

# The Woodlands Academy

## Parents & Carers Survey Autumn Term 2017



### **Your views count**

- This document represents the results of the Survey carried out at the end of the Autumn Term 2017.
- This survey – and the other surveys we carry out throughout the year – will help to shape the ongoing development of our school.
- Thank you to all parents/carers who completed this survey.



Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write to thank all of you who took the time to fill in the most recent Parent Questionnaire; your opinions and feedback are extremely important to us, in total 34 responses were made.

There are a huge number of positives to be taken from the report and this highlights a number of strengths that you feel the school has. The school must, however, listen to areas that you feel could be improved upon. I hope you find the following information useful and that the responses provide some clarity about how we are planning to make improvements. It was pleasing to receive so many positive comments a selection of some are included in the report.

In the report we have made responses to the main areas of concern and action that we will take as a result. It is important that we listen carefully and, when appropriate, take action.

Finally I would always welcome any feedback about any aspect of school life. I am always very keen to hear from parents with suggestions for improvement in the way we are operating.

Kind regards

Amanda Caton (Co-Headteacher)

<b>1. The school has a clear understanding of my child's needs</b>	<b>Yes</b> 30	<b>Partly</b> 3	No
	91%	9%	0%

**Comments:**

- It has taken some time for for my son to adjust and the school has been very patient and took the time needed to understand his complex needs.
- My child is new to the school and I have been told that are still getting to know him.
- Still getting to know him and we have not met to discuss yet, so hard to gauge yes or no.

**Our response:**

We are pleased that such a high number of parents believe that the school has a good understanding of their child's needs. From the comments we would conclude that many of the parents who put partly did so because their child is new to the school. We will be offering more parent information meetings/ workshops to improve communication about what we offer in terms of interventions, approaches and specialist resources.

<b>2. The school effectively keeps me informed regarding my child's progress</b>	<b>Yes</b> 28	<b>Partly</b> 5	No
	85%	15%	0%

**Comments:**

- Not yet had a parents meeting yet
- I am hoping this improves with the new format of parents evenings and assessment process
- Her diary is filled in everyday so we know what she has been doing
- Sometimes very little in the home to school book. Not enough parents evenings should be two a year
- Very good
- Find it abit vague at times
- Either by teacher's comments in the notebook. In his school bag or verbally when we collect him from school

**Our response:**

We are determined to improve in this area of communication. We have re designed the parent meetings to allow for more time (30 mins) with class teacher / support staff to look at pupils Personalised Learning Intention Maps / MAPP.

<b>3. I am pleased with my child's progress</b>	<b>Yes</b> 29	<b>Partly</b> 4	No
	88%	12%	0%

**Comments:**

- Pleased and settled well, though not sure on progress yet
- Attendance, yes!
- Coming on well, small steps
- Very happy and her confidence is coming back
- Amazed how well he has developed and grown in a short time
- Happier since starting Woodlands, they are still getting to know my son regarding academic progress

**Our response:**

It is encouraging that so many parents / carers are pleased with their child's progress. We would encourage any parent / carer to make an appointment to speak with the class teacher if they are at all unsure about their child's progress. Improved parent meetings will develop knowledge and understanding in this area and allow parents to discuss any concerns regarding their child's progress.

<b>4. I am happy with the way my child's progress is reported</b>	<b>Yes</b> <b>27</b>	<b>Partly</b> <b>6</b>	No
	82%	18%	

**Comments:**

- Last year, my child kept a "Proud Book" which gave a clear insight to what he had been doing at school
- Daily updates in her diary
- Pleased and settled well
- The home school book is good for showing day to day what is done
- Not seen many examples yet with my son being a new pupil

**Our response:**

We are exploring ways we can improve in this area and have recently changed how some aspects of pupil progress is reported and documented to parents during parent meetings.

<b>5. The staff are helpful and approachable</b>	<b>Yes</b> <b>32</b>	<b>Partly</b> <b>1</b>	No
	97%	3%	0%

**Comments:**

- The staff give 100% could not ask for better
- Very helpful and approachable
- Always contactable and happy to meet to talk through any issues
- All the staff are lovely & extremely approachable

**Our response:**

Some encouraging comments and a good response with 97% stating yes, we would however like this to increase to 100% ! I would urge parents to contact a Senior Member of Staff if there is an issue regarding staff and their approach.

