

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you so much for taking the time to complete the questionnaires to give us your feedback. By filling these in we can get a better understanding about what is going well and where we can improve even more, 81 questionnaires have been completed and returned to school.

Your overwhelming support for the school is amazing and reflects the wonderful, supportive community we are all a part of.

School improvement priorities over the last few years, as we have navigated the pandemic, have focused on health and wellbeing, whilst ensuring stability in learning. As we emerge from restrictions, we recognise that this approach has been rewarded by the energy and enthusiasm for learning that we see in school each day. Of course, we continue to be committed to working closely with parents to ensure that all children are happy and thriving in school.

Longer-term school improvement priorities have focussed on developing reading, writing and maths to the highest possible standards. We are now confident that teaching and learning in these areas is of a very high standard, enabling us to widen the range of our priorities.

Additional school improvement areas that we have focussed on over the last few years have included developing the whole school curriculum, the development of foundation subjects across the school and embedding the Sacred Heart Goals at the heart of what we do.

This year, we are focussing on how children can 'learn more and remember more', in addition to continuing to develop foundation subjects and strengthen the Sacred Heart Goals.

Summary of questionnaire responses

1. My child is happy at this school 100% of parents/carers said that they agreed or strongly agreed that the children are happy at school.

We understand that this is one of the most important things a parent wants. In a previous questionnaire in 2020, this was your top priority. We used this as our starting point when we redesigned our curriculum recently, building in exciting experiences both in and out of school.

2. My child feels safe at this school 99.99 % of parents/carers said that they agreed or strongly agreed that the children feel safe at school.

(One child was worried that children from another class might push them around at playtime. We will do further work with all children to ensure that they look after each other, emphasising the special need to look after younger children at playtime. We will also do further work to ensure that all children know what to do and speak to an adult, if they are worried.)

Safety underpins everything and we can never use the word 'safe' enough. We have worked hard over the last few years to become a **Thrive school**. This helps children to become more emotionally resilient, so that they are better equipped to deal with life's ups and downs and make them feel safe. All adults in school are Thrive trained, to support the social and emotional development of our children. In addition, we work with 'Thriving Minds for Learning' where Jill Del Prete works with

children on a one to one, small group or whole class basis and Gill Knights works alongside parents to give them support to reinforce the Thrive approach at home.

Please see [Impact of Thrive - The Thrive Approach](#) online for more information also see our Behaviour Policy on the school's website at: <https://www.shprimary.org.uk/website>

3. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved 99.99 % of parents/carers said that they agreed or strongly agreed that school makes sure the pupils are well behaved.

(One parent said that they 'didn't know', hopefully the explanation below will be helpful to explain what we do.)

The general behaviour of our pupils has always been of a very high standard; we have very high expectations of all of our pupils, both inside and outdoors. Our Behaviour Policy is built upon our whole school **THRIVE** approach, which is:

TOUGH on behaviour – GENTLE on the child.

Please see our Behaviour Policy on the school's website at: <https://www.shprimary.org.uk/website>

Over the last few years we have widened our characterisation of behaviour to include specific emphasis on *behaviour for learning*. From Y2 on, we use House Points/Learning Pennies to reward all forms of positive behaviours from; doing their best, being a good listener, working hard, as well as things like being kind, being helpful and supporting their friends. The children get 1p for every house point earned and collect their own money, saving their pennies each week so that they can spend them, if they wish, in a class auction on school rewards each Friday. (The added benefit and life lesson of this is that the children are becoming really good at managing their own money, with their big question each week, 'should I save or spend?')

Children from all classes may also be nominated for a Headteacher Award each Friday in assembly.

4. My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively 61% of parents/carers said that they agreed or strongly agreed that the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively. 39% families responded with 'neither' or 'don't know'. Having followed several of these responses up with a number of children and parents, I believe that this question is a tricky one as it could be seen as ambiguous. People have told me that they put these answers because they have not experienced any bullying in school. We understand that occasionally children fall out and can be mean to each other however, we are confident in saying that there is no bullying in school. *(Targeted and persistent behaviour)*

5. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year 77% of parents/carers said that they agreed or strongly agreed that school makes them aware what the children will learn during the year. 17% of parents/carers said 'neither' or 'don't know' and 6% said that they disagreed or strongly disagreed. We appreciate the feedback in this area and will work to update the website with this information. We have also uploaded new half term curriculum grids on to the

school website and will share these via Tapestry and Seesaw, so that you can get an idea of what the children will be learning next half term.

6. When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly 88% of parents/carers said that they agreed or strongly agreed that when they have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly. 8.1% of parents/carers said 'neither' or 'don't know'. One parent said that they disagreed and felt that we had not taken an issue seriously several years ago. It is really important to us that you always feel heard and that we do take your concerns seriously. We do try to be discreet when dealing with any issues to protect the children and families involved and deal with things in school in a private way. We never want to broadcast when a child has done something wrong, but I do understand that this may feel like action hasn't been taken. We will work hard to always try to keep you informed, so that you know and understand that your concerns are always taken seriously and dealt with immediately. Please note that we have an 'open door' policy that means we are here to listen if you think something needs to be addressed. Please come and talk to us.

7. Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)?

