



## THE VINEYARD SCHOOL

### FAMILY SURVEY RESULTS 2024

Many thanks to all those families who completed our annual family survey. 343 parents completed at least part of 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.

#### **Survey summary conclusions:**

##### **Overall positive feedback**

Children feel safe, happy and do well at school  
Teachers are welcoming and approachable  
There is a large provision of clubs and activities  
School is well-managed by leadership team

##### **Improvement seen**

Communication of what children will learn  
Communication of how children are doing  
Satisfaction of parents of children with special educational needs and disability (SEND)

##### **Points to consider**

Parents want better understanding of children's academic progress  
Perception of the school's high expectations for pupils  
Handling of bullying  
More work on communication  
More homework in KS2

#### **Summary plans of what the school has done:**

Families notified on a ½-termly basis of what their children will learn in the next ½ term  
Curriculum plans for each year group are on the school website  
Newsletter has become the main communication channel with families  
Held workshop on school's behaviour expectations with parents and regular workshops on curriculum and other topics  
Embedded homework expectations

#### **Summary plans on what the school will do:**

Work on developing newsletter further to make information readily accessible  
Review homework, particularly for KS2  
Think how to demonstrate school's high expectations  
Continue to share understanding of behaviour expectations with parents  
Think how to support our international families and their expectations of school life in the UK

## Results in detail:

We are delighted with the strong responses to the questions on 'Teachers are welcoming', 'My child is safe' and 'My child is happy' and the range of clubs and activities available at the school.

We are also pleased that the questions 'My child with SEND receives the support they need', 'The school makes we aware what my child will learn', 'The school lets me know how my child is doing', showed a significant improvement from the results last year, although we note that the score for 'The school lets me know how my child is doing' is still one of the weakest.

The questions that scored the lowest were 'My child has been bullied and the school handled this well', 'The school has high expectations for my child' and 'The school lets me know how my child is doing'. These are areas that we need to look at further. I can assure you that the school has very high expectations for every child and this is something that the school will think about how to communicate more clearly. The number of parents who said that their child had been bullied was greater than we in the headship team had heard about this year, so please do let the school know if you have any concerns about your child being bullied (or any other concerns).

We introduced homework in April 2023 and have been very keen to understand how this had been received now that you and your child/ren have adapted to this new routine. The survey responses indicate that we have probably pitched the level of homework about right in KS1 but should review this for KS2. Please do remember that we regard listening to your child read or reading to your child and discussing what you have read together as the most important thing that you can do to improve your child's academic progress.

Although not picked up in the survey results, our governors have noticed how much pupil behaviour has improved from a couple of years ago. We continue to work on pupil behaviour and communicating our approach and expectations to families.

You think that the school offers a wide variety of extra-curricular clubs, particularly if you have children in the older classes in the school. However this is not reflected in your scores for 'supports my child's wider personal development'. We have exciting plans for building children's personal development further next year which we look forward to sharing with you.

We asked you directly whether you preferred contributing to school trips for the whole year at the start of each academic year rather than continually being asked for money. 72% of you agreed that you preferred paying in one go compared to 22% who disagreed. We will therefore continue with this policy and will be reporting back to you on how your funds have been used.

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 were in fact very slightly stronger. We also checked that multi-lingual families did not feel 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 question 'high expectations'.

The Vineyard is a very international school and so we appreciated your feedback on where you had first heard of the school.

You made many valuable comments when completing the survey and the Headship team have read every one of them. Unfortunately the tone of the comments from a very few families was not appropriate for this type of survey and we will be discussing the format of this survey for next year and whether it can remain anonymous.

Some of the common themes are:

- 1) 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.

- 2) That you want your children to be challenged more. Our teaching and learning leads make sure that there are extension activities planned within the classroom to ensure that every child is working at their full capacity. The latest school comparison tables showed that The Vineyard pupils scored extremely well on their progress measures for reading and mathematics, compared to national and local standards.
- 3) Dissatisfaction with the school meal provider. We will be starting the process of appointing our new caterer next year and families will be invited to contribute to the process. As with many schools, our school meal provider has to cope with a school kitchen which was designed to produce a much smaller number of hot meals than are now needed.
- 4) That you want more information about what your child will be learning – we now put the curricula for each year group on the website. We publish half termly learning bulletins, with the vocabulary and knowledge to be covered for all subjects.
- 5) 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 will continue to work on it. We have significantly reduced the school's use of other channels.

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 2024

% of parents

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Not applicable
<b>School life general</b>						
My child is happy at The Vineyard School	40	53	5	1	1	
My child feels safe in this school	47	48	3	1	2	
The teachers are welcoming and approachable	52	42	3	2	1	
The school is well managed by its headteacher and leadership team	35	47	5	2	10	
I would recommend The Vineyard School to another parent	44	44	4	3	5	
<b>Communication</b>						
The school lets me know how my child is doing	14	65	16	3	2	
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	20	60	14	3	4	
Communication from the school has improved significantly	25	50	15	2	8	
The communication from the school is appropriate in frequency and quality	20	61	12	4	3	
<b>Handling concerns</b>						
My child has been bullied, 20% If my child has been bullied, the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	3	7	7	2	2	80
If I have had concerns, 69% Concerns have been dealt with properly	21	37	10	2	0	31
<b>Wider development</b>						
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	28	58	8	1	5	
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school	49	41	5	2	4	
The school supports my child's wider personal development	23	50	13	2	13	
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	22	63	8	1	6	
The school has high expectations for my child	10	46	23	5	15	
My child has SEND, 8% If my child has SEND, the school gives them the support they need to succeed	2	5	1	0	0	92
My child does well at this school	24	64	4	1	7	