<b>6. The school is well led and managed</b>	<b>Yes</b> <b>31</b>	<b>Partly</b> <b>2</b>	No
	94%	6%	0%

**Comments:**

- All staff and the Headteachers are fantastic in the way the school is run
- Excellent
- Presence of co-headteachers is visible and approachable
- Absolutely great in both approach and support
- More frequent news letters would be helpful
- Very well managed

**Our response:**

We are pleased with this response and appreciate the support of parents during a time when there has been some changes within the Leadership Team. A monthly newsletter is to be published and sent to parents monthly.

<b>7. The communication from school to home is good</b>	<b>Yes</b> 28	<b>Partly</b> 5	No
	85%	15%	0%
<b>Comments:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fantastic!</li> <li>• If theres a problem a school they always ring to discuss with us</li> <li>• Sometimes nothing is written in her book and she is unable to tell me what she has done/eaten and staff in all classes are too busy to talk at home time, so sometimes we do not know how her day went</li> </ul>			
<b>Our response:</b>			
Staff have been reminded to always write in home to school books informing parents of what the pupil has been engaged in that day and any issues arising. We would also expect staff to telephone parents / carers if there is a need.			

<b>8. Teachers listen to my comments</b>	<b>Yes</b> 31	<b>Partly</b> 2	No
	94%	6%	0%
<b>Comments:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telephone conversations take place if we have concerns</li> <li>• They always listen and support</li> <li>• Absoutely have full support</li> <li>• I can share comments when I collect him from school or by telephone</li> <li>• Letters would be helpful</li> <li>• Very understanding, excellent</li> <li>• Very understanding and kind</li> </ul>			
<b>Our response:</b> We are pleased with this response in particular some of the positive comments. We are committed to maintaining and in some areas developing a stronger parent / school relationship. Part of the school development plan is to strengthen these links by producing monthly newsletters, improving parent meetings and organising parent information workshops and training.			

<b>9. The school enables my child to achieve well.</b>	<b>Yes</b> 29	<b>Partly</b> 4	No
	88%	12%	0%
<b>Comments:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My child has progressed very well, thankyou</li> <li>• Attending well now &amp; definatly helping her to achieve a good degree in social/emotional progress</li> <li>• Attendance is constant which is positive. Achieving is unsure as not been here long enough to gauge</li> <li>• Curriculum is appropriate for my childs understanding</li> </ul>			
<b>Our response:</b> We are committed to ensuring that every pupil at Woodlands Academy achieves to their full potential. The establishment of improved parent meetings, information workshops and the way we show pupil progress will enable parents to gain a better understanding of what their child is achieving and the progress made.			

<b>10. The curriculum is meaningful for my child's needs</b>	<b>Yes</b> 27	<b>Partly</b> 6	<b>No</b>
	82%	8%	0%
<b>Comments:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not sure at present due to him only starting in September</li> <li>• Academically unsure</li> <li>• Better for her learning disability and her understanding</li> </ul>			
<b>Our response:</b>			
All our staff are committed to providing all pupils with a meaningful motivating curriculum. Parent information meetings about different areas of teaching and learning at Woodlands will provide parents with this knowledge and understanding.			

<b>11. My child is gaining independence which he / she is demonstrating at home</b>	<b>Yes</b> 24	<b>Partly</b> 6	<b>No</b> 2
	75%	19%	6%
<b>Comments:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She has become more confident and will try do things on her own now</li> <li>• Demonstrating more confidence</li> <li>• He is now signing and making his needs known</li> <li>• Getting dressed more quickly, helping with food preparation</li> <li>• Not as yet but much happier since starting school</li> <li>• She has made good progress within the school, however she hasn't gained independence but this could be due to her difficulty transferring skills through environments</li> <li>• Not as yet (new settling)</li> </ul>			
<b>Our response:</b> We are confident that pupils are given the tools to develop their independence however we understand that these skills can be difficult to transfer to home. If any parents would like to discuss this further then we would encourage them to contact a member of staff.			