If yes, do you agree with this statement: 'My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.'? Y/N

100% of parents/carers with SEND said that they agreed that school gives their child the support that they need. We work very hard in school to support all children with special needs. Comments from parents also said that they thought the Thrive support that the children received was really good. All children who need support, even those not on the SEND register are able to access a wide range of support.

8. The school has high expectations for my child 96% of parents/carers said that they agreed or strongly agreed that when they the school has high expectations for my child. 4% of parents/carers said 'neither' or 'don't know'. We have very high aspirations for all of our children and believe in ambition and achievement for all. We want your children to be happy and to fulfil their full potential both academically and by building their individual characters. We will share more information with you to show you what this looks like in school throughout the year.

9. My child does well at this school 99.99% of parents/carers said that they agreed or strongly agreed that their child does well at school. One parent said that they didn't know.

10. The school lets me know how my child is doing 96% of parents/carers said that they agreed or strongly agreed that the school lets you know how well your child is doing, 3 parents disagreed. We aim to keep you fully informed about how your child is doing at school. The school formally lets you know how your child is doing three times a year. The first two being Stay and Play and Achievement Day sessions in the Autumn and Spring terms and through a written report later on in the Summer term. We have been delighted to be able to resume face to face events to allow you to talk to your child's teacher and for you to see first-hand how they are getting on. One of the positive things to come out of the last few years of the pandemic has been the improvement in

communication with families through Seesaw and Tapestry, hopefully this can be used to help. The school website, class blogs and the school Twitter should also keep you up to date. Please remember that you can contact your child's teacher at any time for more information about their progress in between these times, you are most welcome.

11. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school 94% of parents/carers said that they agreed or strongly agreed that there is a good range of subjects available. 6% of parents/carers said 'neither' or 'don't know' and one parent wanted more creative arts on the curriculum. We will share the full curriculum grid with you on the school website to show the full range of the work that the children do. We really value creative arts and this is high on our list of priorities moving forward.

12. My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school 95% of parents/carers said that they agreed or strongly agreed that their children can take part in clubs and activities in school. 2% of parents/carers and 2% disagreed. We currently have the widest range of clubs available than ever before. All of the clubs on offer are free to the children and are run on a voluntary basis by school staff. The very high demands have meant that not all children get a place in clubs straight way. We will keep a whole school record of the clubs that children attend to ensure fairness of access, so that all children get a chance to attend something at some point in the year if they wish. Many thanks to the staff for giving their time and expertise.

13. The school supports my child's wider personal development 95% of parents/carers said that they agreed or strongly agreed that the school supports their child's wider personal development. 5% said 'neither' or 'don't know'. Your child's personal development is very important to us and has been a driving factor in the design of our curriculum. As a Sacred Heart School, we also build on our unique Sacred Heart Goals, making this a central part of our ethos and values. Information about this is available on the school website. Developing this further is also a target area on our school improvement plan this year. We are delighted that we can once again take the children on residential visits which plays a big role in developing your child's wider personal development.

14. I would recommend this school to another parent. (yes or no) 96% of parents/carers said that they agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend this school to another parent. 4% said 'neither' or that they 'didn't know'. We are heavily oversubscribed and over the last few years have consistently been the most oversubscribed primary school in the North East.

We have an amazing school community here at Sacred Heart. Many thanks to you as parents and carers for working in partnership with us, helping us create a school that is a truly loving community with the love of Jesus at the heart of everything that we do.

We look forward to moving forward together, building on the successes to reach the very highest standards for your children.

Easter Blessings to you all.

Comments from parents/carers

My child loves school, enjoys every day and looks up to his teachers, I am very happy for my child. He is well looked after in school and learns a lot of things progressing every day. Very good, helpful teachers and staff. I am pleased with my child's progress.

Thank you once again to all the wonderful staff. Sacred Hearts handling of Covid has been amazing. The communication to parents has been brilliant and the support the school has offered has been incredible. Both of my children have thrived at this school and at any more challenging times the staff have always supported us fantastically.

This is a brilliant school with excellent leadership at the best of times and, as we have learned in the past two challenging years, even when teaching and learning conditions are severely disrupted. My son has struggled with getting back into a routine and has been very anxious post lockdown. School have been very supportive and proactive and this has really helped build his confidence – he is much happier and thriving again at school! Thank you to all the staff who are constantly fantastic!

XXXXXX is very happy in this school. She's always looking forward to going to school every day. I can see loads of progress from her since she started nursery. I am very happy and grateful that she belongs in this school. I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all the staff and teachers of Sacred Heart.

This school, the management, admin staff and teachers have been transformational for XXXXXX. The commitment, caring, expertise and attention given to XXXXXX has been so amazing.

XXXXX loves going to school and always has a smile on his face, He loves taking part in the after-school art club and it would be great if this became a regular thing.

Great school!

A delightful school that builds the whole child. Balance between emotional / spiritual / social and academic needs is very well balanced.

XXXX absolutely loves school and has since he started in Reception as did my daughter when she went here. Any problems that come up were dealt with quickly and efficiently with due care and consideration for all parties involved. The school has always had a very loving and caring environment which allows the children to grow and become confident in themselves in a safe environment. I have always felt that all the staff put the children's learning and emotional needs first and to a very high standard.