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Tuesday, 28th September 2021

Parent/Carer Survey – Summer 2021 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 **161 responses overall**, which is a slight increase on last year's 153! 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. Ideally, we'd like our results to be nearer 400 to represent each and every child we have in the academy. Target for next year!

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 can always tweak and change what we do to make things even better for everyone. 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?

98-100% of all parents/carers agree or strongly agreed that:

- My child enjoys school.
- 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 helps me to support my child's learning.
- The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum.
- We promote a healthy lifestyle to our pupils.
- Green Ridge expects my child to work hard and achieve his/her best.
- Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at Green Ridge.
- I would recommend Green Ridge to other parents/carers looking to send their child to a school.

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

- Communication
- Broad curriculum
- Commitment and dedication of staff
- Children's love of school
- Leadership

- Pastoral care
- Barkley
- High expectations of pupils – behaviour and academic
- Trips, experiences, enrichment
- Approachable staff who know pupils
- Nurturing, caring and supportive staff
- Child focussed
- Fun and enjoyable learning
- Going above and beyond
- Taking pride in children and education
- Equality, diversity and well-being
- Professional approach
- Early Years

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

- *"I feel Green Ridge is a great school for my children, the teaching is great I feel my daughter is always coming home with new amazing things that she has learn. Green Ridge really takes pride on its children and education."*
- *"The way the curriculum is taught is great as my son always comes home and can't wait to tell me what he learnt that day and still remember things days, weeks, months later!"*
- *"Green Ridge is a wonderful school and I am so grateful that my children attend. The school is made up of a wonderful team all of which are very approachable and helpful. Communication in general and particularly throughout the lockdowns has been remarkable. I couldn't recommend the school more."*
- *"There are various ways to contact the school and communication is fantastic. Every child is treated as an individual and their needs are met."*
- *"Green Ridge is brilliant when it comes to things like equality and diversity, wellbeing and enrichment etc. I'm sure these things alone are what the school excel on in comparison to other schools. The knowledge organisers that are provided are really beneficial and the planning and effort that goes into things is excellent. I feel privileged that my child is able to attend such an outstanding school."*
- *"Communication about all matters to do with school are very clear. Always great updates about what the children have been doing each week and what is coming up. I appreciate the effort that is put into the mental wellbeing of the children. My child definitely feels she can talk more about her feelings."*
- *"Green Ridge school was incredible before COVID but simply exceptional dealing with the changing restrictions and lockdowns since. Communication and regular updates have been faultless. At a time of uncertainty for parents, they have been ahead of the game with information and re-assurance. The variety of subjects and lesson content at school or via home-schooling has kept my child engaged, interested, and motivated to learn. The school's approach and awareness of child mental health and well-being has been outstanding, taking every measure to ensure children can express and talk freely about any feelings they have. Lastly, knowing that feedback will be heard and considered via the parent forum is both re-assuring and appreciated."*

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 has been a question which has been part of the school's focus over the past two years, based on feedback from parents/carers and prioritised in our school development plan, although we recognise there is still much to do – particularly with the impact of COVID over the last 18 months and the toll this has taken on many of the children's mental health and emotional well-

being. We have been able to start some of the aspects we wanted, led by Miss. Lazarou and Mrs. Cavanagh who take the overall lead on this in the school, alongside Miss. Gardiner as our Director of Inclusion. Things such as the mental health newsletters with idea and resources that go home, the parent Zoom session we offered are all the start of much more to come with supporting emotional well-being, and we will once again be prioritising this in the next academic year. We want to work with the Parent Forum to see how else parents/carers feel they could be supported to help their children, and other ideas and suggestions have for in-school activities.

The school meets my child's particular needs.

The reality of this question is that four people disagreed with this statement, which is probably an accurate reflection of the diverse range of needs we have at Green Ridge. We pride ourselves as being as inclusive as we can, to children with differing need types, but we recognise that some pupils are waiting to transfer to specialist or alternative provision or settings, or still haven't found the right setting for their individual child and their needs. There is a lack of places locally for specialist or alternative settings for pupils with Special Educational Needs, and therefore locally there are many children in mainstream who are unable to access a specialist place. There are a small number of children who fall into this category, and we know that parents/carers understand we cannot always meet their needs within a mainstream setting, and hence why they are going to alternative or specialist settings. That said, we do all we can to give the best provision, with adult support, bespoke teaching programmes, interventions and classroom adaptations and personalisation for individuals were required.

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

- Wider sports/clubs/games/enrichment
- Reducing the behaviour/disruption in class for some individuals
- Parents coming in to see learning and lessons and work
- Improving home learning on Teams and teacher feedback
- Recognising those well-behaved pupils
- Reducing parent communications
- Further help in supporting social and emotional needs of pupils
- Parents being able to contact teachers directly

We have tried to increase our range of clubs and enrichment over the last year or so, but with COVID, much of that has come to a halt. We have put in a programme of enrichment and after school/before school clubs for this term, and want to review their uptake and enjoyment, before committing to what we will offer for the spring term. I know many parents/carers feel that every teacher should offer a club, but sometimes this is just not possible given their other leadership commitments and professional development which takes place typically at the end of the day. We are committed to ensure that we increase our sports presence locally and become the hub for school sports with the other primaries with our extensive facilities we can offer!

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 meetings over the coming months, 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 information informing you of who the class representatives are was included in last weeks newsletter.

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