

Dear Parents/carers,

Thank you to everyone who completed our latest annual parent survey. We were so pleased to see through your responses that you believe Loughton School is improving. We had a higher percentage of positive responses for almost every question and for the 2 where this was not the case, the difference was marginal. As with previous years, we have already met as a senior leadership team to discuss how we can further improve our offer to you and your child moving into academic year 2024-25.

We currently have 478 children (representing 419 families) on role at Loughton School and received responses from 111 families. This represents 26% of our school community. As per last year's responses, we must assume that the other 74% of our families who did not complete it are happy with their experience of Loughton School. In sharing the results with you, we have further taken out those who selected 'don't know'.

	Strongly agree and agree	Strongly disagree and disagree
My child is happy at this school	95% (Up 2%)	4.5%
My child feels safe at this school	95.5% (Up 4.5%)	4%
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	88% (Down 1%)	7%
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	32% (Up 7%)	7%
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	97% (Up 16%)	2.5%
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly	72% (Up 3%)	8%
My child has SEND and the school gives them the support they need to succeed	26% (Up 9%)	8%
The school has high expectations for my child	74% (Up 10%)	11.5%

The school lets me know how my child is doing	81% (Up 3%)	13.5%
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	91% (Up 4%)	4.5%
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school	92% (Down 1%)	4.5%
The school supports my child's wider personal development	75% (Up 4%)	9%
I would recommend this school to another parent	91% (Up 12%)	7%

My child is happy at this school

The vast majority of our children continue to enjoy coming to school. Our family support worker, senior leadership team and year managers have continued to support those children who struggle to come into school. Parents have commented that their child is "noticeably happier this year", "looks forward to going to school" and when their child felt lonely and flagged to their teacher "the SEND teacher and year head all stepped in to help. He feels happier now". They commented that our teachers are "great motivators who encourage my child to learn and develop" and that they "clearly dedicate a lot of time to get to know the kids, connecting individually with them". We agree! We have

My child feels safe at this school

Safeguarding remains the schools utmost priority and our safeguarding team has grown even wider this year. We have introduced a new transition appropriate workshop for our year 6 children this year on the theme of 'empower and challenge' to strengthen what we already do. There were some lovely comments given for this question such as "I trust all the teachers, they really looked after my child" and "teachers are kind and provide a supportive, safe environment".

In the comments for this question, we had a concern raised regarding mixing the younger and older children together during lunchtime play. The change in lunchtime play timings came about due to the increase in children eating our hot school lunches and the time this took to serve everyone. This will be looked at for next academic year.

Please do speak to your child's class teacher at the end of the day or email office@loughton.school should you have any concerns or wish to arrange a meeting with your child's class teacher.

The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved

Our children's behaviour has continued to be consistently recognised by external people as being exceptional – workshop facilitators, members of our governing body, school improvement partners and by other local school leaders who come to visit. Our parents note this too, "the children's behaviour on various school trips I've been on has been excellent – they listen to staff and follow instructions well".

Behaviour in any school will never be perfect. Schools are places which have children who have complex needs and those who come from a variety of different backgrounds. Our role of educators is to ensure that each child has a safe, consistent environment where their needs are supported.

A concern which was raised referenced children receiving consequences for all when a select group of children show poor behaviour. We always strive to seek for a fair approach to re-addressing poor behaviour and agree that whole class punishments do not fit our behaviour policy and should not be happening. This will be re-addressed with all staff moving forwards. We annually review our behaviour/relationships policy.

My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively

The majority of people who commented on this question said that their child had never been bullied and we hope that this remains to be the case. We take all reports of bullying very seriously and on the rare occasion that it occurs, it will be followed up rigorously and in accordance with our anti-bullying policy. Where teasing/bullying was mentioned, parents have reported that teachers have dealt with this quickly and effectively. One stated "the teacher handled it well and I've been in dialogue with her".

