

Year 6 Leavers Survey 2017

Summary report

The Survey was conducted anonymously. It was undertaken in the IT suite under the supervision of adults who were not directly linked to the year group. This decision was made with the aim to increase the likelihood of children giving honest answers as this removed the chance of their class teacher seeing their responses. If any child requested help, every effort was made not to influence their answer but only to enable them to understand the questions and express their opinion.

This year group was made up of 61 pupils [30 boys and 31 girls]. Most of these children came directly from the Infants School into Year 3 and a small number of them joined in later years. We asked the children for their feedback on the curriculum, teaching, homework, behaviour, safety and care at Oaklands. We also sought their opinions on changes and improvements that they might recommend for the future.

100% of the children responded positively to the question 'Do you feel safe in school?' When asked if they knew who they could speak to in school if they had any concerns or worries relating to school or home, 86% said that they would speak to a member of staff, ranging from the Headteacher to Year Group staff, Pupil Support Advisor, Class teacher or Teaching Assistant. 12% would choose to speak to their friends, leaving 2% unsure of, to whom, if anyone, they would speak.

The favourite subject lesson receiving the greatest number of responses from both boys and girls, was PE/Games, whilst Design and Technology, Art and English also featured highly. Asked what they thought made a 'good lesson', the top responses were that a good lesson should be fun, well-taught, interactive and challenging. 84% felt that they had worked hard enough at school, with the remainder citing distraction in the classroom, home/life issues and playground friendship issues as reasons for not having worked hard enough. Almost all the children felt that they knew their targets and how to improve and 60% of the cohort felt that the amount of homework they were given was 'just right', whilst 9 children thought there was not enough and 11 thought there was too much.

As this cohort of children had been at Oaklands throughout the period we have been introducing and developing Thinking Skills, we asked them 2 new questions regarding P4C [Philosophy for Children] and Thinking Maps. Asked to rate the value of P4C on a scale of 1-5, the majority of children rated them as valuable or very valuable, 3 or above, with only 9 children rating them below that. All the different types of Thinking Maps received recognition from some children as being of use to them in the future, but the Circle Map was chosen by the majority of children as being the most useful.

With regard to behaviour in school, the majority of children of both genders felt that behaviour was good, but there were others who felt that some children did not always behave well and caused disruption in class. When responses were broken down by year of entry, responses from those children who came from another school, suggest that, given a frame of reference, they found behaviour at Oaklands to be good.

With a wide range of Clubs available in school, Football league came out as favourite, with Art, Gymnastics, Sewing, Netball, Athletics, Cross Country, Music lessons, Taekwondo, Hockey and Cricket, following in that order. Suggestions for additional clubs that they would like, included Basketball, Rugby, Swimming, Dance, Tennis, ICT, Drama, Badminton, Coding and Chess.

When asked to name one thing about Oaklands that they would like to change, 50% of the children mentioned either the quality or size of School Dinners. Unfortunately, this was also the main area of discontent in last year's survey and although the staff keep a close eye on both aspects and are constantly in conversation with Caterlink, we are limited to regulation portion sizes and some problems do still arise.

Other suggestions on how to improve life for future pupils, included more equipment for the playground, provision of lockers, new toilets and improved sports equipment. Water fountains in the playground, which was the main item requested in last year's survey, did not feature at all, as water is now made available in the hall throughout lunchtime. Our main fundraising target currently is to install Playground Gym equipment and we have recently been increasing our supply of games equipment for use in the playground at lunchtimes.

For most children their Best Experience whilst at Oaklands was the residential trip to Osmington Bay and other school trips.

Finally they were asked to write one phrase or sentence to sum up their time at Oaklands Junior School. 10 children expressed mixed feelings:

- It has lots of good and bad times.
- It was all right.
- Joyful and sometimes a little dull.
- It was good the majority of the time.
- It was sometime a bit boring but mostly fun.
- Fun and boring but I feel I have achieved a lot.
- Most of the time it was enjoyable.

However, all the other children were very positive about their time at Oaklands, saying:

- My time at Oaklands has been amazing and I loved every minute.
- A great time to see your friends, a great time to learn and a great time to have fun.
- A valuable experience with a caring nature.
- You learn hard while having fun.
- A brilliant experience for me and amazing teachers and lessons.
- Something I will remember for my life.
- Fun, joyful, work and play.
- Really enjoyable and a great learning school.
- An amazing experience.
- IT WAS AMAZING!!!
- It was great fun and I don't want to say goodbye.
- It was awesome.
- Really enjoyable with brilliant teachers.
- A phenomenal experience with excellent teachers.
- A once in a life time experience and I'm going to miss making new memories.
- It has been great!
- A roller coaster ride.
- Great experience I will never forget.
- Great fun and I will never forget Oaklands.
- Totally fantastic.
- Oaklands was really fun and taught me very valuable lessons.
- Always be happy and never give up.