



THE VINEYARD SCHOOL

FAMILY SURVEY RESULTS 2025

Many thanks to all those families who completed our annual family survey. 196 parents completed the survey which means that we can be confident that the survey results reflect the views of a significant proportion of the school families. This is a very important survey for the school and tells us what we are doing well and what we still need to work at. We are very encouraged that the survey results show that most of you think that we are driving the school in the right direction and that all questions showed a significant improvement in responses over both 2023 and 2024.

Survey summary conclusions:

Overall positive feedback

Children feel safe, happy and do well at school
Teachers are welcoming and approachable
School is well-managed by leadership team
The move to manage the extended day provision in-house has been introduced well
The Vineyard award is popular and should be extended

Improvement seen

School's managing of children's behaviour
School's high expectations for pupils
Handling of bullying

Points to consider

More work on communication and particularly the overload of information at the start of reception
Perception of homework in KS2
More stretch and challenge activities
Improve school lunches

Summary plans of what the school has done:

Newsletter has become the main communication channel with families and is read regularly
Workshops on school's behaviour expectations as well as regular workshops on specific curriculum and parenting topics held
Racial justice group reviewed and helped the school refine its approach to intended or unintended racist behaviour
Breadth of education offer has been enhanced significantly with development of music provision and the opening of the music hub
New school caterer will start in September 2025

Summary plans of what the school will do:

Work on preventing information overload at the start of reception
Ensure appropriate learning challenge for all pupils through quality first teaching
Continue to hold behaviour expectations workshops for parents; ensure pupils treat all adults and children with respect
Improve attitudes to healthy eating and healthy snacks
Further improvements on extended day provision
Further enhancement of The Vineyard award

Results in detail:

This was the first year where the results were not anonymous. The results show a marked improvement compared to last year; most of this improvement is from a shift away from 'agree' towards 'strongly agree', which is unlikely to be solely due to the fact that the survey is not anonymous. The tone of the comments was much more constructive and we can address any worrying comments.

We are delighted with the strong responses to the questions on 'Teachers are welcoming', 'My child is safe' and 'My child is happy'.

We are also pleased that the questions that scored the lowest last year, 'My child has been bullied and the school handled this well' and 'The school has high expectations for my child' showed significant improvement.

The other question which showed the most marked improvement was 'The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved' so our work on pupil behaviour is paying off. Behaviour continues to be an area of focus in our School Development Plan and next year we will be working on making sure that pupils respond appropriately to all members of staff, including our lunchtime and playground staff, and that all members of staff are trained in our behaviour management techniques.

The Vineyard award has been well received and we will continue to work on this next year. We were very impressed that our Year 6 pupils wanted to continue with their responsibilities even after the award had been completed.

The survey results indicate that we have probably pitched the level of homework about right in KS1 but that you think that we do not set enough homework in KS2. However, we must emphasise the role of parents in listening to their children read. Even once your child is a fluent reader you can still help them enormously by reading with them and discussing what you have read together. This can be non-fiction as well as fiction. Studies have shown that reading with your child is the most important thing that you can do to improve your child's academic progress. This is why we have such an emphasis on maintaining the reading diary even in KS2.

The responses to the questions on the extended day provision show that this has been very well received and we thank you for your support. We will be continuing to develop this provision and hope to be able to introduce a homework club during the next academic year.

We appreciated your responses on communication, which items of the newsletter you read and how you used the website. One of the things that we noticed was that the publishing of the newsletter did not generate any additional responses to our family survey so although most parents read the newsletter regularly it is not necessarily the best format for action. We note your comments about the importance of highlighting important dates and your dislike of multiple links within the newsletter.

