilliant and extremely useful. **Thank you** for taking the time to reply and give us feedback. I know that the staff appreciated the parental recognition of the successes. We wanted to learn from your experiences so far this year and recognise what we are doing well and understand clearly what we need to do to improve further. The Senior Leadership Team have reviewed the responses and outlined actions below. If there is anything further you feel I can do to improve our school for our children please do contact me to discuss. Thank you.

1 response = 1.5%. There were 66 responses.

We asked...	You said...	We do and what we are going to do...
<b>My child is happy at this school</b>	94% Agreed that their child is happy at Birches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Follow up with a children's questionnaire to gain children's opinions and details.</li> <li>- During PSHEe/RSE lesson, discuss results from Pupil Survey results and give opportunities to discuss.</li> </ul>
<b>My child feels safe at this school</b>	97% Agree their children feel safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue and remind children of all the policies implemented to keep our children safe and what we learn to help us to stay safe (Online Safety/Birches Values/Fundamental British Values)</li> </ul>
<b>The school makes sure it pupils are well behaved</b>	94% Agree that school make sure its pupils are well behaved (4.5%) Neutral (1.5%) Disagree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Signpost parents to the Behaviour Policy, Golden Expectations and Home School Agreement.</li> <li>- We are always commended when visitors come to school (prospective parents/ tradespeople/ Dance/ Theatre/ Sports workshops) and share positive feedback about the behaviour and manners of Birches' children.</li> <li>- Behaviour policies: we use Good to Be Green in YR-Y4. We use a 'traffic light' approach in YN/YR</li> </ul>
<b>My child has been bullied and the school deal with the bullying quickly and effectively</b>	82% (N/A)  7.6% Strongly/Agree 7.6% Neutral  3% Disagree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revisit our Anti-Bullying Policy. Ensure all systems are in place.</li> <li>- Re-introduce STOP (Several Times On Purpose) in class so children understand what constitutes bullying.</li> <li>- Ensure our themed assemblies over the next half term and moving forwards have an Anti-Bullying theme every 6 weeks, this links to our British Values teaching of Mutual Respect/Tolerance.</li> <li>- PSHEe – Anti-Bullying lessons for all year groups.</li> </ul>
<b>The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year</b>	94% Agree that school makes them aware of what their children are learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We provide a curriculum timetable every half term for you to view on the website and this is now on a quick link on Marvellous Me.</li> <li>- You can view the curriculum pathways for every subject to inform you of your child's educational learning journey from Nursery to Year 4 on the school website.</li> <li>- Knowledge Organisers are provided to support and understand what their child is learning as well as key vocabulary.</li> </ul>
<b>When I have raised concerns with the school they have dealt with it properly</b>	75.8% Strongly/Agree 18.2% Neutral  6% Disagree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All parents have access to year group emails. This was communicated in New to Year Group Meetings in September.</li> <li>- Please continue to contact class teachers or call the Office in the first instance if you need to raise a concern. Any Safeguarding Concerns, should be raised with Miss Varricchione with</li> </ul>

