

Evaluation of parent/carer survey on school life

(35 responses from 96 families)

1. My child is happy at school:

94% stated they agree or strongly agree with this statement, 6% was neutral

2. My child feels safe in school.

97% stated they agree or strongly agree with this statement, 3% was neutral

3. My child does well at school.

91% stated they agree or strongly agree with this statement, 9% was neutral

4. The school has high expectations for my child.

85% stated they agree or strongly agree with this statement, 15% was neutral

5. The school makes sure pupils are well behaved.

97% stated they agree or strongly agree with this statement, 3% was neutral

6. The school deals effectively with bullying.

33% stated they agree or strongly agree with this statement, 36% was neutral, 27% have no experience of bullying, 3% disagree

7. The school is a welcoming and pleasant place.

97% stated they agree or strongly agree with this statement, 3% was neutral

8. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.

82% stated that agree or strongly agree with this statement, 15% was neutral, 3% strongly disagree.

9. When I raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.

82% stated that they agree or strongly agree, 15% was neutral, 3% disagree

10. The school lets me know how my child is doing.

85% stated that they agree or strongly agree, 12% was neutral, 3% disagree

11. The school's curriculum is broad and balanced.

88% stated that they agree or strongly agree, 12% was neutral

12. The school supports my child's wider personnel development

88% stated that they agree or strongly agree, 12% was neutral

13. I would recommend St. Mary's CVA New Mills to another parent.

94% stated that they agree or strongly agree, 6% disagree

14. In your opinion, what are the best things about St. Mary's CVA New Mills.

You said: We are made welcome, the school is warm and friendly, all pupils are valued, respect from pupils, support for mental health, caring staff, happy school, amazing teachers who help and respond to any queries, enrichment activities including sport, music and the provision of chrome books in KS2. A personal approach and nurturing environment. 50% of all responses say the best thing about St. Mary's are the staff.

15. Is there anything in particular that you would change about the school?

You said: Can we explain what the assemblies are about, can the assembly days be changed, explanation on the structure of the school day, weekly updates about child's activities and progress, ensure pupils out on time, whole class punishments- can this be reviewed? smaller class size, review transition from KS1 to KS2, parking and further communication- sometimes it is to short notice and managing homework.

16. In what ways would you like to see the school develop over the next three years?

You said: This is an outstanding school, provision of holiday clubs, a big carpark, communication to parents about topics being taught, shelters, reduce age for music tuition, can children learn about budgets and extend free school meals to all families.

17. Have you any further comments about the school... anything that you would like to add?

You said: We are delighted with all that you do, thank you for all your hard work in raising such wonderful children, fantastic school, thank you for looking after our children with such care and kindness, more communication, social events for parents and further use of Forest schools. The best school in New Mills.

Response and actions to: Is there anything in particular that you would change about the school?

11/11/22 Sway E letter communicated information on assemblies

Response to parent/carer questions on assemblies.

Monday whole school liturgical prayer is led by our year 6 senior chaplains and this is based on the gospel reading from mass on Sunday. Children will hear the gospel and complete fun and engaging activities around this e.g., dancing and drama. They will reflect and answer questions on the reading and will be given a mission for the week, for example share a smile or be thankful for the little things.

Friday Star of the week

There is a different theme each week and this may include guest speakers. Each week different pupils are awarded a certificate based on this theme e.g., diversity, forgiveness etc. Within this assembly we will celebrate, for example, school sporting successes when applicable. Each week the year 5 and 6 pupils tally the rewards each class has received so that we can identify the winning house at the end of each term. It also includes our golden table award which is awarded to pupils for good table manners.

I hope this helps to give you all a little taster of school life within both these whole school sessions.

Questionnaire to follow on **change of days for assemblies**. This will be added to our weekly newsletter.

Class teachers have completed a short **video about the school week**- this link will be added to the SWAY e letter and onto the school website

Weekly updates about individual child progress- if you are concerned about your child's progress, please email the class teacher. We operate an open-door policy and teachers are more than happy to discuss pupil concerns and address any issues you may have.

We will endeavour to ensure all **pupils are out on time**. There is always a valid reason why they may be late for example a child has forgotten their bag/chrome book and have to go back and retrieve it from the cloakroom, a child may have had an accident at the end of the day which we will always attend to as a priority or they have been attending school sports which may sometime overrun.

Whole class punishments. We will ensure that these are minimised. However, when we have persistent low level behaviour issues where a large percentage of pupils are either actively involved in or non-participatory we may ask the class to stay in for a short time to ensure outstanding behaviour is modelled at all times.

