

POD Feedback

Last term, we were able to carry out a wide consultation with all our children (except Saplings Nursery) and all our parents who wished to take part. The consultation took part over two days and on two different sites (School and Wattisham Airfield Community Centre) to provide maximum opportunity for the fullest possible participation. The feedback is really useful to us - overwhelmingly positive, with a few suggestions we can take up.

We wrote the questions which were asked in order to:

- a) see if children and parents are generally happy with what we are doing
- b) see if our priorities and ideas for further improvements are supported
- c) see if there are other issues which are important to you or your children that we are not aware of and could do something about.

Here is a summary prepared for us and our response follows. You would be welcome to read the full 25 page report in school if you would like to.

POD and kiosk Summary

On both days the children and adults participating in the consultation seemed to enjoy doing so with the vast majority of both parents and young people responding very positively to the POD, 'brilliant, I think it is good I hope loads of people come in', 'it's a good idea, very fun and light hearted' and pupils 'I think it's actually nice and private', 'I think its really cool'. The results show that all of the parents consulted indicated that their child enjoys going to Ringshall Primary School and 94% of parents think that the school is providing a good education for their children. Pupils attending Ringshall Primary School enjoy doing so with 87% of those asked indicating that they enjoy coming to school. Interestingly there was a noticeable difference in responses given by girls and boys with 97% of girls indicating that they enjoy coming to school compared to just 78% of boys saying the same. When the pupils were asked what the best things about the school are, the most popular answers were related to playing and playtime however lessons were a close second. 'The teachers' was also a popular response to this question. When asked to go into more detail about playtime most of the pupils described playing games with friends. A few of the parents noted, when asked about use of school grounds, that football should be allowed to be played at lunchtime 'the boys have a big issue that they would like to play football at lunchtimes but they're not allowed to play football at all'. With regards to use of school grounds the pupils participating did not offer many specific responses however many of the responses revolve around using the grounds more, including in the holidays. 88% of pupils join in the games that the Young Leaders run.

The pupils at Ringshall indicated that most of them enjoy reading, 94%, although the number that read at home most days was lower at 71%. Both maths and writing are popular with the young people at Ringshall Primary School with 82% and 71% respectively indicating that they enjoy those subjects. 100% of the pupils participating indicated that they know how to improve their work. When asked in the POD about how they could improve their work a variety of responses were given. A number were mentioned more frequently including writing neater, thinking and trying more and concentrating. When asked about how they knew if they were doing well, the majority gave answers revolving round being informed by their teacher. It is also encouraging that all participants felt listened to by their teachers and other children. 88% said that they know what their learning targets were. 94% of the parents participating know what their child's maths targets are with 100% finding it helpful to have the targets sent home. 94% of pupils

asked agreed with the statement 'I get regular homework' and all participating children indicated that their parents could help them with their school work. This is supported by the result that 100% of participating adults indicated that they help their children with homework and reading on a regular basis. The majority of parents participating registered an interest in attending parent's classes on curriculum subjects. Maths was cited frequently. It was also noted by a few that they found the method of teaching reading very different to their own experiences.

Over half (59%) of the young people take part in at least one school club. This is supported by just over half of the adults indicating that their child attends at least one school club, 53%. When asked about what other activities they would like at school many answers were for various sporting activities. The top four responses were tennis, rugby, circus skills and basketball.

The childcare needs of the parents consulted are varied, details of these can be found on page 11 of the full report. Having younger children was a response given when adults were asked about what prevents them getting involved at the school. Other responses include work and transport. Many of the adults, when asked, expressed positive views about the school's approach to healthy eating however some concerns were raised including 'it's a bit suffocating when they are telling me what I should and shouldn't do'. 76% of pupils have tried and like the school dinners at Ringshall. 94% of the parents asked think it would be a good idea to offer school lunches to Saplings Nursery. Clearly awareness of health issues is high amongst the pupils as all of those participants indicated that they know how to keep healthy. They also all indicated that they know how to keep safe. The majority of parents participating, 88%, feel part of the school community. Many, 88%, attend social events put on by Parents and Friends of Ringshall School (PFRS).

All parents asked feel that they are invited to the school enough and all were aware that parents were invited to attend the school on Open Morning. 82% attend the Parent Consultation evenings and 82% also attended the 'Time to Share' event. Many parents asked said that they felt well informed by the school for example 'they are good at informing us of what happens at the school', 'I think the newsletters are very informative' and 'I think the communication is really good and we get lots of newsletters'. The majority, 71%, are aware that they can look at the minutes of the PFRS meetings at the school. Just over half, 59%, showed an interest in receiving the newsletter electronically. 71% also feel that the school provides enough information about local activities and facilities. With regards to the school uniform, all parents participating find it easy to get with 94% agreeing that it is reasonably priced and that the school uniform policy is good.

This report prepared by: Anna Beach and Caroline Sutton, Suffolk Children's Fund April 2008

School response : Use of our school grounds- this is part of our School Development Plan and as you know we are having a particular emphasis this week. At the time of the POD questionnaire, the children were not regularly playing on the field as we wait until early Summer when it is drier. Comments made about not **being allowed to play football** only apply to playground playtimes, where the risk to other children is too great. At the Monday after school club, in some PE lessons, and when playtimes are on the field throughout the summer and Autumn, children can play football and actually, we do have goalposts, one of which has been left out all year for the children's use.

Some suggested it would be good to be allowed to **use the school grounds in the holidays**. I would very much like to see this, and the governors and I have discussed it.

For the last four years there have been major obstacles, usually connected with building works. Regretfully, I have just had to tell Premier Sport we can't host a summer holiday club as we're having some asbestos shelving removed, possibly having the hall floor replaced and have caretakers who are on the point of leaving. I am sure that over the next year, the school and governors will try to make a holiday club happen. When children suggest general free access to the grounds, they don't realise the need for supervision or the Health, Safety and liability issues. Over the last two weeks we have had two instances of graffiti by pupils who are not at this school, and instances of children playing by the staff car park, whilst their parents chatting in the playground, thought they were in the garden.

Another issue highlighted was the need to put on another **Maths course for parents**. - useful feedback from parents, who rightly say Maths is taught very differently nowadays. I will pass this to Mrs Gibbs to organise.

Our Healthy School ethos is generally well supported by all and it is gratifying to know that nearly all parents find the information and opportunities to be involved at school, good. One comment I did pick up, is that parents of Saplings don't always know if newsletters and invitations to things at school apply to them. I shall try to make it clear when our new batch of parents bring the new Saplings that everything in the newsletter and every invitation applies equally to Saplings unless specified otherwise! When we've held Open mornings over the last two years, we've been surprised that Saplings and Cherry parents did not want to take up the opportunity to see the school in action and see what their children would be moving on to, and I know we made it clear that the invitation was for everyone including families and neighbours.

On the **childcare needs** question, the feedback is interesting and different from when we asked two years ago. We do have details of registered childminders in our entrance foyer, if these might be helpful to you. Lunches for Saplings could be trialled in the near future, but would need to be self-financing in that the cost of employing staff to supervise would need to be met by parents in addition to the cost of the meal. This will be something for Mrs Gibbs to look into.

With regards to children not able to participate in after school clubs because of parents not driving, we can help find some way round this e.g by asking another parent who is collecting their child. We will also try to help if parents feel unable to come to Time to Share, Parent consultations, performances or PFRS events because of transport issues, so it is always worth giving us a ring!

From the Induction Questionnaire, we have received very positive feedback, with a suggestion that a session for parents on how we teach letters and sounds and how to form letters would be helpful.