<p><b>My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed</b></p>	<p>13.7% Strongly/Agree 6.1% Neutral 1.5% Strongly disagree</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our curriculum is designed to ensure is accessible for all children. Work is differentiated to meet the needs of all children.</li> <li>- Children with SEND have an Individual Support Plan (ISP in place). This is to help children to meet their individual needs and goals. This is discussed with parents three times a year when targets are reviewed in which parents have the right to have their voices heard. Any concerns or questions regarding ISPs or SEND needs should be raised with the School SENCo.</li> <li>- A separate SEND parental questionnaire was sent out during Autumn 1 by our CMAT SENCo, Mrs Connolly. Parents can email Miss Hulme if you are concerned with anything relating to SEND for your child (<a href="mailto:shulme@birches.staffs.sch.uk">shulme@birches.staffs.sch.uk</a>).</li> </ul>
<p><b>The school has high expectations for my child</b></p>	<p>91% Strongly/Agree 7.6% Neutral 1.5% Strongly disagree</p>	
<p><b>My child does well at this school</b></p>	<p>89.4% agree their child does well at this school 7.6% Neutral 3% Strongly disagree</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Children do achieve well at Birches. Historically, as a school, our Data has been higher than National in Phonics, KS1 and Early Years Good Level of Development since 2014.</li> <li>- GLD: 79% BFS, National 68%</li> <li>- Phonics (Y1): 93% BFS, 80% National</li> <li>- Teachers continue to monitor children and ensure that all children can 'be the best they can be'. Interventions are implemented as soon as teachers identify any concerns. This is the hope that children will 'keep up' rather than have to 'catch up'.</li> </ul>
<p><b>My school lets me know how my child is doing</b></p>	<p>84.9% Strongly/Agree 12.1% Neutral 3% Disagree</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parents are supplied with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Results from Spelling/Tables tests (where applicable)</li> <li>o Comments regarding their reading and how to support-noted on Boom Reader</li> <li>o Parents receive a Mid-Year Report in February which informs parents of how their child is attaining.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Weekly homework has been introduced to give parents an understanding and insight of what has been covered in English/Maths (alternative weeks).</li> <li>- I am aware that other schools within the cluster, do not provide mid-year reports and only have 2 meeting opportunities per year. At Birches, parents are invited to three parent evenings, Autumn, Spring and Summer term to discuss how their child is attaining as well as an open-door policy. Parents also receive a summative report in July celebrating the child's achievements over the year and targets for the next academic year.</li> <li>- Staff mainly liaise with parents through Marvellous Me. If there are any concerns and you would like further information, please contact your child's class teacher/s.</li> <li>- As a staff team, we are reviewing reporting arrangements for the next academic year and any changes will be communicated to you.</li> </ul>
<p><b>There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school</b></p>	<p>92.5% Strongly/Agree 7.6% Neutral</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School leaders (Miss Varricchione/ Miss Hulme/ Mrs Buckley) have developed a progressive, sequenced curriculum that sets out the knowledge, skills and vocabulary children will achieve at each stage (within a lesson, week, half term, Key Stage and at the end of the time at Birches). It gives children the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences to equip them with their next stage of learning. The curriculum is designed to meet the needs of all children to help children apply what they have learnt with increasing fluency and independence.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our curriculum is <b>not</b> narrowed for any statutory tests. Children are taught the full curriculum.</li> <li>- Please visit our website for the full curriculum <b>pathway</b> your child receives in every subject as set in The National Curriculum.</li> </ul>
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school	<p>91% Strongly/Agree 6.1% Neutral 3% Disagree</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs Burkitt's After School Clubs continue to be full to capacity.</li> <li>- All teachers throughout the year commit to delivering a club for the children.</li> <li>- We have linked with Story Rangers and RockSteady Music to provide children with further enhancement opportunities.</li> <li>- We do our very best to give as many enrichment opportunities as we possibly can.</li> </ul>
The school supports my child's wider personal development	<p>85% Strongly/Agree 13.6% Neutral 1.5% Disagree</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As a school we pride ourselves on the number of Educational Visits we participate in. We are very lucky that you as parents support these visits. All schools I speak to are reducing the amount of visits due to the cost of the coaches. Thankfully we utilise public transport where possible as coach costs are somewhat astronomical.</li> <li>- Our provision for personal development is implemented continuously throughout the school in a variety of contexts. Mainly delivered through our PSHEe/RSE Curriculum.</li> <li>- We teach and follow Birches' Golden Expectations, Birches Values and Fundamental British Values. This is delivered both discreetly in class and as a school focus through our assemblies and themed weeks (Anti Bullying/Children in Need/ Harvest/ ECO) understanding right and wrong, how to be responsible and respectful.</li> <li>- We pride ourselves on promoting an inclusive environment where every child is valued regardless of faith, culture, race, beliefs, religion and disability this is of paramount importance to our school.</li> <li>- All children thrive together understanding that difference is positive and individual characteristics make people unique within school and beyond. Preparing children to participate and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.</li> <li>- Our RE curriculum teaches children the knowledge of, and respect of different faiths, feelings and values and identify what we share in common across cultural, religious, ethnic and communities.</li> <li>- We are a Healthy school and promote healthy eating and drinking, physical exercise, all children access the outdoors as much as possible and participate in the daily mile, relax and ready to learn, Go Noodle sessions throughout the day.</li> <li>- Children are taught about the online and offline risks. Children actively contribute to their class Risk Assessment on how to keep safe in the classroom.</li> <li>- We have a Local Authority approved Behaviour Policy, in which all children understand. Children are aware of rewards (Gold Star, Merits, Mathlete, Star Writer, Class of the Week etc) and consequences. These are all communicated in an age-appropriate way.</li> </ul>
I would recommend this school to another parent.	<p>91% Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We are delighted by the response and the support that you have showed.</li> <li>- For the families who have responded 'no' I would really appreciate any further feedback to enable us as a school to assist with anything you are unhappy with.</li> </ul>

Finally, your thoughts, comments and views are valued by us a school team. We will continue to develop actions to address these issues or comments raised as part of our ongoing school improvement. Current actions implemented as a result of feedback:

**'More advanced notice where parent participation is requested would be helpful'**

Historically, diary dates for the month are given on the first day of the month and advanced noticed is given for events such as Christmas Plays. We aim to provide notice for school lunches with a minimum of 2 weeks.

From January, a key dates overview has been provided to parents. Any events happening at the start of February have also been provided so that any upcoming events can be planned for. Teachers have discussed this in our staff meeting and we have agreed that parents should be given as much notice as possible due to work commitments and aim to always give 2 weeks' notice.

**Communication remains an issue. It's much better having one platform now and MM works well for prompts, congratulations and reminders. However, when letters are only accessible via this platform they become inaccessible once a certain time has lapsed. Please ensure important letters are always accessible to parents on the school website. Parents look there in the first instance. Really important letters should be printed.**

We have contacted Marvellous Me about trying to get more subjects listed so it can help parents to identify quickly what they are looking for i.e. Spellings as it was brought to attention that it was overwhelming. We hope you find this more accessible.

All letters are always uploaded to the website. We appreciate that you may need to find something quickly on the website, so we have created a Quick Link on Marvellous Me which takes you to all the letters on the school website.

**Finally, thank you to those who left a comment-here are some of them- to say it boosted staff morale in a meeting is understatement! So thank you!**

Very happy with all aspects of Birches from an educational and support perspective. I would highly recommend the school and think that all the children and parents are extremely lucky to have such, kind, caring, committed teachers and staff. Thank you.

None. This school is amazing the staff go above and beyond every day. I cannot thank them enough for all they do. They are kind caring and have the children's best interests at heart an amazing school. We are lucky that our child attends this school.

The enrichment opportunities are vast.

My daughter has come on leaps and bounds since starting nursery at birches. I couldn't recommend the school enough.

No other comment other than a big thank you for all the hard work you all put in.

has thrived at the school, and all staff are so supportive of both with her educationally and emotionally, and myself in what I need to support her at home.

I love the school and I'm grateful my girls are part of it.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

S Varricchione

Headteacher