



Centre for Successful Schools
Keele University
January 2010
Parents Survey.

In January 2010, 300 parents were surveyed to seek their views and opinions on a range of school issues. The survey was created and analysed by Keele University's Centre for Successful Schools and is the second such survey to take place at Carrickfergus College.

At Carrickfergus College we value the thoughts and opinions of our parents and use the information gathered to improve our provision. We are constantly seeking ways to enhance not only the educational experience for our pupils, your children but also strive to strengthen the relationship between our school and parents. We need to work together to ensure the absolute best for those who are our primary concern – the pupils.

This year we completed a full range of surveys, seeking the views of you, the parents, the pupils the teaching staff and the support staff. We are delighted to say that all results had improved from our last survey although there are still a number of areas that we would like to continue to improve.

The following information sets out as many results as possible and indicates how we hope to address the issues that are particularly important. If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact Mrs A Irvine at the College.

The following table shows an overview of the responses to the 7 categories included in the survey, the figures in brackets indicate the results from the previous survey in 2007.

<u>Category</u>	<u>2006/07</u>	<u>2009/2010</u>
School Standards	82%	83%
Communication	78%	81%
Parental Support	57%	56%
Teacher Effectiveness	83%	85%
Child's Experience	86%	90%
Parent/Teacher Relationships	83%	84%
Every Child Matters	/	75%

- 91% (86%) Parents agree that the school is safe & secure
- 91% (88%) also think that the school is well resourced in terms of computers.
- 99% (98%) are made to feel welcome when they come to the school.
- 23% would like to be more involved in school

Despite the fact that the final bullet here is fairly low we are asking teaching staff if they would be interested in becoming involved in a PTA and hope to soon be requesting parental input.

- 98% think that the school is "about the same" or "better than most"
- 63% (60%) think that exam results are as expected.
- 76% (73%) agree that the discipline is "about right"
- 93% (91%) think that the school has a good reputation.
- 83% (78%) agree that the school enables every pupil to be good at something.
- 96% (96%) say Yes their child is well cared for
- 97% (95%) would like their child to stay on.
- 90% (90%) agree that teaching standards are high
- 83% (73%) say that pupils are praised and encouraged
- 91% (87%) agree that teachers are approachable.

The above results were particularly pleasing as they were above previous responses and very positive generally.

Obviously not every result can be positive and it would be unrealistic to expect it to be so at this stage in our evaluative cycle. Those results that are less positive than previous surveys are shown below

- 79% (81%) agree that the school ensures good behaviour
- 76% (88%) agree that high standards of dress are insisted upon
- 94% (95%) would recommend it to others.
- 84% feel that bullying is **NOT** a particular problem
- 58% (67%) feel able to help with their child's learning
- 93% (95%) say that pupils are expected to work hard.
- 59% (49%) think that teachers are "at least sometimes" too tolerant of bad behaviour

These issues have been raised with teaching staff and we hope to continue to address these issues in the next school year.

The next set of results was not previously surveyed so there are no comparison percentages.

- 84% agree that the school encourages a healthy lifestyle
- 91% are aware that healthy food and drinks are available]
- 87% agree that there is appropriate education on smoking, drugs etc.
- 93% say that the school is safe
- 89% say that we recognise and reward good behaviour
- 51% agree that parents are consulted and listened to
- 78% say that the pupils are consulted and listened to
- 90% say that pupils are encouraged to develop their self confidence
- 91% say that the education they are receiving is preparing them for working life

Again your responses were very positive except for the statement that asked if you felt that you were consulted and listened to. We hope that our increase in evaluative procedures will improve these results over time. We consult parents on a range of issues including these surveys, reviews of policies and the engagement with many departments through a wide and varied range of initiatives including parental feedback on homework/coursework, invitations to displays and recitals etc.

In the final section of the survey you were asked for your comments. I have included a few of these for you to read and think about.

We often gather as much useful information from the comments as we can from the statistics.

- ...”the matter was dealt with promptly by the teacher and resolved”
- “More information evenings need to be held about our child’s progress...no parents association”
- “... The level of support, care, respect and education at Carrickfergus College is far superior...(another school mentioned) and our relationship with the school is brilliant”
- Very pleased with my child’s experience...pastoral care and learning for life opportunities particularly good”
- **“I love my daughters going to Carrick College...I wholeheartedly support the school it has an exceptionally dedicated workforce**

All of our evaluations end with an Action for Improvement section that sets out in simple terms how we mean to address the pertinent issues.

ACTION FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Feedback to staff to make them aware of parents concerns.
- Feedback to you the parents via the school website.
- Ask staff about the possibility of getting involved in a PTA.
- Contact parents regarding involvement in PTA.
- Move year 8 parents night to an earlier slot in the calendar.
- The focus on High Quality Teaching and Learning this year will improve. educational provision for all of our pupils.

Finally, thank you to all those parents who gave their time to complete the survey. We have a lot of useful data. Your opinions are important and I hope that you have found this report informative. If you have any further queries please contact me at school.

A Irvine
6/8/2010