

# Elmhurst School

Making a Positive Difference to the Quality of Learning  
Headteacher ♦ Mrs Rachel Lee



22 May 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

**Feedback from the March/April 2015 parental questionnaire shows very strong responses from parents with all parents saying that their child/children are well taught and 99% saying they are happy with their child's experiences at Elmhurst.**

We thank those parents who found time to complete the parental questionnaire, which we sent to you recently. Responses were received from a high number of parents representing nearly half of the children at the school. We value greatly the feedback we receive from parents and use this to tackle any areas of concern which you may raise, as well as to build on those areas of school life that you tell us are strong. A small number of parents also made additional written comments about the work of the school with the great majority of these praising the commitment of school staff.

**The strongest responses to the questions** (with at least 95% of parents in strong agreement or agreement with the statement) are shown below:

- The school ensures my child is well looked after (100% agree or strongly agree)
- My child is well taught at this school (100% agree or strongly agree)
- The school helps my child to develop skills in communication, reading, writing and mathematics (100% agree or strongly agree)
- My child feels safe at this school (99% agree or strongly agree)
- The school meets my child's particular needs (99% agree or strongly agree)
- The school helps me to support my child's learning (98% agree or strongly agree)
- My child is making enough progress at this school (98% agree or strongly agree)
- The school responds well to my concerns (98% agree or strongly agree)
- The school provides a good range of opportunities for parents to learn about what my child is doing at this school (97% agree or strongly agree)
- The school communicates effectively with parents (95% agree or strongly agree)
- The school keeps me well informed (95% agree or strongly agree)

**In addition 99% of parents said that they were happy with their child's experiences at Elmhurst and 98% of parents who responded said that they would recommend Elmhurst to another parent.**

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**These responses show that parental satisfaction with Elmhurst is at a very high level.**

The three questions that related to the behaviour of pupils also produced positive responses but not quite at the very high rates as for the other questions. 92% of parents said that there was a good standard of behaviour at the school and this has been backed up by monitoring visits from the local authority's officers and from governors' visits to the school. 91% of parents also said that the school deals with any cases of bullying effectively. The school will continue to ensure that any cases of poor behaviour are managed consistently by school staff and also continue to deal with any cases of bullying. As the teaching and learning across the school have improved lessons are now very rarely disrupted by poor behaviour and the pupils have a good attitude towards learning. These improvements have been endorsed by monitoring visits from local authority officers and by governor visits.

Behaviour of pupils is now consistently well managed and recorded across the school and there is a system of consequences through detentions in place for those children who misbehave. These are applied to the pupils appropriately taking into consideration the ages of the children involved. Alongside this, we also have a clear reward system in place which the children understand and are motivated by.

Where bullying is reported, it is always followed up immediately and dealt with by staff, with parents of the victim and the child conducting the bullying informed. A few parents stated on their parent questionnaires that they felt that their child was being bullied at the moment, but handed these back anonymously and therefore we have been unable to address these cases. We urge all parents to speak to a member of staff if they feel their child is being bullied. We also have an 'anti-bullying box' kept in the school library where children may write down any concerns they may have about bullying. We will continue to run regular assemblies on anti-bullying so children are aware of what bullying involves and what they can do to make it stop.

As governors we also compared the responses from parents to this recent questionnaire to the responses to identical questions sent out to you in April 2014, June 2013 and November 2012. This allows us to look at whether parents' views about the school are changing over time.

I am pleased to report that the analysis shows that your responses to this most recent questionnaire are very similar to those received from the April 2014 questionnaire, which also produced very positive feedback from parents. This shows that nearly all parents remain very satisfied or satisfied with the work of the school and we will continue to build on our strengths.

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This high confidence and strong satisfaction with the work of the school are due to a number of reasons, but most important are the leadership shown by Mrs Lee and her senior team, as well as the commitment of all teachers and support staff to your children. There is a very strong team spirit at the school and all members of staff work hard to ensure that all children have enjoyable and productive experiences at the school. This allows the children to learn well and make good educational progress. We also value the support which parents give to their children as this helps them make even more progress. This year improving standards in pupils' reading has been a key priority and good progress is being made with your support.

Governors have also looked very closely at responses from a very small number of parents who said that we need to do better in one or two aspects of school life. Please be assured that Mrs Lee and her team will be addressing the very small number of concerns which were raised. We take the view that if parents raise any issues with the school, these need to be addressed quickly. We ask you to keep your child's teacher and senior staff informed of any issues that you may have with your child or children's education so that we can work with you to deal with these.

**The next Parents Forum will take place on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> June at 8.50am when we will be covering several new developments taking place at the school from September 2015. I hope you will be able to attend.**

Finally, thank you again for the high return rate of parental questionnaires. Your feedback is crucial in informing what we do as a school. All named questionnaires were entered into a prize draw for a £25 Tesco gift card. The winners of the prize draw were the parents of Ewan in Owls. Please collect your prize from the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Dr David Gamble  
Chair of Governors