

Some positives from the parent voice survey Spring 23

Firstly, thank you for all your comments, we do look closely at them as a whole team and make sure we act on any comments/suggestions that we can. It is lovely to hear that you can see how strong our ethos and values are, we agree! Our staff live these everyday and are the most kind and hardworking team. Below are some positives to share with you. We have also put any suggestions of how we can improve in the table below and what we intend to do to action these, or the reasons why we can't currently. Thanks again, we do love our Westdale community!

Mrs Estell and Mrs Lewis

I really love how your ethos and values are intrinsic to everything you do and this is woven throughout the children's learning and day to day experience at school. My children love about being resilient and not giving up when they're at home, for example, clearly things they've been spoken to about at school. My children get lots of positive reinforcement and praise - more so this year than ever before. I feel that they are known and valued as individuals. As a general point, I've fed back on some issues in the past, both general and specific to my children, and I do recognise that these have been listened to and acted upon.

I think there has been a marked improvement in school's communication over the past year in terms of general comms. The round up and forward plan on it are helpful. I feel Dojo is used effectively by the teachers, especially this year.

My son gets cuddles when he's feeling poorly or upset and that means a huge amount to both of us! I know he will always be looked after which is priceless to me.

Lots of fun activities throughout the year. My daughter really looks forward to the different events and celebrations.

Teachers are amazing, so loving, dedicated and kind. Nurture is amazing.

Very happy with all aspects of school. Great communication and lots of fun things organised for the children. Really happy that the school values developing character alongside academic learning.

The school is very explicit about valued behaviours and the new approach to discipline is a great improvement. I like the fact that the school reflects on its practice and makes bold steps to create change based on evidence, even when this is initially disruptive.

The staff are so nurturing and children's emotional wellbeing and happiness is at the heart of the school. My child has made so much progress since starting in Reception, and I am grateful for all the staff that support. Office staff are always helpful and friendly. After school staff are so kind and helpful. The Heads/ Senco and learning mentor are quick to respond to any worries/ concerns and I know my child is nurtured and valued at this school. Thank you so much.

Keeps us well informed of things going on. Parent Mail is brilliant

Westdale Infants is a lovely school and I wish my child could stay there for Years 3 to 6 rather than moving to the Junior school!

It feels like a really happy and fun environment and I feel part of the community of Westdale Infants

Open and engaging teachers and support staff

You have supported my child through nursery during COVID which hit her hard and now in year 1 she is currently being supported extremely well with her reading to the point advanced really quickly.

Westdale is such a nurturing and positive environment where it's so clear that every child is valued. Our daughter has grown so much in confidence and self-esteem, is excited about learning and loves coming to school every day. The staff are exceptional- so gifted and kind. We're really happy our child is in a school where she can really thrive.

My child feels safe and excited to be at school. Great communication and the weekly updates are great.

I can't fault the school or the staff, reception and wraparound are all so lovely.

Such a caring nurturing environment. Parents always made to feel welcome.

The school is a fun place that makes learning exciting and provides great extracurricular events for children.

The school promotes a happy, safe environment where all children are included, and a love of learning is clearly seen within both pupils and staff. Children are loved, cared for and a sense of community is at the centre of the school.

Keep doing everything you already do! You all do an amazing job and give our children the best start to their education. Thank you.

Parents evening organisation. Particularly impressed with how Miss Brown knows each child very well. Pleased with the level of care from the teachers.

Care for children and a focus on building their confidence has been amazing for my daughter. All the teachers and TAs are really passionate about the children.

Employing enthusiasts and motivated staff that spend time to get to know your child.

Friendly positive staff across the board- from head teachers, to teachers and site team.

Westdale continues to make each child feel valued, confident, and ambitious.

The staff are all very friendly, I really appreciated the warm welcomes from the head teachers when I first came to the school at drop off times.

I like the flexibility of after school club. I've heard horror stories from friends who can't get a place for their child. My daughter seems happy there too - and they seem to have activities etc.

The regular communication via email (weekly newsletter and class dojo from teacher) is good. I feel well informed.

I used Class Dojo when I had a concern about our daughter and another child and was kept well informed and updated about the situation. I felt very reassured.

The school feels like it lives by their values (kindness etc) - really comes across from everyone.

Further comments from parents, responses, and next steps

It feels like there are so many ways information gets shared that I miss things. If everything I needed to remember could be summarised in one place e.g. a calendar that would be perfect for me to keep on top of what I need to do when

We aim to summarise information in the weekly round up, this has dates coming up too, so you can see any events planned on the website with dates in and the round ups are saved on there too.

A fancy dress/costume wardrobe would be good. Children need the same costumes each year. Lending or renting costumes would reduce waste and cost and help parents

This is a good idea! We just have no storage for this in school, particularly at the current time with the roof works, but will think about this for the future.

Non uniform days to be less themed (example by a particular colour). often have to buy a new item of clothing because we don't own that particular colour

We will certainly take this on board for the future and action this.

Informing parents when there are visitors /students etc in your child's class

We will certainly take this on board for the future and action this.

Would like to see greater improvement on reading and writing and more focused teaching in smaller groups /Making sure that middle performing children aren't over looked

We do carry out lots of teaching in smaller groups focusing in on reading and writing. This might be done by a class teacher or TAs do cover classes if a member of staff is absent so this does affect if groups can go ahead. All our teachers know their classes well and they will have feedback throughout the course of the day on different aspects of learning. We do, however, have capacity in terms of additional support and any children with extra funding have access to this first.

<p>Wraparound care is too expensive</p>	<p>We have looked at other after school provision in the area and costs are comparable with these. We do not make a profit on wraparound, all the costs go on food and staffing, both of which have gone up in cost in the last year. The school budget does not have any spare funding, so we do need to make sure wraparound provision supports itself with these costings.</p>
<p>Transition to the Juniors needs to be improved</p>	<p>Happy to work with you on this to see where you think the gaps are and improve where needed.</p>
<p>School lunches need to be improved</p>	<p>We will feed this back to NCC who provide our school lunches. We do monitor the quality of this.</p>
<p>Are there any school plans for an onsite defibrillator with the new school government directive?</p>	<p>We have not yet heard anything from the government about this yet but understand deliveries of defibrillators began in January. We will keep you updated as soon as we hear on this important initiative.</p>
<p>Fundraising e.g. Amazon wish list</p>	<p>Our School Business Manager, Laura Houlton has been looking into this so watch this space!</p>
<p>More after school club provision – not just wraparound /Holiday clubs where hours support working parents</p>	<p>We want this too! This is proving very tricky this year with the roof project and space available. Wraparound takes up our indoor and outdoor space which means we do have little capacity for other clubs. We will look at how we can accommodate this after our new roof is completed.</p>
<p>I think the communication before starting school could have been clearer</p>	<p>We will certainly take this on board for the future.</p>

More chance for parents to come into school to share and celebrate learning	We want this too! This is proving very tricky this year with the roof project and space available, but we should be all back to school by January 24!
When will the playground be updated?	We would love a playground facelift, but this seems like a dream at the moment, as our school budget just about pays for basic resources in school. Any large spending like this would need to come from fundraising efforts. We are happy to work with anyone who has capacity to support with this !
Weekend homework to go over the weeks learning	Reading is the key home learning we want parents and carers to support with. Dojo and the class pages will tell you what you have been learning that week.