

Parent Survey – Feedback from Governors January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you so much for taking the time to fill in and return the parent/carer questionnaire regarding your child/children's experience of Corbridge CofE First School. We especially appreciate you taking the time to tell us how we are doing. Parent questionnaires are an important part of the way in which our school evaluates what we are doing well and where we can improve.

We are really pleased to report that the overwhelming majority of parents/carers are really happy with their child's experience of school. This is so brilliant to read as governors, and we are really grateful to our staff and wider school community for their continuing support. What was remarkable this year, was the number of parents/carers who used the questionnaire as an opportunity to say thank you to CFS staff for their support, dedication and friendliness this year and governors would also like to take this opportunity to echo this thanks.

We've enclosed the numerical data (apologies: it makes for cheerful but dry reading!) but have also summarised below the qualitative responses from the feedback box at the end of the questionnaire. The responses have also identified some areas in which we can do better and, in addition, we've received some helpful suggestions as to how to improve in specific areas. All of the praise, advice and suggestions will be taken on board, carefully considered and acted upon.

The survey was completed across the Federation of Broomhaugh and Corbridge CofE First Schools. If you would like to see the results from the BFS survey, they can be viewed here: http://www.broomhaugh.northumberland.sch.uk/website/parent_view/249566

Thank you.

Summary:

- 89 responses were received.
- 100% respondents agreed/strongly agreed that their child was happy at school.
- 98.8% respondents agreed/strongly agreed that their child felt safe at school.
- 97.3% of respondents said school made sure the children behaved well.
- 73% children had not experienced bullying. 92% of remaining respondents reported that they agreed/strongly agreed that school had dealt with bullying effectively.
- 89.8% respondents agreed/strongly agreed that school made them aware of what their child will learn during the year.
- 30.3% respondents hadn't raised concerns with school. Of the remaining respondents, 98% agreed/strongly agreed that school had effectively dealt with concerns properly.
- 74.2% respondents reported that their child did not have special educational needs. 100% of parents of children with special needs agreed/strongly agreed that school gives their child the support need for them to succeed.
- 83.2% respondents agreed/strongly agreed that school had high expectations of their child.
- 98.8% respondents agreed/strongly agreed that their child does well at this school.
- 95.5% respondents agreed/strongly agreed that school lets them know how their child is doing.
- 92.1% respondents agreed/strongly agreed that there is a good range of subjects available to their child at school.
- 88.7% respondents agreed/strongly agreed that their child can take part in clubs and activities at school.

- 93.2% respondents agreed/strongly agreed that school supports their child's wider personal development.
- 100% respondents agreed/strongly agreed that they would recommend this school to another parent.

Information shared from the Federated Governing Body of Broomhaugh and Corbridge First Schools.

Compiled by Elisabeth Charman and Gayle Baty.

On the following page please find some responses from Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Sanderson and Miss. Storey.

Parent Survey – Responses collected Autumn 2024

What we are doing well:

- Excellent school all my children have been through this and it continues to improve;
- My child has been really happy during year 3 and 4 and has progressed really well. Miss Owen & Mrs Sanderson have been fantastic and managed to keep my son interested and enthusiastic about school topics;
- I'm really glad my son is at Corbridge First and will be sad when he leaves later in the year;
- Very pleased with the support and effectiveness at this school;
- Great to see provision of clubs growing thank you. Anything STEM/ science based possible?
- Strong on supporting children around understanding emotions;
- My child enjoys school;
- My child is super happy, he loves his teachers;
- My child is very happy at the school and we hope to send our youngest daughter to the school when she is 4;
- Since starting nursery in September, my child has loved attending his new school. He has made lots of new friends and looks forward to coming in every day. He has lots of lovely things to say about his teachers and I would highly recommend the school, can't wait for his sister to join him next year.