The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year

It is clear that our parents this year are more aware of where they can find information about their child's learning – our weekly blogs, social media page, termly topic webs, newsletters and padlet pages for example. One parent commented that these “are super useful to bring this [learning] to life”. We are always open to ways in which we can improve our communications with parents further so please do get in touch to share any suggestions with us.

Last year we mentioned we would look into providing the opportunity for families to come in and look at their child's books alongside any consultations. These were offered in the Autumn and Spring terms. We hope you took these opportunities to celebrate your child's hard work with them. There is also an additional opportunity for you to do so this year on Tuesday 16 July so please do book your slot.

To the parent who commented they wanted to be able to look in one place to see their child's learning objectives for the year – these are already available on our school website under 'Teaching and Learning' when you navigate to the individual subject pages. Please do have a look and if you need further support navigating your way to these, please do reach out to the office team and we can direct you further.

When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly

There were limited comments left for this question. One parent commented that “staff were receptive to my concerns and have made adjustments so that he is appropriately challenged”. Another said that when her child had felt friction with another child, “this was dealt with instantly and both children were assisted with resolving things”.

If you do have a concern, your first port of call should always be to speak to your child's class teacher. This can be escalated to the year manager and the linked senior leader if needed to find a resolution. Our year managers for next year are:

- Year 3: Mrs Holliday - hollidayc@loughton.school
- Year 4: Mrs Solloway - sollowayj@loughton.school
- Year 5: Mrs Woodards - woodardsl@loughton.school
- Year 6: Miss Carter - carterh@loughton.school

My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed

Comments received reference feeling very supported, putting things in place for their child, help received regarding wellbeing for their child and the teachers being really helpful. This year, we have reviewed and refined our way of sharing SEND targets with our parents through Edukey which hopefully has addressed some of the previous concerns regarding timely interventions and personalised provision for your child.

The school has high expectations for my child

Parents reported that the children know what is expected of them in terms of attitude to learning and behaviour in and out of the classroom. Our open door policy means that we welcome conversations about your child's progress and the way we can support, stretch and challenge all learners. Please do not wait for a parent consultation should you have concerns or wish to ask for further support.

One parent referenced the challenges education are facing currently at government level. Despite less funding and staff, we are unwavering in our dedication to continue to have high expectations for our children.

The school lets me know how my child is doing

We were praised by the majority of parents for them feeling appropriately informed. This has been through our various communications such as the newsletters and our 'What's on next week'. Loughton School continues to offer more than the statutory requirement places on schools for formal reporting on progress and attainment. Some parents did express a wish to have additional time outside of parent's consultations but also stated they know if they requested it, teachers would advise. Parents also appreciated knowing whenever their child had excelled in something such as our VIP emails and stars celebration assembly invites.

Where parent's felt like the school could be doing more to let them know how their child is doing, this was in reference to core subjects such as being unsure how often reading records should be checked and how to get more advice on any additional work their child could

be doing in maths. Our core subject leads for next academic year should you ever wish to get in touch directly are as follows:

- Reading and phonics: Miss Hearne and Mrs Newman
- Writing: Mrs Solloway
- Maths: Mrs McNeaney
- Science: Mrs Ruggles and Miss Coppins

There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school

It is clear that more of our parents this year are aware about our termly curriculum webs being available to view on the school website. We promised to find a way to refer to these more regularly to remind parents that this is where they find out what is going on in school and are glad to know this has been communicated effectively with you. They were re-designed to make them more user friendly this year and we hope you have found them as such.

Our approach to theme lessons was praised enabling as many subjects as possible to be explored through a cross-curricular approach. There was also reference to parents being especially impressed with languages and practical science opportunities. One parent commented that they were “impressed with the curriculum and how it has been developed and the broad, immersive approach for the school. It’s a very strong element and is a selling point for the school”.

Comments from parents who disagreed with this wanted to see a gardening or forest school – these are great ideas - and/or had issue with the homework set. As per our feedback from last year’s survey, homework is always a contentious issue for parents at any school.

