

What is great about Great Wood and should be continued?

it's values and friendliness
Mr Ross should continue to lead. He is not everyone's cup of tea but I think the way he runs the school. All the teachers we have met seem really nice and great at their job.
Mr Ross and Mrs Hamilton are legends at that school and are both equally amazing. They both have empathy and compassion which is a rare trait
The 'wow' experiences are brilliant for the children. I'm also really impressed with the amount of activities the children do to enforce their learning. For example, pancake cafe, searching for bog babies, organising for a goat to come to school and having a baby/toddler visit it really helps the children to be interested and I believe helps them learn better.
The school values and the community feel.
friendly and approachable teachers and staff
Kind and nurturing environment the teachers provide
Nothing negative to say...
It's the complete package

Use of the great outdoor spaces, values
Everything
The community feel.
Visibility of Mr Ross, it gives reassurance that he can easily be approached and is in the heart of the school and not just in his office.
Communication and care
I like how the school participates in charity events.
Brilliant environment for children
Active lifestyle
school trips!
The topics provided to the children and the care given to ensure that they feel reassured and heard
Fabulous teachers.
The outdoor areas. These could be promoted more with extra curricular activities.
the teachers and all the staff

In the importance of making everyone feel valued.
Sense of community
The values each week are brilliant. How many extra activities are put up for the children to choose to do.
Activities the children go on.
Encouraging children to enjoy learning
Core values
Everything! It's just a brilliant well rounded school.
The values, the teachers and wider staff base. It is a simply fantastic school, one we are proud to send our child too.
Good Leadership, staff and standard's and supports the Parent teachers commity. Friendly and approachable staff, always looking for improvement and new interesting activities for the children.
Amenities
Great staff and outdoor areas.
Each child treated individually and teachers/head very approachable

Great wood school summer fair! Seeing everyone all together having a great time
Senco provision
The general teaching, friendliness of all the staff, good communication with parents and excellent catering
High expectations of all children, lots of encouragement and support for children to have pride in what they can do
The variety of experiences that children get
The community feel and values
The individual care given to the children. The SEND is brilliant, the confidence in my children has rocketed.
Good selection of after school activities (obviously you'd had been affected by covid) but slowly they are all coming back
The care the staff give to children to help them in all aspects of school life.
Excellent experiences out of the classroom (e.g. Alps activity morning, trip to Imperial War Museum, Bikeability) as well as interesting lessons in the classroom.
Emphasis on aiming high

Great trips and extra curricular activities
In the 6 months we have been here the Early years staff and head teacher has been very informative and always listen/ advise if needed.
That they continue to promote a love of reading and have high expectations for their pupils. They offer a range of extra curricular activities and often start topics with 'wow' experiences (educational trip or visitor in school).
Good standards of teaching and learning.
The staff
The staff, the educational visits, the curriculum.
More after school clubs like before lockdown
Values
The school values
The teaching and support staff
Good quality teaching, pushing pupils to do their best and a varied education experience, lessons, activities, trips etc.
It promotes good values and Mr Ross seems to provide good 'no nonsense' leadership to children and their parents
I like the sense of community
The vibe is good, my child seems happy, I don't get that much of an inkling about what it is like behind closed doors but this is mostly as a result of covid. I.e no face to face parents evening and chance to see classrooms and also no school plays/ assemblies. The facilities are great, the festival has been a brilliant event and
The school ethos is friendly , welcoming and caring. Both my children have progressed amazingly at Greatwood and my eldest is doing extremely well at high school. This is because of the foundations that were laid at Greatwood- thank you 😊
Clear structured learning environment, strong Senior Leadership, a sense of purpose.
The values they teach

If you or your child has accessed specialist provision (learning mentor or SEN support), please comment.

yes
All fine with good support
N/a
SEN support
Very helpful and reassuring
Yes
We moved to a Greatwood after year 1 due to serious failings of my sons first school. We have had the best support from Greatwood that we could ever ask for. They listen and we work together to ensure our child meets his capabilities. My son has a 121. We are eternally grateful to the school and the head for everything they have done for us and the support provided to date
Quality of teaching, also seem to have very good teacher support from the TAs.
My child saw the learning mentor as she was struggling with a family bereavement. Mrs Dewhurst was very helpful and we as a family are very grateful for her work.
I have spoken via email to the SEN team but to no real solution.
Good support was given to ensure there was no impact on the child from issues with mum and now living with Grandparents. He and his younger brother have settled well about 2 yr ago now.
No
Yes - my child has pupil passport
Due to my child having alopecia the support from staff have been fantastic. Which is great because sofia is unaware and with the help of staff it stays that way
N/a
N/A
Unsure of what has happened with the support my child was receiving.
My child has a pupil passport and is support with 1 on 1 support and resources from teachers. Couldn't fault it
Our child is under SEN, we have been disappointed that since parents evenings have been virtual we no longer have additional time allocated which isn't good.