What we could do better:

- Dinners. It seems clear that this has got worse as my son has progressed through the school. It was pretty good 2 or 3 years ago with more good healthy options. It's also poor how the 'treat/special occasion meals' are always unhealthy-curly fries, donuts etc. I think education around healthy eating is imperative for children and it would be great if this was demonstrated through school lunches. More variety, less pasta and more fresh produce would be great.
[Thank you for sharing your thoughts on the school meals. We are committed to providing balanced meals and promoting healthy eating habits. Fresh produce has been something that we have found difficult to source over the last year, and Mrs. Dobson has worked hard to find alternative local providers to ensure the best fruit and vegetables for the children. The salad bar is well stocked and available every day. We also agree that education around healthy eating is crucial, and this is woven throughout our DT, science and PSHE curricula.](#)

[Moving forward: Parent to lunch events to be held in March/April 2025. Families are welcome to attend and share a meal with their child. During this event, there will be the opportunity to discuss the food offer with kitchen staff as well as a food-specific survey.](#)

- I feel there is not enough emphasis on the outdoor school facilities other than rare forest school activities. The school grounds are untidy and have a lot of potential to create interesting play areas for the children.
[Whenever a maintenance issue arises, we aim to address it as quickly as possible, giving immediate priority to anything that may present a health and safety concern. Mr Gardner works hard to keep the school and grounds presentable and in working order. A leaf blower was bought in autumn 2024 to tidy the leaves and work took place over the summer to paint and restore the goal posts and remove debris from the site. New playground systems were put into place during Summer 2024, although tidying up after play time continues to be something that we are working on with the children.](#)

Moving forward: We will continue to prioritise outdoor maintenance and budget allocations through the premises governors' audits. We will reach out to community to help us to tidy/refresh the grounds – and explore fundraising ideas with the children to help us achieve some goals. The School Council will continue to conduct site tours with Mrs. Sanderson and pass any jobs or concerns on to Mr. Gardner. We want the school to look the best it can so children will be proud of and respect it. Forest School remains a core part of our curriculum.

- It's a shame the school deleted their twitter page, it would be nice to have one or a Facebook page to see what the children are doing. Once they no longer have the tapestry we don't really know much of what they are learning or we are reliant upon the children telling us at home. The lunchtime supervision concerns me as things seem to go unnoticed at times or children are getting told off and not sure what for or getting blamed for what others are doing.

We will always take time to listen and respond to all concerns and provide information about the children. Partnership working is vital and we value the relationship between home and school greatly. We have an open-door policy in school and are always happy to talk to families, either in person or at a convenient time via telephone.

Twitter/X was no longer a platform that we wanted to be part of. Since leaving, meetings have taken place with social media experts, who have given us advice on next steps and good practice. Following this, I will be getting in touch shortly about our plans!

We have robust behaviour and relational policies in place to support children throughout the school day. Playground Buddies were trained in Autumn Term and are on the playground to offer peer support. Staffing levels outdoors are high. All staff – including kitchen and supervisory staff – are trained in the approaches outlined in the policy and regular observations and reviews take place. An implementation plan is in place to ensure the best possible outcomes at playtime, supported by all staff.

Moving forward: New social media accounts will be created on platforms other than Twitter/X. More information to follow.

- Great to see provision of clubs growing thank you. Anything STEM/ science based possible? Thank you for your feedback! We're thrilled to hear that you're pleased with the growth of the clubs and we are so proud of the variety on offer currently. We absolutely agree that STEM and science-based clubs are a great addition, and we're always looking for ways to expand our offerings in these areas. We have had a huge volume of parent volunteers for STEM fortnight, so there will be many fantastic opportunities in school during this time. We will look into the possibility of introducing more STEM-focused activities, however the clubs do depend on the interests and expertise of the teachers as they volunteer their time to facilitate them.
- My only comment would be that I wish there was better communication regarding why homework is not given the weeks after the start of term and the weeks before the end of term. I appreciate things wind down towards Christmas, for example, but my daughter really enjoys homework tasks and they stopped a week earlier than I would have expected. We understand how it can be frustrating when there's a lack of clarity around the homework schedule, especially when your daughter enjoys the tasks. We strive to balance the academic calendar with the natural ebbs and flows of the term, making sure that children are not overwhelmed during busy or over-stimulating periods.

Moving forward: Routines to be reviewed around homework – these may run all year round, with completion optional.

- There also seems to be a lot of occasions where we hear they've been watching TV and cartoons at end of day. Again, rationale behind this isn't communicated to parents.
- Television and films are used appropriately by staff in school to enhance the curriculum. This may include accessing news reports through Newsround to facilitate discussion with children or accessing documentaries or other media specific to learning objectives in class, such as Explorify in science or Numberblocks in maths.

Moving forward: A review of screen time in school to take place. If any non-educational content is being used, this will be addressed.

Once again, we thank you. We have an open door policy at school and are always available to answer questions and provide clarification – big and small! By working together, we can ensure we are always the best we can be here at Corbridge CE First School.