

# BARKISLAND C.E. (V.A.) PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Where every child matters*

Working with the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales  
and the Metropolitan Borough of Calderdale



GLEDHILL



HORTON



AKROYD

## Results of Parental Questionnaire 2013/2014

Thank you to everyone who completed the parental survey.

**A total of 56 questionnaires were returned which covers 46% of our families.**

A summary of the results can be found below. Thank you for your all your comments and your time is appreciated. It has not been possible to respond to every point. However, please rest assured that, for constructive comments, we will do our best to address your suggestions. It is pleasing to note, though, that the overall level of parental satisfaction is generally high.

### CURRICULUM

1. I am kept well informed about what my child(ren) is/are learning in school.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
36%	53%	7%	2%	2%
<p><b>General comments:</b> Parents like termly newsletters and the copies that are also on the website. Some parents would like to more information more regularly.</p> <p><b>School comments:</b> A termly curriculum newsletter does cover all the aspects of the curriculum that will be covered every term. The class information sessions held in September also support this. The school twitter feed also includes aspects of the curriculum.</p>				

2. I have enough information from school to help my child(ren) at home.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
38%	57%		5%	
<p><b>General comments:</b> Parents appreciated the information evening sessions held this year. Some parents appreciated the extra support and advice from given from staff if asked.</p> <p><b>School comments:</b> We are always looking at ways in which we can ensure parents have the right information to support their children at home. However, if you are ever unsure, please speak to a member of staff – things have changed an awful lot since we all went to school!</p>				

3. I am satisfied with the amount and level of homework my child(ren) brings home.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
21%	46%	11%	16%	2%	4%

**General comments:**

Comments around homework differed – with some parents commenting that children get too much and others wanting more.

Learning logs are still an issue for some families.

**School comments:**

As a school we try to balance the amount of homework across the school year.

Learning logs are a different style of homework which will not suit all children. Similarly, the more academic style of homework will also not suit all children. Both types of homework are set so that all children can have the chance to complete homework tasks that suit them better. Learning logs are given out at least 2 weeks before the school holiday and are expected in by the end of the first week. No other homework tasks are set during this period.

Learning Logs will now only be set during the longer holiday breaks (Christmas, Easter and Summer), giving at least 4 weeks in total to complete.

4. The school provides a rich and interesting curriculum that helps my child(ren) to learn.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
55%	45%			

**General comments:**

Open week was very well received

**School comments:**

It is very pleasing to see that all returned questionnaires stated that we provide a rich and interesting curriculum. We are always looking at new ways to make the curriculum stimulating. The introduction of the new National Curriculum from September 2014 will enable us to teach new concepts and topics in school.

5. The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)'s progress.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
41%	50%	5%	2%	2%

**General comments:**

Many parents felt that school staff were very approachable and communicated well with parents about their child. The annual written report is liked by some parents. Some parents felt that there needs to be more communication between parental consultations.

**School comments:**

It is pleasing to see that most parents feel well informed about their child's progress through parental consultations, annual reports and more informal meetings carried out across the year.

As a school, regular monitoring of children's progress takes place. For any pupil who isn't making expected rates of progress, work is done to rectify this and if it is felt necessary, parents are informed.

If you ever have any concerns about your child's progress, you should always speak to the class teachers.

6. I am kept informed about what my child's specific targets are for Literacy and Numeracy.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
36%	52%	9%	4%	
<p><b>General comments:</b>            Many parents felt well informed about their child's targets and that their children also knew their targets.            Some parents felt that they did not really need to know them.</p> <p><b>School comments:</b>            The target sheets that are sent home help parents to understand the various aspects at different levels and see how their child is progressing against them.</p>				

**EXTRA CURRICULAR**

7. The school provides enough activities beyond the school day for my child(ren) to get involved in.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
27%	41%	14%	18%	
<p><b>General comments:</b>            Many parents felt that we offered a wide range of clubs.            A wider variety of clubs (non-sport) would be welcomed as would clubs for younger children especially Reception age.</p> <p><b>School comments:</b>            Trying to balance the range of clubs we have available in school is tricky. Many of our clubs rely on school staff volunteering their free time to plan and run after school clubs. We are beginning to use external providers to offer a wide range of clubs but sadly these do come at a cost to parents; many of which we have subsidised this year.            Other non-sports clubs will try to be sourced as will clubs for younger children.</p>				

**SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

Has your child any Special Educational Needs (now or in the past)?

Yes	No	Not sure
16%	84%	

If yes, please answer the following questions.