Suggestions for improvement or questions

The only thing I would like to say is if you decide to continue with zoom type parents evening it would be better for it to be say 7 minutes, 5 just is too short and we've been cut off despite not having any concerns and it just being a general chat I think slightly longer (or in person!) would be better

Would like to see more sports activities aimed at girls - KS2 girls football, netball, hockey as most are male orientated.

More time with the teacher at parents evening

Emails from parentpay should say which school they are coming from - I have another child at another school that uses parentpay to communicate and sometimes it is impossible to guess which school the communication is from

The school requires new management the way the current headmaster speaks to the children in the playground in the morning is questionable.

Longer parent evening times over video calls, I don't feel I know very much about my daughter's day to day

I would like to see more afterschool clubs available for younger children. Such as arts , athletics and music.

Less emails

Help promote and lower car congestion

More opportunity for parent- teacher interaction

More physical activity, more diversity in after school clubs ie. Arts & Crafts, maybe music classes etc.

Please let us back in school when we can! Face to face with teachers for parents evening is so much better, being able to see our child's work and the things she has been doing. Speaking on the phone is so impersonal and the time is too short to really have any proper dialogue. Not being able to come in, we no longer have "a feeling" for the school.

None

Better drop off and pick up availability people parking in the bay makes it harder to drop the children off. If parents are parking up and dropping off it shouldn't be in the drop of section. This results in people waiting and queues.

I feel Star of the week is fabulous but feel that both of my children as high achievers seem to have to wait a really long time to get star of the week which then breeds quite a bit of disappointment and when they were younger having to explain the reason why they have to wait...

It would be great to return to in person parents evenings, but if not possible PLEASE can we have longer with the teacher? 5 minutes is simply not enough time.

More time outside in the woods.

I appreciate Covid changed things but I would like to see parents evening back in school as it's great seeing the children work that's been produced.

Mr Ross retire and teachers work on respect for students, not teaching by fear..

It would be nice if parents were listed to more when they take an issue to the teacher. One of my daughters in Year 4 constantly being bullied by one child. This has been on going since Reception. My other daughter in Year 2 is very behind, which I know, but to have a 5 minute conversation for parents evening where it was full of negativity was awful. Feel like she is being singled out because of this.

After school activities?

SENCo needs more time to respond and keep parents informed. Children with intolerances shouldn't be given those foods (discos, end of year gifts from teachers) needs to be inclusive for all children.

Sibling discounts on sunrise and sunset club would be helpful

The 72 hour booking rule for Sunrise and Sunset clubs is very unpopular with parents

Make better use of the woodland

Letting parents come into school to view what happens. Been in reception 6 months and not yet been shown around the whole school.

Make more use of the wonderful grounds, promote a forest school ethos throughout the school not just for the younger children.

Improve flexibility in before and after-school booking system. 21st century parents need greater flexibility to book and cancel places at far shorter notice.

Provide an opportunity to look at your child's work now that parents' evenings are online.

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE COMMENTS- MARCH 2022

More extra curricular activities after school

A bit longer for parents evening

Revert back to face to face parents evenings, the current virtual arrangements are poor, not reliable and not productive.

My son is in reception and already there seems a big emphasis on homework. I'd be interested in hearing the rationale for homework in children under the age of 7/8 years old

I would like to know a little bit more about how my child is progressing however I know I can speak to the class teacher if I have any major concerns.

On helping me to help my child learn: I don't think parents are given enough steer on this. 5 minutes at parents' evening is such a short amount of time. Appreciate there's a lot of us to see and I know I can always arrange to speak to the teacher separately. I know it's not within the school's control (?) but we struggle to find lunch options that my child will eat from the menu. - does anyone else have a picky eater? . I struggle with the format of emails. At times they contain information about several issues rather than being one topic per email. It is SO unhelpful that the subject line for all emails is 'whole school'. Can you imagine how difficult it is sifting through them all a week or so later to check information on something specific? Is there any way they can have manually written subjects that reflect the contents? .

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Would love to see face to face parents evenings again as this is something I really miss being a working mum as I now never get to see the teachers and the school which I feel is an important part of school.

Parents Evening, too short, no opportunity to talk. More information about where your child is at academically

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My child has said that there is a 'rainbow room' where children can go to talk to a teacher/adult if they wish to. However, when I suggested my child use the room as they are struggling with school relationships, my child says that they are not sure whether it is still in use anymore and there is a teacher/adult in there who they don't know and hasn't been introduced to them, and so my child won't use the room. I think this is a real shame as I can imagine after the last couple of years there must be children who need a safe and confidential space to talk about their feelings and worries. If this room could be reintroduced to the children, it can only be a good thing.