

Hillside School Parent Voice Newsletter - September 2023

At Hillside School, we value the feedback we receive from all stakeholders (staff, parents, pupils, and partners). We seek parental feedback in a variety of ways. This includes surveys, 'Information Stations' (stalls at open nights/consultations), emails, 'Question of the Month' (Nursery), Parent Council (Hillside Parent Group) meetings, open events and conversations.

Where we always acknowledge Parental Feedback, there are times where national or local policy, statutory requirements or our professional knowledge and experience **must** guide our decision making. In these situations, we may not always be able to action all aspects of parental feedback. We will always explain why this is the case.

We wanted to create this Parent Voice newsletter, to demonstrate how we have listened to parental feedback and used it positively. We show our pupils how we listen to their voice through assemblies, pupil participation groups and through class-based opportunities.

Suggestion Box

We have a new suggestion box for our parents, partners, and visitors. We will check it regularly and hope that lots of people use it. We would love to hear from you! It is situated at our school office.



Ball Games

Before the Summer holidays we had a number of parents let us know that there was an increase in ball games in the playground before school starts at 9am. Although SLT do try and come into the playground, when possible, school playgrounds are not staffed before 9am. We have reminded our pupils about the rules around this at assembly and also through class visits.

Assembly - Diversity at Hillside School

Last school session, Mr Leslie issued a culture and diversity questionnaire. Within this, many parents informed us about the different festivals and events celebrated at home. We are pleased to let you know that this school session we have created our school assembly calendar around the feedback we have received. Many of these festivals were recognised by our families who attended our recent open event, and we gathered some new suggestions too.

Open Afternoon Feedback

Almost all our families who completed the Open Afternoon event feedback survey (97%) agreed that they had a better understanding of how their child is learning. There are a number of comments on how it was good to see the different ways Technology is used in the classroom and this could be something we build on in the future. There were also suggestions of doing this again later in the year. We are delighted that the latter was mentioned, as we plan to invite families to the classrooms after class assemblies to see what pupils have been learning, Great minds think alike!



★ Mobile Phones

★ We had a very good response rate to our question about what age children should be allowed to bring mobile phones to school. The most popular answer (by some way) was 'Never'. However, there were many families concerned about safety walking home etc and noted how having a phone provides an extra layer of reassurance/safety. We do understand this and would NOT have an out right ban on mobile phones being brought to school. Our recommendation would be P6 or P7 pupils only (bringing their phone) but understand there maybe exceptions to this.

★ Mobile phones in schools have caused a number of issues in recent years, in spite of putting in mitigating measures, such as asking pupils to hand them in to their teachers. A good suggestion from Hillside Parent Group, was that if a pupil is using their phone in the school day (when it should have been handed in), it must be collected by parents at the school office.

★ Moving forward, we plan to issue guidance for parents/pupils about taking mobile phones, which will hopefully make our position clear and at least reduce problems. **More to come on this soon.**

★ Christmas Fayre Ticket Cost

★ Thanks to everyone who came buy to Miss Munro's stall at the Open Event to give their feedback on what they thought was a reasonable price to charge for our Christmas Fayre tickets (entry, drink and snack included). The most popular response was "£5 family ticket or £2 adult and £1 child". Thanks for helping us with this.

★ Nursery

★ Nursery staff continue to post a 'Question of the Month' to gather parent voice. If you have a child in nursery, always keep an eye out for this.

★ Hope you have found this interesting and have a clearer picture of the different ways we have used parent voice so far this school session.



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school

