



St. Joseph's
Catholic Infant
& Junior Schools
Birtley



Monday 27th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Parental Feedback Survey

Thank you to all those who contributed to our Parental Feedback Survey – we had 45 parental responses across the year groups, in both schools, which encompassed over 60 children in total.

Summary points:

- 96% of pupils' parents Strongly Agree or Agree that their children are happy at St. Joseph's.
- 98% of pupils' parents Strongly Agree or Agree that their children feel safe at St. Joseph's.
- 90% of pupils' parents Strongly Agree or Agree that the schools' make sure that children are well behaved and that behavioural difficulties are dealt with quickly and effectively.
- 90% of parents Strongly Agree or Agree that *if* they have raised concerns, they have been dealt with effectively.
- 90% of parents Strongly Agree or Agree that there is good provision for pupils' personal development at St. Joseph's including: curriculum enrichment opportunities, character building, residential, competitions, extra-curricular provision.
- 70% of pupils' parents believe that social media has been a helpful way of finding out what learning takes place, during school.

Catholic Life and Mission:

- 86% of pupils' parents believed that the schools' approach to Christmas worked well for them.
- 94% of pupils' parents Strongly Agree or Agree that the schools work well with St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church.
- 92% of pupils' parents understand the schools' mission and are supportive of it.
- 92% of pupils' parents Strongly Agree or Agree believe that the schools support their child's spiritual and moral development.
- 92% of pupils' parents Strongly Agree or Agree that their child enjoys Religious Education lessons.

After-School Provision:

- 55% of parents stated that after-school provision would be useful for them or their families.
- 40% of parents stated that this *might be* useful for them.

Comments:

- I'm happy with **** very open approach to embrace every child and their differences. [The school] just makes adjustments where they can, rather than seeing things as a problem.
- We are very happy our child is well settled and doing brilliantly well. We appreciate your inclusiveness and making us feel at home. Thank you all.
- ***** is an exceptional teacher and ***** gets on really well with her. She has helped so much when our child was struggling....and they are comfortable speaking to her when needed. They are also very responsive to emails and any concerns that we may have. ***** is a credit to the school.
- ***** enjoys going to school. She really likes her teachers and I would like the school to continue promoting good behaviour, showing respect to others etc. Reception class helped ***** to settle in and it was the best start [our child] could have. It's a lovely school.
- As you can see from my responses, as a family, we are all very happy with the school. Thank you.
- It is clear that the school has undergone a period of transition since ***** came into post and I can see that this has been for the benefit for the children, and built on the fantastic work of ***** . We are very

grateful for the introduction of breakfast club and feel the varied after school programmes available are excellent, so thank you very much. The staff are all wonderful and so approachable and as parents we have every confidence that decisions made are for the benefit of improved learning and educational outcomes.

Comments for Improvement:

- More after school clubs in infant school especially availability for Reception class pupils would be beneficial.
- It would be good to receive higher level of homework for kids who are further ahead than other kids.
- Afterschool club and holiday clubs would be highly beneficial given the demand in Birtley following closures of certain settings.
- For me, the only area of improvement is regarding communication at times.
- Sometimes things have been arranged when working parents are unable to attend – this leaves my child upset.

St. Joseph's Responses to Parental/Carer Feedback Survey:

We appreciate that we have a fantastic and supportive school community who recognise the value of having one leadership team across the two schools who can bring continuity and consistency to St. Joseph's. We are grateful to each and everyone of you who continues to support us in our mission to be a Catholic community, where **'All are welcome in this place...'**. We are pleased that the introduction to Tapestry, and our Reception and Year 1 workshops have been useful to our parents and we hope that you will find our Little Liturgical Prayer sessions spiritually enlightening, also.

We understand that the schools have significant strengths and we have tried to capitalise on these when implementing changes or improvements. We are proud that over 85% of you are accessing the SchoolGateway app and that we have been able to introduce e-payments and booking systems to make life a little bit easier and more manageable for all concerned. We also understand that things occasionally go wrong, or sometimes technology can be temperamental, but patience is a virtue and we are happy to work with our stakeholders when issues occur! We know that communication is something that is difficult in all schools – and we seek to keep you updated via the Dates for the Diary section on the newsletter or by text/app if a communication or a reminder needs to occur, imminently. We try our hardest not to create 'last minute' communications, wherever possible. As our website states, our curriculum is a **'never-ending story' of continuous improvement** and this equally applies to all we do in our strategies and operations. We have published a series of documents on our website to keep you abreast of our curriculum.

We use **Knowledge Organisers** at the start of each new unit of study to ensure that pupils know the journey they will go on throughout each unit of study. To view your child's year group suite of documents – please visit:

<https://stjosephcatholicschoolsbirtley.org/knowledge-organisers/>

Our **curriculum plans** are published for each subject under:

<https://stjosephcatholicschoolsbirtley.org/category/home/curriculum/subject-overviews/>

Our **personal development strategy** is available to view at:

<https://stjosephcatholicschoolsbirtley.org/personal-development/>

For all **church matters** – you can view the weekly Church bulletins at:

<https://stjosephcatholicschoolsbirtley.org/church-bulletins/>

For the schools' **Prayer, Liturgy and Liturgical Prayer strategy** – visit:

<https://stjosephcatholicschoolsbirtley.org/prayer-and-liturgy/>

OUR VISION

Lord, in our daily lives, may we:

*Love and serve like St. Joseph,
care and protect like St. Joseph,
work and teach like St. Joseph,
show compassion and loyalty like St. Joseph,
have trust and faith like St. Joseph.*

We follow St. Joseph's virtues and remember our significance in God's world. Amen.

OUR MISSION

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone,

to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;

here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome in this place.