



Governor News May 2017

New Catholic Primary Schools?

Thank you to all of you who registered your support in February for the Diocese's bids to open up to eight new Catholic schools across East Anglia. The bids are due to be submitted later this year. Locally, the Diocese is bidding to open primary schools in Cherry Hinton and West Cambourne. The more of us that register our support, the more chance the bids have of being successful. To find out the latest news on these bids and to register your support, if you've not already done so, please go to <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/freeschools/>

Do you want to know more about what our school's governors do?

To find out more about the school governors, go to the "School Governors" pages of the school website (found under the "Community" tab). Here you can see profiles of all the governors, information about our responsibilities, and the minutes of our Full Governing Body meetings.

Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who filled out our parent questionnaire in March. Below is a summary of your 139 responses. Your comments and some of our responses are overleaf.

	Question	Strongly Agree/ Agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	Don't know	Left Blank	Total
1	My child is happy at this school	137	0	2	0	139
2	My child feels safe at this school	136	0	3	0	139
3	The school has a strong Catholic ethos based on Gospel values	136	0	2	1	139
4	My child makes good progress at this school	132	1	3	3	139
5	My child is well looked after at this school	135	0	2	2	139
6	My child is taught well at this school	133	2	2	2	139
7	My child receives appropriate homework for their age	125	8	4	2	139
8	The school ensures the pupils are well behaved	131	3	4	1	139
9	The school deals effectively with bullying	100	4	35*	0	139
10	The school is well led and managed	133	0	5	1	139
11	The school responds well to any concern I raise	126	3	8	2	139
12	I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	132	5	2	0	139
13	I would recommend this school to another parent	135	0	3	1	139

*Several parents commented (either in person or on the questionnaire) that they had not come across bullying in the school and so had answered "don't know"

Could you complete the survey online?

We value your comments and consider them when planning for the future. However, these results only get seen by us at school. The Ofsted parent view website can be seen by anyone and is monitored by Ofsted. **So, please take a few minutes to answer the same questions online at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>**

"Two stars and a Wish"

These are comments from the back page of our questionnaire. The comments listed here are those which 5 or more parents highlighted. As always, if you have any questions about how your child is getting on at St. Laurence, please do talk to your child's class teacher.

Stars:

Atmosphere: this was described as friendly, warm, caring, child focused, international, having a sense of community & like a family

Ethos: the importance of RE and Catholic/Christian values was repeatedly mentioned.

Staff: staff generally were described as supportive, caring; know the children, helpful, approachable & friendly. There were several comments about "amazing office staff". Teachers were described as friendly & helpful, fantastic, very good, great & committed

Environment & Activities: there was praise for the range of activities that the children do, the green space outside and the outdoor play equipment

PE: The provision and range of PE in school was valued.

Wishes: we have included responses from Senior Staff & Governors in italics.

Communication: more frequent feedback on children's progress, could there be a parent forum?

*We try to balance parents' need to receive information with maintaining a realistic workload for our teachers. If your child's teacher has a specific concern about your child's progress, they will invite you to come and talk to them. If you would like more information about your child's progress at any point, please do talk to your child's class teacher. We shall continue to hold parents' evenings twice a year. The Wednesday morning coffee drop-in each half term is a forum for parents to meet with the Headteacher and senior school leaders. **Dates and topics for this term are: 3rd May (parent's questionnaire) & 28th June (transition)***

More notice for events. *We have taken this on board and will aim to advertise events well in advance via parent mail (and the school newsletter)*

Breakfast Club: *We realise this would be very helpful for some parents. A breakfast club would need to make enough money to cover its costs; the school does not have the funds to subsidise a breakfast club. We shall carry out a further questionnaire this term to see if there is enough demand for one to be financially viable.*

More after school and extracurricular clubs: *The range of clubs we offer is extensive and comparable to other similarly sized schools. For free clubs, we are reliant on volunteers or our staff giving up their own time, and so try to limit these to a maximum of 1 club per staff member. We also offer some clubs that you have to pay for: these run only if they're financially viable and we are aware of pressures on family budgets. This term we are seeking feedback from pupils on our increased club offer.*

Homework: there was a roughly even split of views on whether children should be given more or less homework. *We aim to achieve a balance that meets every child's needs; please talk to your child's class teacher if you have individual concerns about the amount of homework your child is set.*