

"You Said, We Did"

In July 2023 we sent a survey out to parents to complete, to get feedback on various aspects of school, such as homework, communication, safeguarding and behaviour. Deborah Howard (Headteacher) met with the Deputy Headteacher (Donna Wealleans) and Communications Manager (Ellie Linton) to unpick all of the responses. The areas that they flagged as requiring further attention have been listed below, with actions or further explanation added where needed. To note, where there were other areas that had individual parent comments raising concerns, which did not present as a theme, these were still noted and considered within internal processes. Thank you to all of the parents that took the time to complete the survey and give their views.

"My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively."

The main themes that stood out from comments were:

- There was some confusion about whether or not particular incidents were classified as bullying.

Outcomes:

- We have put together a document, ['How we deal with an allegation of bullying'](#), which explains how bullying is defined, but also how all allegations of bullying are investigated and the process that is followed in school by our Behaviour Team.

"The school has high expectations for my child."

The main themes that stood out from the comments were:

- There is confusion among parents about children not being able to be more than 'expected' level
- Concerns around challenge for high achievers
- Not enough knowledge about school's expectations

Outcomes:

Mrs Howard has written an article giving a clearer picture on assessment, which will be emailed out to parents in January. She will also write a sheet to go out with the Insight sheets in January for Years 1-6, which will show how to interpret your child's data.

Please see some of our recent highlights below from the July 2023 data. We haven't shared as much of this data with parents, as we're keen not to focus too much just on maths and English, however these are some fantastic news stories we wanted to share.

At Oswald Road, we believe we can have high expectations on attainment whilst not narrowing curriculum and maintaining a holistic view on the primary experience.

July 2023 data

End of reception

- At least in line and mainly above national average in all 17 Early Years strands.
- Significantly above Manchester average in all 17 Early Years strands.
- Above national average for Good Level of Development (GLD) which is measured on achieving Expected Standard in 12 specific areas.

Year 1 phonics

- Above national average for the phonics screener at the end of year 1.

Key Stage 1 SATs

- Significantly above national average at Expected Standard in reading, writing, maths and science at the end of Key Stage 1.
- Out of 146 schools in Manchester, Oswald Road came 5th in reading, 11th in writing, 2nd in maths and 6th in science at Expected Standard.
- Significantly above national average at Greater Depth in reading and maths and in line with national average at Greater Depth in writing.
- Out of 146 schools in Manchester, Oswald Road came 5th in reading, 23rd in writing and 1st in maths at Greater Depth.

Key Stage 2 SATs

- Above national at Expected Standard in reading, writing, maths and GPS (grammar, punctuation and spelling).
- Significantly above national for combined (children attaining Expected Standard in reading, writing and maths).
- Significantly above Manchester average in reading, writing, maths and GPS (grammar, punctuation and spelling).
- Significantly above national average at Greater Depth standard for reading and GPS (grammar, punctuation and spelling and in line with national average at Greater Depth standard for writing and maths.

"The school lets me know how my child is doing."

The main themes that stood out from the comments were:

- Confusion caused by not including the 'exceeding' level on reports
- Parents would like to know a benchmark to see how their child compares to their peers
- Parents unclear on language use, such as 'Greater Depth'
- Parents want more explanation on what achievement scores are out of, what the upper and lower limits are etc

Outcomes:

Mrs Howard will be writing an article to go in the end of term newsletter in December, which will give a clearer picture on assessment. She will also write a sheet to go out with the Insight sheets in January for Years 1-6, which will show how to interpret your child's data.

We have also put together a summary below of how we keep parents in the loop in terms of what their child will be learning in school and how we let you know across the year how they are doing.

How we keep you updated about our curriculum

Half termly update sheets: these give coverage of the upcoming half term's curriculum alongside ways you can support your child at home. As part of this we will also be sending out maths videos and accompanying resources to use at home.

Website: Under the curriculum tab, you can access all subjects. There is lots of information about each subject area, coverage across school and progression across school. There is additional information on some of the curriculum pages, which are also shared via more direct communication with parents. For example, on the maths page there are videos outlining the half term's curriculum. On each year group page, you can access an overview of the year's learning for that year group.

Welcome meetings and parent workshops: In these, we share the year ahead and this includes some of the learning your child will be completing. We also hold regular parent workshops, particularly for EYFS, on areas such as maths and phonics.

Seesaw: Pictures are added frequently to Seesaw linked to your child's learning. This isn't a platform to communicate with teachers, but is a great way to see some of the learning going on across your child's week

Take a Look Tuesdays: This is a good way to see work your child has been completing.

How we let you know how your child is doing

Parents Evenings: these run twice a year and are a chance to meet face to face with your child's class teacher.

End of year report: these are sent home in July and give information on academic achievement and personal development.

Termly 'Insight' attainment reports: these are sent home at the beginning of spring term and summer term and share your child's most recent attainment.

Seesaw: Pictures are added frequently to Seesaw linked to your child's learning. This isn't a platform to communicate with teachers, but is a great way to see some of the learning going on across your child's week

Take a Look Tuesdays: This is a good way to see work your child has been completing.

Additional Themes

Lockdown Communications: Another theme that came out of the free text element of the survey was that parents were unhappy with the communications that were sent out during the partial lockdown in July.

Whilst we understand how difficult it was for you as parents outside of school to receive such frightening communications, I'm sure you can appreciate how difficult it was for us all in school. We were required to work very quickly to get the message out to parents that we'd had to lock the school down, as per our lockdown policy, and we understand that the resulting communications caused a great deal of concern.

This was a learning experience and we are therefore seeking further advice from the Local Authority on how best to word these initial communications so that we have something prepared in case we were ever in that situation again. With regards to the communications that were sent out later in the day (ie. to let parents know that we had come out of lockdown), we were under strict instruction from the Local Authority that anything we sent out had to be approved by both their press office and GMP's press office first. This meant that we were not allowed to give away as much information as we know that parents would have liked about the nature of the incident.

