



# Arnside National Primary School

## Parent Questionnaire 2019 - 2020

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

A questionnaire was sent out to families requesting feedback about our school. Thank you very much for your contributions. This letter sets out what the school has learnt and the next steps.

- There were 76 returned questionnaires, approximately 59% response rate. Numbers don't always add to the total as some questions were left blank and some questions had 2 responses.
- Four questions had more than 74 people who 'agreed' & four questions had more than 7 people who 'disagreed'. Discussions centered on these areas – 'strengths' & 'areas for development'.

### Strengths

Parental opinions demonstrate the strengths of the school are providing pupils with a safe and welcoming environment where they feel happy and well looked after. We always aim to ensure all pupils have the opportunity to fulfil their potential and the majority of parents felt staff expected their child to work hard and do his / her best. Staff, pupils and governors are very proud of the caring, nurturing atmosphere in school and safeguarding pupils is of paramount importance in our ever-changing world. Parental support is a vital factor in ensuring future development is positive, successful and sustainable, and we have used the following discussion points to focus our whole school development plan.

### Areas for development

#### ***'I receive valuable information from school about my child's progress'***

Currently, parents are invited to attend an Autumn and Spring term meeting to discuss their child's progress, achievement and next steps in learning. Time has to be limited to 10 minutes but should a parent need longer, teachers will arrange another time to continue the discussions. We give a choice of evenings to help accommodate parental and family commitments. In the Spring term, parents / carers receive a progress report which identifies progress, attainment and targets. In the Summer term, teachers write a report for parents and pupils also make a contribution to this. Parents are invited to make a comment and this is then filed with the pupil's records. Children identified as having a special educational need will have an individual education plan (IEP) which is reviewed each term. Teachers are often busy prior to school, preparing for the day ahead and liaising with other staff, but they are usually available for parents at the end of the school day either in person or on the phone.

#### Next steps:

- ✓ Identify borderline pupils more clearly and inform parents / carers where appropriate.
- ✓ Provide additional opportunities for class teachers to discuss progress concerns with parents / carers.
- ✓ Make more parents aware of the school's open door policy. Parents can arrange to discuss their child's progress **at any time** in the academic year – we are always available to discuss any issues.

***'The Christian nature of our school makes a good contribution to the moral, spiritual and social development of my child'***

Arnside National School is a Church of England school. Our board of trustees is made up of members from the Carlisle Diocese and has a fundamental role in shaping the nature and ethos of our school. We are proud of our links with St James' Church and we work closely with the local community to provide a wide range of experiences that promote moral, spiritual and social development. Our church inspection report (SIAMs) graded the school as 'Good, with Outstanding features' and specifically referenced the positive impact the Christian nature made on the community, staff, parents and pupils. We believe in developing the whole child and our range of values reflect this.

Next steps:

- ✓ Make parents more aware of how the Christian and school values are inter-linked with the National Curriculum.
- ✓ Encourage parents / carers to attend whole school events such as Harvest, Easter and the Christmas carol service
- ✓ Promote the multi-faith aspects of the RE curriculum.

***'School responds well to any concern I raise'***

School has an open door policy for parents / carers to discuss concerns. There are several forms of communication for parents / carers who have difficulty arranging a meeting after school. These include: mail, phone calls, email or class dojo. Where appropriate, we encourage pupils to be involved in the resolution process and ensure all viewpoints are taken into consideration. We make every effort to be fair and consistent, and treat each concern as an individual case. Class teachers share parental concerns with the Headteacher or Deputy and, where appropriate, information is recorded on the school management system.

Next steps:

- ✓ Provide more detailed feedback to parents / carers on actions taken.
- ✓ Arrange a follow up meeting to review actions.
- ✓ Ensure all concerns are dealt with in a timely and concise manner.

***'School helps me support my child's learning'***

School provides a variety of resources to help parents support their child's learning. We hold induction meetings for new starters in Nursery and Reception classes. At parents' evenings, the class teacher will provide strategies to help with supporting pupil learning i.e. website suggestions, information leaflets, games or additional work. Pupils in KS2 have individual targets and are encouraged to share these with their parents / carers. Pupils with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) will have specific strategies that are in place to support learning and development. We hold curriculum sessions to support and inform parents / carers i.e. Internet safety, Computing & KS1 reading.

Next steps:

- ✓ School to organise **more regular** curriculum information sessions for parents / carers with a focus on strategies to support learning and development.
- ✓ Ensure all classes have an information booklet for parents / carers which identify ways of supporting their child's learning.
- ✓ Encourage parents / carers to share and assist with basic, regular homework activities where appropriate. These may include: daily reading, spellings, times tables, telling the time, using money etc.

Thank you for your help and support.

Mr Sharp