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Tuesday 14th November 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Parent/Carer Questionnaire Feedback

On behalf of the Emmaus Federation, I would like to thank all families who have responded to the parents' questionnaire that was handed out during our most recent parents' evening. A total of 141 forms were returned, equating to 0.7% per questionnaire.

Parent Questionnaire Autumn 2017						
		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
1	My child is happy at Swineshead	76%	23%			1%
2	My child feels safe at Swineshead	69%	30%			1%
3	My child makes good progress at Swineshead	68%	30%	1%	1%	
4	My child is well looked after at Swineshead	73%	26%			1%
5	My child is well taught at Swineshead	72%	28%			
6	My child receives appropriate homework	57%	38%	3%	1%	1%
7	Swineshead makes sure its pupils are well behaved	69%	28%	2%		1%
8	Swineshead deals effectively with bullying	44%	33%	5%		18%
9	Swineshead is well led and managed	54%	41%	1%		4%
10	Swineshead responds well to any concerns I raise	57%	33%	4%		6%
11	I receive valuable information about progress	62%	36%	2%		
12	I find communication links useful	69%	30%	1%		
13	Would you recommend Swineshead	Yes		No		Don't know
		95%		4%		1%

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I have included the feedback from parents regarding the strengths and areas for improvement within the school. I have refrained from including any personal information relating to a child, as this should be dealt with through a conversation with the teacher or through the senior leadership team.

It is heart-warming that so many of you feel that your child is happy in school and that your child feels safe. It is also encouraging that so many of you would recommend the school and that you feel that your child is well taught and is making good progress.

Strengths of the school	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of comments about their child being happy/very happy at Swineshead. • Positive comments about their child's teacher. • Impressed by their child's progress. • Thankful for helpful, friendly and supportive staff across the whole school. • Good at transitions from when their child starts school to preparing pupils for secondary school. 	

Suggested areas for improvement	Actions
Some teachers need to use Class Dojo more consistently	A reminder to all staff about the importance of using Dojo and to check daily.
Deal more effectively with bullying	<p>This is a real concern and one that we take very seriously. The vast majority of parents who gave a 'Don't know' response was because their child had not experienced any bullying, so were unable to comment.</p> <p>Actions we will initiate in response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum to ensure all children are taught regularly about how to behave respectfully to each other and how to show compassion, kindness and care for one another. • To remind children about the 'worry boxes' in each classroom and for staff to check them regularly and respond. • To hold an 'Anti-Bullying Week' in January 2018. • To ensure all staff follow The Emmaus Federation's Bullying Policy and Good Behaviour Policy.
Don't change teachers as much	<p>Staff are usually deployed in response to their skills and what they can bring to a certain year group. This may mean that a member of staff may change year groups in response to school improvement.</p> <p>We also offer a school where pupils are taught in response to their needs with a tailored approach to their learning. We evaluate pupils' learning, through summative assessments, four times a year and provide on-going feedback and monitor progress through formative assessments on a weekly basis. We are keen that each child is in the correct class for their learning needs and we will always ensure that challenge and/or further support is given, which may result in a change of class.</p>
Sort the car park out	The car park is a staff car park with one designated disabled area for

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	<p>parents with a child/ren with a registered disability.</p> <p>It is dangerous for parents to use the staff car park when children are entering and exiting the school. It is also very frustrating for staff that cannot get a car parking space in a staff car park.</p> <p>We have tried closing the gate, although this is time-consuming for staff as parents sometimes open the gate. Staff also open the gate to exit and do not always close it behind them.</p> <p>We will try closing the gate at 8:30 am and opening it at 9:00 am and again at 3:00 am and opening it at 3:30 pm. Hopefully, everyone will respect the need for a gate and this might reduce the problem.</p>
More challenging homework and homework marking	<p>The Homework Policy has recently been reviewed and updated by all teaching staff and will be reviewed by the Governing Body.</p> <p>The Marking Policy has also been reviewed for governors' approval (both policies will be updated on the school website).</p> <p>Homework should be marked in response to the policy and should include a 'next-step' or comments on why an answer is incorrect. We do not use a cross, but mark incorrect answers with a dot. This can change to a tick if a child understands an error and corrects it. It also can be demoralising for a child to see lots of crosses on a piece of work.</p> <p>The Head of School is responsible for monitoring homework and a lot has been done on this area since the start of term with many improvements. Of course, this work is on going and we will address the comments raised in the questionnaire.</p>
School concentrated more on class work rather than pantomimes, plays, extra assemblies and charity events	<p>We are proud of our class assemblies and productions as we feel that they allow children to share and showcase their learning in school - we feel that it is an important life skill and allows learning to become more concrete. The social, moral, spiritual and cultural elements to our school are a recognised strength. We do actively encourage the children to take part in community events, such as national charity days or days of remembrance and we try to link it to PSHE as much as possible.</p>
Some communication can be short notice	<p>We try to get communication out as soon as it's feasibly possible. Class Dojo and Twitter is a really useful tool to find out what is happening. The termly newsletter, class newsletters and information letters are now emailed so that the information gets straight to you.</p>

I appreciate that the comments made regarding the strengths and areas to improve in school are only a small snapshot and may not reflect your own views or experience of school life at Swineshead. You may have a different set of concerns and the best course of action is to contact you child's class teacher directly or come and speak to Mrs Hutchinson, or myself, if you feel that this would be more helpful.

I can assure all parents that we are continually working hard to ensure the school is good or better in every area.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Claire Collett
Executive Headteacher

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