7a) I feel the school deals with my child(ren)'s Special Educational Needs well.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
66%	22%		11%	
<p><b>General comments:</b> Most responses stated that the staff work very hard to ensure that their child's needs are met.</p> <p><b>School comments:</b> We work hard in school to make sure that all children's needs are well catered for.</p>				

7b) I am satisfied with my child(ren)'s progress and information provided by the school regarding their Special Educational Needs.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
56%	22%	11%	11%	
<p><b>General comments:</b> The few comments received stated that parents were well informed about their child.</p> <p><b>School comments:</b> As ever, staff can be contact if any further information is needed.</p>				

**CLASS SIZES**

8. I am happy with the current class sizes.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
32%	54%	4%	5%	2%
<p><b>General comments:</b> Some parents were concerned that the class sizes were growing and did not want to see class increase any further. Other parents appreciated the fact that all of our classes at Barkisland are smaller than the average class size in most primaries and the strain that this puts on the school budget.</p> <p><b>School comments:</b></p>				

## STANDARDS AND CHRISTIAN VALUES

9. The school enables my child(ren) to achieve their best.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
50%	43%	4%	2%	2%
<b>General comments:</b> Many parents commented on the welcoming and nurturing environment provided by school which helps children to achieve their best. Merit assembly is noted as a celebratory event which supports the achievement culture in school. Many parents were very happy with the encouragement the children receive from school. One or two thought that with extra 'pushing' some children's achievements could be higher.				
<b>School comments:</b> It is pleasing to see that the vast majority of parents agree with this statement.				

10. The school achieves high standards of behaviour.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
64%	36%			
<b>General comments:</b> Parents were very complimentary about children's behaviour and it is evident in all aspects of school life – from classes, to assembly, school trips and on the playground.				
<b>School comments:</b> Behaviour is excellent at school and it is supported well by parents – thank you!				

11. I am confident that the school deals with inappropriate behaviour effectively.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
48%	38%	13%	2%	
<b>General comments:</b> Many parents had no experience of this. Of the few that commented, it was felt that any inappropriate behaviour was dealt with well in school.				
<b>School comments:</b> We work hard to ensure that any inappropriate behaviour is dealt with fairly for all children.				

12. The school's Christian values and attitudes have a positive effect on my child(ren).

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
43%	48%	9%		
<p><b>General comments:</b> Most parents commented that the School's values have a positive effect on the children – children repeat things learnt in Collective Worship, children enjoy talking about God and Jesus and the values instil morality and knowledge.</p> <p><b>School comments:</b> The Christian Values are important to us as a Church of England school; the new values which have just been launched will also form aspects of Collective Worship, RE and PSHCE.</p>				

13. The collective worship held in school has a positive and spiritual impact on my child(ren).

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
36%	47%	16%		
<p><b>General comments:</b> Some parents reported that Collective Worship generated lively discussion at home. A small number thought that the children are expected to say too many prayers.</p> <p><b>School comments:</b> It is pleasing that the themes of Collective Worship provoke discussion at home. Prayer is an important aspect of Collective Worship; although children have the opportunity to opt out of prayer if they wish.</p>				

14. The teaching of RE and especially the teaching of Christianity is effective.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
36%	47%	12%	2%	
<p><b>General comments:</b> Most parents were happy with the RE curriculum and the discussions that it generates.</p> <p><b>School comments:</b> It is nice to see that generally, parents are happy with the RE curriculum in school. The RE syllabus has recently changed and it will be taught from September 2014.</p>				

15. My child(ren) like(s) coming to school.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
70%	28%		2%	
<p><b>General comments:</b>                      Nearly all parents commented that their child enjoys coming to school and that it is never a struggle.</p> <p><b>School comments:</b>                      Great news that children are so keen to attend school.                      There will always be occasions when children express that they do not want to come to school. This can be for a variety of reasons. If at any stage you are concerned, please speak to your child’s class teacher.</p>				

16. My child(ren) enjoy(s) playtimes and lunchtimes

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
60%	37%	3%		
<p><b>General comments:</b>                      Most comments expressed that children love the playtimes. The befriender and play leader schemes were also mentioned favourably and that all the children in the school have opportunities to play together.</p> <p><b>School comments:</b>                      It is great to hear that children enjoy their playtimes. We have recently improved the provision of equipment and facilitated play at lunchtimes – I feel that this has impacted greatly on the children’s enjoyment at lunchtimes. I agree that the befriender and play leader schemes are invaluable and support our youngest children in school, whilst giving our older children responsibilities.</p>				

17. My child(ren) find(s) school meals enjoyable.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A Packed lunch
47%	31%	5%			16%
<p><b>General comments:</b>                      The general feel about school meals is that they are fabulous – some parents even stated that they wished they had school meals and that they find it hard to live up to Mrs Roberts at home – especially her legendary pies!</p> <p><b>School comments:</b>                      Our school meal take up is extremely high – that speaks for itself!                      Our lunches are delicious and Mrs Roberts and her team work hard to try and produce a wide variety of home cooked meals. All meals are cooked fresh on site each day from produce which is sourced as locally as possible. Thank you to Mrs Roberts and the rest of the lunchtime staff.</p>					

