

Dear Parents,

On this site you will find feedback from the survey that you completed in the Autumn Term 2007. Thank you very much to all those families who completed the survey, it has given us some very positive feedback and has raised some issues that we will review and address in the coming months.

On the information the figure in brackets represents the UK average, where it is **NOT** stated Carrickfergus College were **ABOVE** average.

## **Keele University Centre for Successful Schools Parent Survey Autumn 2007**

### **Background to the Survey**

- “ Seeking the views of parents, along with those of other ‘stakeholders’ of the school, is of vital importance for informing the school’s self – evaluation process and leading to improved school performance”

Ofsted 2005

### **The Six Areas of the Survey**

1. The school and its standards
2. Communications between school and home
3. The support which parents are able to offer to their child’s education
4. Parent teacher relationships
5. The effectiveness of the teachers
6. The quality of the child’s experience in the school

### **The School Standards**

- 91% say school has good reputation
- 97% say it is the same or better than other schools
- 80% say school is achieving high standards
- 76% say exam results are meeting parent expectations
- Yet only 32% (36%) say that exam results are the reason for choosing the school.
- 81% say standards of pupil behaviour are maintained by the school
- 90% see the school rules as fair

### **Environment**

- Safe & secure 86%
- Buildings very good or reasonable 96%
- Well furnished & resourced 91%
- Well equipped with computers and software 88%

### **Curriculum Provision**

- 99% good range of subjects provided
- 93% good range of extra curricular = 22% ABOVE average
- 77% opportunities for extra study
- 94% opportunity to take part in sport
- 86% opportunity to take part in music and drama

### **Communication**

- 94% have enough information
- 78% aware of pastoral system
- 89% enough information on curriculum
- 82% (87%) find their child's report useful
- 82% (88%) say parents evenings are held at suitable times
- 17% (22%) say they are not given enough time with each teacher

### **Parental Support**

- 65% of parents don't feel the need to be more directly involved but responses indicate that they take their role seriously.
- 90% say they attend for parents evenings
- Only 49% for shows/plays/concerts
- The governors report is of least interest with only 16% saying they attend

### **Relationships with Teachers**

- Most parents clearly understand that you are valued by the school
- 98% say you are made to feel welcome
- 87% think that teachers are approachable and helpful
- 78% feel that teachers treat them as partners
- 90% believe you can speak honestly about your concerns
- 88% say teachers are open & honest with you
- 68%(70%) say you are given sufficient opportunity to express your views or opinions about important issues

### **Teacher Effectiveness**

- 95% of parents are generally of the opinion that teachers are doing a good job
- 90% think that standards of teaching are high
- 61% say that teachers keep good control - 17% above average
- 95% say teachers expect the pupils to work hard
- 96% of you feel your children are well cared for
- 50% (68%) say teachers are at least sometimes too tolerant of bad behaviour although only 14% think that discipline needs to be stricter.

### **The Child's School Experience**

- 87% say your children are happy
- 93% of parents are satisfied with their children's progress
- 78% say teachers enable every child to be good at something

- 95% know how to contact the school
- 92% say you are treated fairly
- 15% say bullying is a particular problem although 85% said that it was not or you didn't know.
- 17% say their child is bullied 'sometimes'

### **Other Facts and Figures**

- 70% of parents chose school because of open night, 68% because you felt your children would be happy here.
- Ongoing consultation with the community is an essential feature of effective school self evaluation.
- Substantial evidence that you as parents want to be involved in the self evaluation process
- "from the survey at Carrickfergus indicates a somewhat more positive pattern of parent response than average for schools in our database" (Keele University)

### **What you said in the box provided!**

- He likes every one of his teachers
- I am impressed with the school
- I am very happy overall with the school
- It is an excellent environment where teaching & learning is fluid in every school department
- The education he is receiving is second to none
- I have been consistently impressed and grateful for the commitment shown by staff members over and above what is required within their job description

Thank you for taking the time to do this survey and as you can see most of the areas addressed had a positive response but there are some issues which we in the College will need to review and address. Your input to this survey has been invaluable and will enable us to further develop Carrickfergus College for the benefit of the whole school community.  
Thank you