<b>12. I / We feel that our partnership with Woodlands Academy is good</b>	<b>Yes</b> 30	<b>Partly</b> 2	<b>No</b>
	94%	6%	0%
<b>Comments:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very approachable</li> <li>• Very good</li> <li>• Good open communication</li> </ul>			
<b>Our response:</b> This is an area which we are keen to continue to develop with more parents information meetings, training sessions and the setting up of a 'Friends of Woodlands' group.			

<b>13. I am happy with the parent evening format my child</b>	<b>Yes</b> 25	<b>Partly</b> 3	<b>No</b>
	89%	11%	0%
<b>Comments:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the new longer more holistic approach</li> <li>• I am looking forward to my first parents evening</li> <li>• Still getting used to the new style of parent's evening</li> <li>• A lot of information given in a short amount of time. Notes would be helpful</li> </ul>			
<b>Our response:</b> We hope that you found the new parent evening format useful and informative. We will constantly evaluate the effectiveness of these and will adapt in response to feedback.			

<b>14. The content / info at my child's Annual Review is clear</b>	<b>Yes</b> 23	<b>Partly</b> 1	<b>No</b> 2
	88%	4%	8%
<b>Comments:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failing on information provided by NYCC not school</li> </ul>			
<b>Our response:</b> The 'no' responses were not a reflection of a failing of the school but rather the Local Authority and lack of clarity regarding the EHCP review process.			

<b>15. The learning opportunities for my child are in keeping with their level of need</b>	<b>Yes</b> 29	<b>Partly</b> 3	<b>No</b> 0
	91%	9%	0%
<b>Comments:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social/emotional yes. However, academically is more complicated due to needs</li> <li>• Unsure of them as as new to school and not met yet to discuss</li> </ul>			
<b>Our response:</b> We understand that all pupils are unique and require a range of learning opportunitites depending on their level of need.			

**16. In what ways could the school improve the way it supports my child, *this space is left for your comments***

- Providing a “termly topic sheet” so we can support her learning at home. All staff having an understanding of Autism/anxiety and how it effects her. Also perhaps, transition discussions early if moving class.
- More information on the learning approach to literacy so we can support her at home. Discussion in relation to learning support around SpLD.
- I haven’t found anything that could improve the way Woodlands supports her they are brilliant.
- No changes to improve, but what I would like to say is best decision I made was to bring my child to Woodlands- fantastic school. Brilliant staff so happy my son is at Woodlands!
- We can’t thank the school enough for how the staff have helped my son it is unbelievable how far he has grown & developed due to the great teaching and hard work from Mrs Thomson and all staff. We just think that Woodlands Academy is fantastic, the best school we could have sent him to.
- My daughter is coming on leaps and bounds all thanks to the staff at the school. However, would be nice to know what topics she does and more about what she is doing in school.
- As parents, we cannot thank the staff at school enough and hope to carry on reciving their much needed support, thank you.
- Involve professionals to offer workshops for parents for example, SALT sensory or LDS more frequently. Coffee mornings for parents, a fundraising committee that parents can be involved with.
- Possibly more social interaction. Possibly more group sports after school hours with parents able to attend
- Welcome meeting for new parents. It is an extremely difficult decision moving your child from mainstream to specialist and I feel the school could support new parents more.
- The only worry I have is when my son turns 16. I wish Woodlands Academy could do- 18 years.
- My son is supported well at Woodlands. We don’t have any issues/worries about how he is supported.
- I am 100% happy with my daughter’s progress and she is happy to be at Woodlands.
- We think Woodlands is a fantastic school. All the staff are doing an amazing job bringing great opportunities to the students. We couldn’t ask for anything more. Thanks
- Post 16 provision would be good.
- The school is excellent and in the 2 years my daughter has attended, we have found no fault or room for improvement.
- In our view no improvements are needed. The school is doing a fantastic job!
- We are extremely happy with my childs progress & support. I feel that Woodlands continually improve throughout the year.
- I would like the school to help my son to learn more about his interests. Especially history as he excels in this.