## SCHOOL TO HOME CONTACT

18. I feel the school encourages parents to play an active part in the life of the school.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
38%	55%	5%		
<p><b>General comments:</b> Parents felt that there are plenty of opportunities to become involved in school life e.g open week, merit assembly, volunteering in school. It was also felt that the BSA work very hard to provide a varied calendar of events.</p> <p><b>School comments:</b> It is pleasing to see that most parent feel involve in school life. Many thanks also to the BSA for working so hard to organise so many events.</p>				

19. I would find / have found it easy to approach the school with questions or problems to do with my child(ren).

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
61%	30%	4%		2%
<p><b>General comments:</b> A larger proportion of parents expressed how approachable school staff are, detailing that they are always positive and that it never feels like too much trouble. A very small minority have not had such a positive experience with this.</p> <p><b>School comments:</b> I'm glad that most parents feel that they can approach the school with questions or concerns and that these are acted upon where necessary. We try hard to make ourselves accessible to all. It is disappointing to hear that this is not always for the case for some parents. If at any time you feel this way, please speak to me about it.</p>				

20. The school handles complaints from parents well.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A – never made a complaint
27%	23%	9%	4%	2%	34%
<p><b>General comments:</b> The parents who commented on this state that any issues have always been acknowledged and dealt with appropriately. Parents have felt that they have been listened to and action taken. A small minority of parents feel that their complaint wasn't listened to.</p> <p><b>School comments:</b> Many parents (34%) have no experience of making a complaint which is very positive! It is pleasing to hear that most parents have felt that their complaint has been dealt with effectively. As a school, we encourage parents to complain if they feel the need to do so and we will work together to seek a satisfactory resolution, however, some complaints do not necessarily change the way in which we operate.</p>					



21. The newsletter provides me with clear information about what is/ what will be happening in the future.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
46%	50%		4%	
<p><b>General comments:</b> Most comments expressed that the newsletter kept them well informed of events happening at school. Some felt that it was sometimes a little repetitive and that there are too many additional letters sent out.</p> <p><b>School comments:</b> I am pleased that the newsletter is well received by most parents; the newsletter is intended to be a brief overview of event in school and reminders and information about upcoming events. Some other letters are necessary so that more detailed information can be given to parents or letters which require parental consent can be included. In such a busy school additional letters can never be avoided entirely. For some aspects of the newsletter it is sometimes necessary to be repetitive.</p>				

22. The website provides me with clear information about what is/ what will be happening in the future.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
34%	57%	7%		
<p><b>General comments:</b> Most parents were very pleased with the new website and felt that is was a long awaited improvement. The calendar feature was named as a useful feature. The text message service was also mentioned as a helpful reminder of events in school.</p> <p><b>School comments:</b> We thank you for being patient with us whilst the new website was populated – this was a massive job and still continues to be so. We are looking at developing the class pages in the Autumn term so keep your eye on the updates.</p>				

### TRANSITION TO/FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL

23. I feel the transition between pre-school / Reception and Year 6 / Secondary School is well managed by the school.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
30%	36%	7%	5%	2%	21%
<p><b>General comments:</b> The Reception staff in particular were praised for their caring nature which supported transition into Reception. Some parents liked the 2 week transition where others felt it was too long.</p> <p><b>School comments:</b> The transition for YR children is planned so that staff can really get to know the children and vice-versa. I know that some children would be very happy to begin school full time due to their age and pre-school experience, but on the other hand, some children need that staggered intake.</p>					

### Areas in which we do well....

Many positive comments but the most popular comments included:

- Excellent behaviour;
- Nurturing environment;
- Approachable staff;
- Strong Christian ethos;
- Inclusive;
- Strong lines of communication;
- Hard working staff;
- Support children to build their self-esteem;
- Safe and happy learning environment;
- Great dinners;
- Sense of community
- All staff care about every child as an individual;
- Encouraging children to be good citizens.

Many parents commented that they are 'proud that their children attend Barkisland', stated that 'Barkisland is a wonderful school' and that 'the modernisation of school processes has been well managed'.

### Areas in which we could improve on...

The areas highlighted below were aspects which were commented on by two or more families.

- New Merit assembly demotivates children.

The way children received merits in the past meant that they were only able to be successful at least once per week. The new style allows children's success to be celebrated as and when they occur and there isn't a limit on this. Children visit my office with their work, where I can spend longer with each child looking at their work and talking to them, this is then celebrated in merit as a whole school. This gives a more layered approach to celebrating success. Many parents have commented that they like the new style of merits.

- Stop the Learning Log homework.

As detailed earlier in this report, this type of homework is a different style which does suit some children better. Plenty of time before and after the holiday period is given to complete this homework task.

***Many thanks to all families who took the time to complete the questionnaire.***

***Your opinions and suggestions are extremely important to us. We are all constantly trying to improve on what we do, to ensure that every child and family has a positive and rewarding experience at school – enabling every child can be the very best that they can be!***