My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school

Comments left in response to this question referenced that their child can “try something different each term” and “the additional clubs and activities are fantastic”. We were surprised to see a 1% decrease from the number of parents who agreed with this statement in comparison with last year’s feedback as we are offering more opportunities than ever to our children.

This year, we began our weekly enrichment program. Children are chosen to join an enrichment activity for a variety of reasons – it may be to give children the opportunity to explore a subject in more depth, to give them further opportunities in an area they show great skill or passion in, or to encourage children to approach an area they find challenging in a new way. You can see all about these enrichment activities on the 'news and events' part of our school website. Each child in the school has taken part in an additional enrichment opportunity at least twice this year.

We are also very proud that this year we offered a range of 52 different clubs all completely free of charge. We are delighted that 82% of our children joined an extra-curricular club this academic year. These statistics are very similar to the take up last year.

Where people voiced that they disagreed with this, it referred to wanting to see a specific club on offer such as science, DT or computing or referenced the number of 'invite only' activities or sports fixtures that are referred to on our 'What's on next week' communications. This is noted and we will take this on board moving forwards. To date, 260 children (almost 55%) have represented the school in a sporting fixture and we still have further fixtures taking place until the end of the summer term. To explain why it may seem that there are more opportunities for certain year groups, the sporting fixtures are primarily organised by the MK sports partnership and it is the case that the older the child is, the more opportunities they will get. Many festivals are set up for years 5 and 6. Moving forwards, we hope to recruit an additional sports coach to support Mr Williams so that we can begin to run more of our own friendly fixtures at Loughton School and to provide even further sporting opportunities next academic year.

The school supports my child's wider personal development

Parents praised the additional opportunities which take place to enhance the curriculum. Each year group has one off-site trip and we utilise the wonderful resources in our local area wherever possible. In year 3 this year the children visited the Tower of London, in year 4 they visited Bradwell Abbey, year 5s went to Hazard Alley due and our year 6s visited Bletchley Park. Each year group has a number of other workshops, visitors and activity days throughout each term. One parent of a year 4 child commented that their child had not experienced a school trip yet – we can only assume they may have been off roll or absent on the day of the trip as it certainly took place!

Whilst we still subsidise our additional trips, visits and workshops, and fully fund many of these opportunities to enhance our curriculum, due to the real term lack of funding that schools have had in recent years, it has become impossible for us to fully fund all of them. As the lack of funding to schools has also coincided with the current cost of living crisis with less parents feeling unable to make a voluntary contribution towards these additional opportunities, we are therefore unable at the current time to increase our offer of these.

Parents also praised the additional opportunities we provided to give children official roles such as being a school councillor. The school also provides opportunities such as peripatetic instrumental lessons, productions and taking part in national events such as Young Voices.

Where people disagreed with this statement, there was comment that there should be the opportunity to debate and showcase their talents.

General comments

There were a few comments throughout the survey regarding the children not always having the opportunity to make the most of our amazing outdoor spaces. The start of this year saw the opening of our brand new trim trail which has been well utilised throughout the year whenever the opportunity presents itself. We are sure you will have noticed that our site supervisor Mr Cox has been working tirelessly this year on making further improvements to the outdoor areas. Areas of note are the new reading pagoda in the year 6 courtyard, the Loughton Camp and sensory garden which he aims to have open for September as well as other landscaping and projects such as building new scooter storage. This is no easy job where the majority of his time is spent on renovating and maintenance inside the school which is an aging building.

There was a comment regarding the field being closed sometimes at break times. The field is assessed by Mr Cox every morning from a health and safety, slip and trip hazard perspective. Whenever it is able to be open, it is. Where it has been closed this is usually only for part of the day and could be due to reasons such as ongoing works such as our grounds maintenance/grass cutting.

I would recommend this school to another parent

Thank you once again to everyone who does!