Class size. In KS1 no class is above 30 as per the dfe (Department of Education)

In KS2 there is no cap on pupil numbers per class. Research studies also indicate that if pupils in KS2 have the correct space and adult ratios there is no or very little impact on pupil attainment. In St Mary's CVA we have the space, capacity, and subject expertise to ensure all pupils achieve their

true potential and attainment. This is clearly evidenced through our SATS results in Year 6 and in pupil progress at KS3.

Transition from KS1 to KS2. Pupils do complete transitions days and weekly sessions in the summer term. However, we can continue to monitor this and look at further extending timings. The first term in a new Key Stage is always daunting and we find most if not all pupils settle well in the second term.

Parking. We have regularly communicated our concerns around this. The Parish church allows us use of their car park and we are actively encouraging all our pupils and adults to park a little way from school- (5 minutes) and walk the last part. Not only is this a health benefit both mentally and physically, but it also allows children to walk and talk supporting communication and language development. As part of our sustainability drive it also reduces air pollution around school and hopefully a saving on fuel.

Further communication. This is an area where we have worked very hard to improve by using app messages, see saw, e **letter** etc. If you have another idea, please email school.

See Saw will be further used to support and demonstrate pupil learning.

One response noted too short notice to attend mass during the first week back This was not an additional school mass. We regularly attend mass at church either on Tuesday and Thursday as a class or whole school. Mass on these days is at 10.00am. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

Homework. We set homework for pupils to reinforce and extend their learning. However, if there are any concerns, please email the class teacher to address any issues on a one to one basis.

Afterschool clubs. Our wrap around club covers many exciting and creative activities for all pupils. The range of clubs previously ran during COVID were offered to support well being during these challenging times.

School trips. All pupils take part in the above every year normally when it is warmer, we are conscious in the current economic climate to further develop this however we will continue to complete mental well-being walks each term.

Strict school uniform. As a Catholic school we are extremely proud of our school uniform and appearance and how that represents us in the local community. Ensuring all our pupils dress smartly allows all pupils to feel equal and part of the school community.

School disco. The end of term October disco was before Halloween. However, we have had several parents and pupils upset about Halloween discos in the past and as a result we have refrained from organising one under this name and ensuring all pupils dress accordingly to ensure younger pupils are not frightened. We celebrate All Saints Day as a Catholic school. We will always ensure our pupils and PTA have fun filled events that are appropriate within school life.

Q16

In what ways would you like to see the school develop over the next three years?

Can pupils learn about budgeting?

During our Lent 2 term, in the Year B cycle of our 'All About Me' lessons, children complete a half term topic called 'Money Matters'.

The aim of this topic is to ensure our pupils understand the importance of money and the different choices and attitudes surrounding it. They learn about spending and saving, keeping track of money and recognising the difference in wants, needs and priorities. As a Catholic school, it is imperative that we teach our children to consider others and those less fortunate. We talk about places within the community that support families in need and look beyond our locality using our CAFOD resources, asking big questions about the sharing of the worlds wealth and how we can care for our brothers and sisters in our worldwide community.

In addition to this, we supplement our teaching of 'Money Matters' with some of the resources provided by Natwest Banks 'Money Sense'.

Natwest provide a wealth of resources for both schools and parents/families about how to support children age 5-18 learn how to manage their money responsibly.

The link to their resources is: [Learning with NatWest | NatWest learning](#) and there are other learning programmes available there for older siblings around Careers (13-24 year olds) and Dreaming Bigger (16-18 year olds) should you have any other children at home who could benefit from the resources.

Holiday clubs. This is an area that we are working on through our mode shift accreditation with High Peak School Sports. During term time they run full day local events and our plan is to research if they can be hosted within our school. In addition, we will send out a parent questionnaire next term to gage demand for this.

Shelter. We are looking at the cost for both a bicycle shed and additional cover during adverse weather conditions. We will work with the PTA to see how we can fund this with your help

Lower age for private music tuition. Unfortunately, this is set by the music partners. However, all our pupils learn how to play a musical instrument and write music through our music teacher Miss Watson every Thursday.

Extend free school meals to all. We totally agree with you and will pass this communication onto our local MP Robert Lorgan.

IT impact on writing. We ensure all pupils learn to write with confidence and independence. IT skills and implementation enrich this experience and help prepare all our pupils for the next stage of their learning journey and future employment.

Finally, there were 2 anonymous responses that require individual support- reading levels and the PTA. Please feel free to email the school so that we can further act on your responses.

Q17- Social Events for parents

We will look at this further with the help of the PTA during next term

Use of Forest schools

Pupils access this area regularly as part of their curriculum learning. During warmer and drier months pupils may spend several sessions learning about their environment in science within this area. Pupils also use this area to help with the chickens and learning about the life cycles of chickens and frogs utilising pond dipping to investigate the development of tadpoles.