

Governor Newsletter

Summer Term, 2019



As another academic year draws to a close we would like to update you on the latest news from your Governing Body...

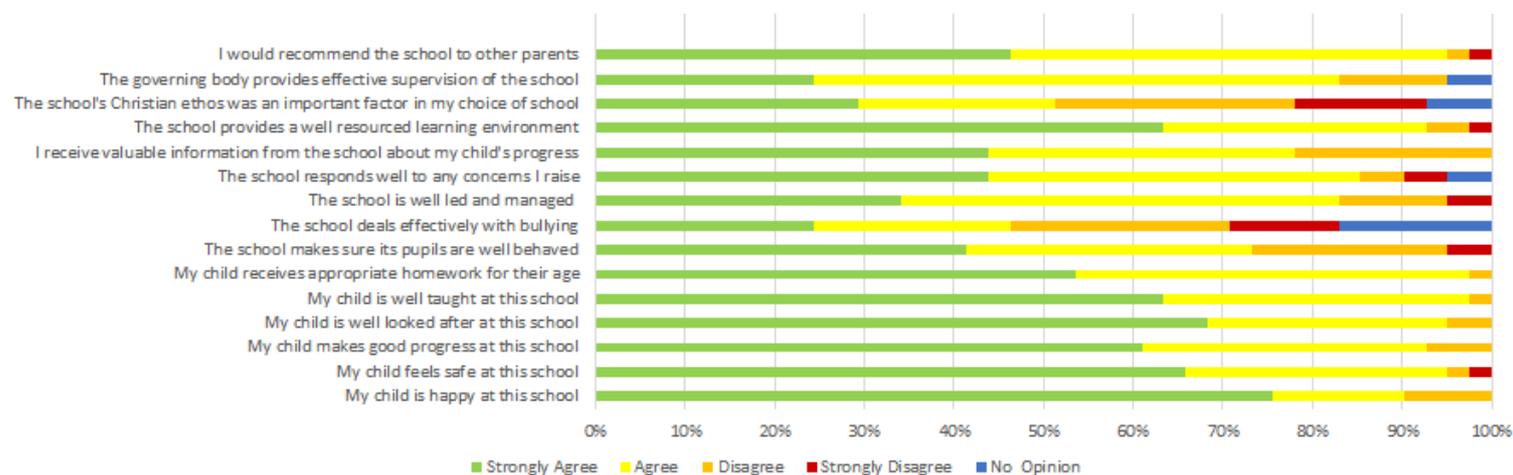
Proposed Federation of Ford End and Little Waltham Primary Schools

Discussions have continued with Ford End School during the summer term and we are pleased to advise you that their Governors have recently passed a resolution confirming their wish to federate with Little Waltham under the Executive Headship of Mrs Elizabeth Maycock. Both schools will now undertake a formal consultation with stakeholders, i.e. parents, staff, the Local Authority and the Diocese, detailing what will happen and providing an opportunity to comment on this.

2019 Parental Survey Results

We are always keen to seek your views on Little Waltham School. Governors would, therefore, firstly like to thank the 41 parents that responded to our survey, as we use this information to help shape our focus for the coming year.

Parents were asked to rate a number of questions related to aspects of school life. The responses have been analysed and the results discussed by Governors at our recent Teaching, Learning and Achievement Committee meeting, with note being taken of the comments that some parents added. Looking at the responses, it was pleasing that for 11 of the 15 questions, more than 80% of parents agreed or strongly agreed with the individual statements.



However, let's turn to the four questions that didn't score quite as highly:

I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress (78% of responses agreed or strongly agreed with this statement):

This question scored just below the 80% threshold, but it is worth reminding parents what the school provides in this respect. All pupils are subject to continual assessment so as to provide an indication of the stage reached in the learning process and to ensure that tasks given are closely matched to the child's needs. Parents' Evenings are held at least twice a year and annual reports are written each summer to inform parents of their child's progress. Parents also receive a termly overview to let them know what the

children are learning and a mini written report prior to parent consultations. However, if parents have a particular concern, or would like some guidance as to how they can help their child, they can request an informal discussion with the class teacher at any convenient time.

In Ash class (Early Years), "Tapestry", an online journal, is increasingly being used to record pupils' learning and development. This allows special moments to be regularly shared with parents who, in turn, can contribute their key observations from outside school.

The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved (73% of responses agreed or strongly agreed with this statement). The school deals effectively with bullying (46% of responses agreed or strongly agreed with this statement, with 17% of responses giving no opinion):

Clearly, these two aspects are linked. Firstly, it is worth mentioning that the school's policies on Anti-Bullying and Behaviour & Discipline can be found on the school website. All incidents of bullying are unacceptable and the school's aim is to produce a consistent response to any incidents that do arise. These are dealt with on a day-to-day basis by the Headteacher, or Deputy headteacher, in her absence, and reported to Governors on a termly basis. No such instances have been reported in the current academic year and Governors discussed why some parents have the perception that bullying is a problem. The DfES defines bullying as "actions that are meant to be hurtful and which happen on a regular basis". So, a single incident of one child being unkind, or thoughtless towards another is dealt with according to the school's Behaviour and Discipline Policy, rather than being regarded as 'bullying'.

The school has a Behaviour Protocol aimed at providing a safe and secure environment in which children can grow to become positive, responsible and increasingly independent members of the school community. In addition to school rules, each class has its own classroom code, which is agreed by the children each year. In this way, every child in the school knows the standard of behaviour expected in our school and what they can expect to happen, if they fall short. The teacher will reprimand any mis-behaviour, which if it continues, will result in the child being temporarily isolated from the rest of the class. Persistent bad behaviour will lead to the child being referred to the Headteacher and may, in certain cases, result in exclusion.

If you are concerned that your child is being bullied, please raise this with the class teacher. If you are not satisfied with their response, then contact the Headteacher and, if you remain dissatisfied, follow the school's Complaints Procedure. The Complaints Policy is set out on the school's website.

The school's Christian ethos was an important factor in my choice of school (58% of responses agreed or strongly agreed with this statement):

Governors regarded slightly more than half the parents agreeing/strongly agreeing that 'the school's Christian ethos was an important factor' in their choice of school as a good level of response. We believe that this Christian ethos is fundamental in creating the learning and growing environment that exists for all children, irrespective of their beliefs/backgrounds, and is what makes Little Waltham the special place it is.

Parent Governor Election

At the end of this school year, Tony Moxham will be standing down as a parent governor after more than six years' service and we would like to thank him again for his dedication to the role and his support for the school during this time. We are, however, pleased to be welcoming Verity Turner, a mother with a son in Year 1, to the governing body as one of our two Parent Governors with effect from September 2019. A profile of Verity will appear in our next newsletter.

For a full list of current governors and their roles and responsibilities, please see our website: www.little-waltham-school.co.uk.

Have a wonderful summer...

As always, we would like to send our best wishes to all our Year 6 children who will be moving on to high school at the end of this academic year. They have each carried out various responsibilities in Year 6 and have been brilliant role models for the younger children in the school. We wish them good luck in the future.

In September we are looking forward to welcoming 2 new teachers to Little Waltham - Caroline Willsmer in Year 5 and Georgina Smith who will be taking Year 2 for Mrs Baker whilst she is on maternity leave. In the meantime, we hope you have a restful summer and we look forward to a productive 2019-20.

Kind Regards,

The Governing Body