

# Emmaville Primary School

## Parents' Questionnaire April 2014

### **Background**

At Emmaville Primary School we recognise that one of the ways we can continue to improve as a school is by encouraging feedback from our parents on a regular basis. Prior to our Spring Term Parents' evening, staff got together with our School Council to design a questionnaire for parents to give them the opportunity to tell us what their child liked most about school and suggest any ways which they think our school can be improved.

In addition to open questions, where parents could give us more detailed feedback, we included questions from Ofsted's 'Parent View' webpage. Parent View asks for opinions on 12 aspects of a child's school, from the quality of teaching, to dealing with bullying and poor behaviour; parents will be given the opportunity to complete Ofsted's questionnaire when our school is inspected.

The questionnaires were handed out by members of our School Council while parents / carers were waiting to see their child's teacher – it was felt that this would maximise the number of questionnaires returned to school and provide a convenient method of collection for parents / carers. The questionnaires were anonymous and were posted into a folder by parents/ carers as they exited the school.

### **Breakdown of Results**

#### **1. Things my child likes best about school are:**

Responses included a wide range of answers which could be broadly categorised into:

##### **a. Learning**

Homework; specific lessons (Maths, PE, Art, Literacy, Science etc)

##### **b. School Environment:**

Friends; teachers and learning environment they create; outside area; role play; school dinners; school pets; routine; assembly; books in library; rewards system for good behaviour

##### **c. Extra-curricular activities:**

Collapsed curriculum weeks; being on School Council; helping younger children as a buddy; after school clubs; trumpet; choir; sports leaders training; dance clubs; a variety of sports activities; school trips/ residential trips.

## 2. Parent View Questions

	Strongly disagree	disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	% agree/ strongly agree (5)
My child is happy at this school	0	0	5	41	123	96%
My child feels safe at this school	0	0	2	42	125	99%
My child makes good progress at this school	0	0	6 <sup>(1)</sup>	50	113	91% (99%)
My child is well looked after at this school	0	0	0	41	128	100%
My child is taught well at this school	0	0	0	53	116	100%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	0	3	10	47	109	92%
The pupils are well behaved at this school	0	0	9 <sup>(2)</sup>	69	91	95% (98%)
This school deals effectively with bullying	0	1	39 <sup>(3)</sup>	41	88	78% (95%)
This school is well led and managed	0	0	2	50	117	99%
This school responds well to any concern I raise	0	0	15 <sup>(4)</sup>	48	106	91% (98%)
I receive valuable information about my child's progress	0	2	8	55	104	91%
I would recommend this school to another parent	0	0	3	44	122	98%

(1) 1 Child only attended school for 4 weeks/ 4 children new to nursery – could not comment on progress

(2) 5 responses stated 'unsure'/ not aware of any poor behaviour

(3) 26 responses in this category stated no experience so could not comment / 4 responded with '?'

(4) 11 responses in this category stated no experience so could not comment

(5) Revised percentage taking into account 'no experience of'

### Conclusion and recommendations supported by questionnaire

In 10 of the 12 'Parent View' questions a positive response (agree or strongly agree) was given by over 95% of participants. The remaining 2 areas scored as stated:

- My child receives appropriate homework for their age (92%)
- I receive valuable information about my child's progress (91%)

## Homework

The current government guidelines on homework suggest that pupils in Years 1 and 2 (ages five to seven) should do 10 minutes of homework a night, stretching to 30 minutes a day for pupils in Years 5 and 6 (ages nine to 11).

At Emmaville weekly homework is currently as follows:

	Reading	Maths	English	Topic
EYFS	4 books per week		Handwriting / phonic sheet from summer term	One piece per half term
Year 1 and 2	Daily	1 task weekly 20 mins	1 task weekly 20 mins	termly
Year 3 and 4	Minimum 3 times a week – recorded in reading record	1 task 20-30 mins per week	Daily practice of Spellings plus one task 20– 30 mins per week	One piece of research per term
Year 5 and 6	Minimum 3 times a week – recorded in reading record	1 task 30 mins per week	Daily practice of Spellings plus one task 30 mins per week	One piece of research per term

## Information about child's Progress

We realise that there is a need to optimise the opportunities for parents and carers to communicate regularly with school staff and, in addition to staff being available at the end of the school day to discuss general school issues, we can always provide appointments to parents wishing to discuss any issues in greater detail.

Other opportunities that could be considered:

- Revise our current reporting system including annual reports becoming termly or bi-annual with a 'lighter touch' report format.

## A sample of notable comments

*Both of my children are happy and are making excellent progress. I admire the way the children respect rules and are disciplined but they still have a lot of fun. I'm pleased my children attend Emmaville.*

*Emmaville is an excellent school! I love the flexibility of breakfast and afterschool. Staff are really friendly, approachable and my daughter loves all of them. She is happy to school, which I try not to take for granted. She has lots of friends, loves the buddy system, love that older pupils get some responsibility. We enjoy coming to assemblies and the variety of topics that are taught. Thank you!*

*I recommended this school to a friend who lives in Ryton. She came for a visit and was very complimentary about it.*

*We are delighted with our child's education at Emmaville. She is making super progress and enjoying her time here. The work in her books is outstanding – so creative and engaging – no wonder she loves coming.*

*There is a lovely atmosphere in the school with very positive feedback throughout the years. Both our children have been very happy at Emmaville. Thanks for all your hard work over the years.*

*We are very happy with school. All the staff seem to really care about the children and their learning.*

*I find the school very understanding with any concerns I have and they deal with them appropriately.*

*My little boy has settled in so quickly and he loves coming to school.*

*My son seems genuinely happy and comfortable at school. He enjoys all aspect of school life and it is a testament to the hard work and care of the staff. Thank you*

*Emmaville School is a lovely school and my daughter has come on so much since September.*

*I am pleased with the progress my son has made both academically and socially.*

*We have only been at this school for four weeks, but I feel very welcomed here – my children seem very happy. Thank you*

*We are delighted with how well our son has settled into nursery. He has no hesitation in coming to nursery every day and talks very positively about the staff. We enjoy reading his diary every week to find out what he has been up to.*

*Excellent staff make this a friendly school with happy students.*

*Our child loves coming to school here. There is a very vibrant and positive buzz to Emmaville School. The staff seem to work extremely hard to ensure that children are very well catered for in all areas. Thank you everyone!*

*Our son has had that little extra help at school and we can see a huge jump in his work, we are over the moon with his progress.*

*Love the caring attitude of staff here. School has such a lovely atmosphere.*