We checked that the survey responses for families with a child with special educational needs were not markedly different from those of the general population and were pleased to discover that the responses for receiving the support they need were in fact slightly stronger. We were also pleased to discover that families of PPG children scored the school slightly better than the general population. We examined whether multi-lingual families felt differently about the school from the rest of the population and found that families where one or both parents speak a foreign language at home scored the school lower. This may be from difficulties in understanding our communications that we should work on but some of this may be a difference in expectations. We also found that parents who have themselves been educated abroad score the school more harshly than those who have been educated in the UK and this is something that we need to understand further. These differences are particularly marked for the questions 'high expectations' and 'well behaved'.

You made many valuable comments when completing the survey and the Headship team and I have read every one of them. The comments were very constructive.

Some of the common themes are:

- 1) You value the warm and nurturing school environment and the personalised education Vineyard pupils receive. You appreciate the sense of community and the variety of experiences offered leading to the growth of pupils' intellectual and emotional intelligence.

- 2) That you want your children to be challenged more, particularly in KS2. We have added this into our School Development plan for next year to ensure that every child receives appropriate challenge in every lesson. Teachers are expected to plan further activities for those children who finish their work more quickly and this is something we have reinforced over the course of this year. Governors observed these 'early finisher' tasks in their classroom visits earlier this term and commented on the brisk pace of the lessons.
- 3) You want healthier lunch choices. We are in the process of appointing a new school meal provider, a smaller family-run business, so hopefully more responsive to our feedback. We will also be working on attitudes towards healthy eating and healthy snacks.
- 4) That you do not feel the two 10-minute parent-teacher meetings are sufficient. This is the standard offer for schools in the UK, together with a report at the end of the academic year. However, we go further than many other schools and supplement these formal meetings with open-classrooms in every half-term where there is not a parent-teacher meeting. At this time you can visit your child's classroom, look at their work and speak to the class teacher. We also hold presentations on various aspects of the curriculum or parenting themes and hold an introductory meeting with the class teacher at the start of the academic year. If you are concerned about your child's progress, please do make an appointment to speak to the class teacher outside of the parent-teacher meetings.
- 5) You want more information about how your child is doing and more regular updates on assessment results. This may be a difference in expectations of the UK education system, particularly at primary school age. Young children develop at very different rates and we believe that an over-emphasis on achievement can be misleading for parents and upsetting for the child.
- 6) That you want our communication to be as straightforward as possible, using the newsletter as the main format. We have developed the newsletter significantly over the last year and it will continue to evolve. We have significantly reduced the school's use of other channels although we do acknowledge that there can sometimes be too many different emails.
- 7) You are grateful that Vineyard pupils develop into happy, well-rounded individuals who are well equipped to take on the challenges of the next steps in their education.

We will be thinking about and discussing the results of this survey further and hope that you see some of the benefits next academic year. I would like to thank you all again for participating in such an important exercise for us.

Frances Bracegirdle

Headteacher



The Vineyard Family Survey – Results 2025

% of parents

(numbers may not sum to 100% because of rounding)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Not applicable
School life general						
My child is happy at The Vineyard School	59	36	3	1	1	
My child feels safe in this school	63	33	3	1	1	
The teachers are welcoming and approachable	72	25	2	0	1	
The school is well managed by its headteacher and leadership team	54	34	4	3	6	
I would recommend The Vineyard School to another parent	57	37	5	1	1	
Communication						
The school lets me know how my child is doing	30	59	9	2	1	
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	36	56	7	1	1	
Communication from the school has improved significantly	33	31	17	0	19	
The communication from the school is appropriate in frequency and quality	33	50	15	1	1	
Handling concerns						
My child has been bullied, 33%						
If my child has been bullied, the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	8	13	3	4	5	67
If I have had concerns, 76%						
Concerns have been dealt with properly	26	42	5	2	1	24
Wider development						
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	45	49	3	1	2	
The school supports my child's wider personal development	42	46	5	2	5	
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	47	44	5	1	3	
The school has high expectations for my child	24	47	19	2	7	
The school gives my child the support they need to succeed	39	51	7	1	3	
My child does well at this school	36	59	3	0	2	