



President Road | Aylesbury | Buckinghamshire | HP18 0YA
Tel: 01296 326320 | e-mail: admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk
Website: www.greenridgeacademy.co.uk | Twitter: @GreenRidgeR2

Headteacher: Mr. Aaron Wanford MA, B.Ed. (Hons), NPQH

Thursday, 10th September 2020

Parent/Carer Survey – Summer 2020 Outcomes and Next Steps

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the end of the summer term, a parent/carers survey was again completed in order to gain your views about our academy. Thank you to the many of you who took the time to give us your feedback. We were extremely pleased that we had a huge 153 responses, compared with just 59 the year before. The more responses we get, the more insightful the results are in helping us to form a view of the parent/carers group as a whole and means that we can then plan our next steps based on the majority of views and ideas.

As ever, we continue to receive extremely positive feedback and helpful suggestions and thoughts on how we can continue to improve and build on our current successes. We are in no way complacent about our success and positive outcomes and recognise that we still have a great deal to achieve at Green Ridge to make it an outstanding place of learning for all our pupils over the years to come. However, as we have done with our previous surveys, we thought it may be helpful for you to know some key headline results/feedback that came out of the survey, and what the academy will be doing to address any areas for development. This may be particularly useful for our new parent/carers group who have just joined us to better understand why we do what we do.

Key Strengths – what's going well?

99-100% of all parents/carers agree or strongly agreed that:

- My child enjoys school.
- I feel my child is safe and well-cared for at Green Ridge.
- The teaching at Green Ridge is good and helps my child to make progress.
- The school meets my child's particular needs.
- The school helps me to support my child's learning (through parent meetings, workshops, newsletter, website etc.)
- Green Ridge provides a broad and balanced curriculum which my child enjoys and learns from.
- Green Ridge promotes a healthy lifestyle to its pupils.
- Green Ridge expects my child to work hard and achieve his or her best.
- I have a range of ways of approaching the school for questions, suggestions or problems (such as Parent Forum, feedback link, e-mails, speaking to staff etc.)
- Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at Green Ridge.

Some of the key aspects to our strengths from your comments were:

- Communication/organisation
- Approachability of staff and leaders
- SLT visibility and presence
- Teaching teams
- Tapestry use
- Barkley
- We know our pupils – we treat them as individuals
- Leadership
- Parent views/suggestions are taken on-board
- High expectations for all pupils
- School's response to COVID19
- Enthusiasm of staff
- School values
- Attention to detail

Individual feedback and responses about the school's strengths supported the statements above, for example with comments such as:

- *"The consistently high standards that are expected of all pupils enables them to make great progress and to challenge themselves to learn. The teaching team are just wonderful and provide exactly the right balance of curriculum subjects as well as motivating the children to do their best. The communication received from school is second to none and we always feel fully informed as parents. During the pandemic we can only imagine the amount of work that went into to revising procedures and strategies and have huge gratitude for all of the staff, especially Mr Wanford, for leading the school through such a challenging time. We feel incredibly lucky that our son attends such a fantastic school."*
- *"Barkley is a real draw for my child - the excitement of seeing him on the gate each morning has really helped to get them through the doors."*
- *"My child's teacher knows him well and is able to tell me which areas he needs to work on or how to do something differently to get him to do it. During lockdown the phone calls have been great and helped him talk to Miss South and hear what she has to say."*
- *"They appear to be a great team and they appear to go above and beyond with everything that they do. The way they have handled the closure due to COVID-19 has been remarkable, from the communication to the work set. Everything has been outstanding and there has never been a need to ask questions as everything has been addressed in advance."*
- *"So many learning opportunities provided for the children in all areas and a great variety of lessons taught that are so stimulating and engaging. Many opportunities to visit the school throughout the year for different events and a strong PTA body of volunteers put on amazing events."*
- *"If I have a concern about my child whether its from something at school or home, the school acts quickly and always updates me on the situation. Great communication and prompt at dealing with anything that's a concern."*
- *"The teachers are fantastic! So caring and bubbly. Our daughter got a bit upset when she started in September and they couldn't have done more to help settle her and also reassure us. Would recommend this nursery and school to anyone!"*

Areas for improvement – how can we be better?

As with our previous surveys, there were some questions answered where not all parents/carers agreed as strongly; however, there were only two questions like this, and our lowest scoring questions were still at 97% agree or strongly agree! Therefore, although areas for improvement, we hope this suggests that things are still working generally very well.

The school supports my child's emotional well-being.

This was an area of improvement we identified in last year's survey, and good progress has been made on this already; however, with COVID interrupting the year back in March, some of the work planned with pupils and parents was hampered. Mental Health is part of our school

development plan priorities this year, and along with Mrs. Cavanagh, our Education, Welfare and Pastoral Support lead who championed this area last year, Miss. Lazarou will also be undertaking the leadership on this area of the curriculum. Miss. Lazarou is currently undertaking her Masters study in this area, and we are keen to use her expertise at Green Ridge in this field. Over the last year, Mrs. Cavanagh attended training and development to support her in working with the children across the school and putting in systems and a curriculum in place so that our children are taught about the benefits of positive mental health and how they can support themselves. She also attended a First Aid Mental Health training programme developed by Buckinghamshire Council. Miss. Lazarou will be working closely with Mrs. Cavanagh to roll out further support for all pupils and staff with regards to teaching our pupils of the importance of mental health and how they can support themselves. We very much hope to be able to share this work with you later in the year through workshops or online content, so you can support your children further.

I feel I have an opportunity to be involved in the school community (e.g. PTA, volunteering, assisting on trips, helping in school etc.)

We very much hope that all parents/carers have an opportunity to get involved with the school – whether this is offering to help on trips, helping with the PTA and events, being a volunteer or even coming in to school for one of the ‘stay and learn’ sessions with your child. We recognise that some parents/carers may want to be further involved and there has not been an opportunity to (e.g. because we have not done as many trips over the last year), and this is something we are continually trying to increase over the next year, where possible.

Some of the other key themes for what we could improve from your comments were:

- Increased monitoring/checking of reading books/maths levels etc.
- Stretch and challenge for those more able learners
- Nursery – clarity over whole-school events and what they are doing
- Further diversity of culture and festivals
- Further developing extra-curricular provision
- Increased outdoor play equipment
- Website – more up to date and content

We have continued to diversify our curriculum offer at Green Ridge over the last year, ensuring that as many different groups are representing in our curriculum – whether this is women, members of the LGBT+ community, those of different faiths and non, those from different ethnic backgrounds or those with disabilities in some way. The diversity of our curriculum has been a huge part of our curriculum enhancements over the last year, and we intend to be as transparent and visible about this as we can. As part of her extended role this year, Miss. Chalmers is leading on Equality and Diversity, working with curriculum leaders on ensuring that our curriculum is as diverse as it can be and reflects the local population of Green Ridge, as well as within the wider world.

Whilst there is not the space to go into each of the key themes in detail here, we will be further exploring some of these within our Parent Forum over the coming year, with a hope that we can further improve these areas. Please do ensure you contact the Parent Forum reps in your class who are able to feedback any ideas/suggestions to the school on a regular basis; they meet regularly with the leadership team and this is your way of ensuring that all issues are raised, and appropriate action is taken where possible. Further communication about Parent Forum reps will shortly be communicated as well.

Thank you once again for taking the time to share your views and for helping us to improve what we do at Green Ridge.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. Aaron Wanford
Headteacher