

Parent Questionnaire March 2022 Results

	92 responses	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
1	My child is making good progress at school	94%	3%	3%
2	My child enjoys school	94%	5%	1%
3	My child is safe and well cared for at Great Wood (GW)	97%	2%	1%
4	GW promotes good behaviour	96%	2%	2%
5	I am happy with the values that the school promotes	98%	2%	-
6	GW provides an interesting curriculum that helps my child learn	95%	1%	4%
7	Home reading and homework supports my child's learning	91%	5%	4%
8	GW meets my child's individual needs (e.g. medical, learning, behavioural...)	91%	9%	-
9	GW expects my child to work hard and achieve his or her best	99%	-	1%
10	GW helps me to support my child's learning	90%	8%	2%
11	GW helps and encourages my child to have a healthy lifestyle	97%	1%	2%
12	GW encourages my child to take part in a good level of physical activity	91%	1%	8%
13	GW provides a range of 'extra' activities (clubs, visitors, trips, competitions, events etc.)	92%	3%	5%
14	GW seeks children's views/opinions	71%	2%	27%
15	Great Wood is led and managed well	94%	3%	3%
16	I understand the basic role of the governing body at school	82%	3%	15%
17	I would recommend the school to another parent	97%	3%	-
18	GW communicates well with parents	92%	8%	-
19	GW takes account of my questions, suggestions and concerns	88%	7%	5%
20	The school's environment is clean safe and well maintained	98%	1%	1%

We have responded to parent questions when a name was provided. In the interests of transparency all comments are shown below.

From the suggestions.

We are conscious that parents haven't been inside school much recently for obvious reasons. Two things have been arranged to address this. After school on May 19th, parents are invited to come into their children's classrooms where the children's books will be out and available for parents to look through and ask their children questions from. On May 26th we will hold a Jubilee Festival after school. Parents and children will have access to the school to enjoy activities arranged by the children and teachers. Like Christmas Festivals of past years, children have enjoyed visiting other classrooms, reception and Year 1 usually with their parents. We are also pleased that we are able to have invite parents in to school for plays and events such as sports day and leavers' assembly once again.

Our most recent parents' evening was remote as this was requested by the majority of parents. Looking forward we aim to offer a choice of in person or on-line parents' evenings. Regarding requests to lengthen the parents' evening sessions: Parents and teachers have the option of requesting a meeting to share information or concerns at any time or after parents' evening if further discussion is needed.

Regarding email communication - the school will endeavour to use more specific subject titles to make it easier to locate in individual emails and include GW in the title recognising some parents have emails coming from Parent Pay from multiple schools.

Regarding before and after school clubs – now we are able to mix year groups and it is less likely for clubs to be cancelled, we have increased and are looking to increase further club offers. Teachers run limited number of clubs that are offered free of charge and the school is always interested to hear of recommended providers who can offer clubs at school. We are looking to offer more non-sports clubs too. We will be returning to a coordinated club offer on a single document each term by the new school year. Apart from football, clubs are not gender specific. Girls do sometimes play in the boys teams when they show interest and skill.

Regarding parents being prevented from dropping off at the bay because parents are parked – we will continue to patrol the use of the bay in the morning where there is capacity and remind parents that parking or adults getting out of the cars in the bus stop is illegal. We will once again promote Park and Stride (parking away from Beaufort Road and walking the remainder and a walking/cycling commute.

We have restarted the 'daily mile' / regular running – and are promoting the use of outdoors and our woodland. We are process of developing the outdoor learning infrastructure, though plans have been delayed by notice of machinery on the fields to complete drainage clearance work.

The request for a sibling discount for Sunrise and Sunset club was turned down. The booking time frame for Sunrise and Sunset Club has been reviewed. With increasing but varying numbers, in order to ensure appropriate staffing (including not overstaffing which costs more and could impact costs) the 72 hours notice for bookings will be maintained. This ensures consistency, that staff are not working at weekends, and is more flexible than many other schools where bookings are made for the term. We try our best to accommodate late bookings, however they have become too frequent and therefore a late booking fee is being introduced. For those that book 72 hours before there will be no increase in fees for our fourth year of running the clubs at Great Wood.

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 live 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

Suggestions for improvement.

Suggestions for improvement or questions

None

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

None

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 listened 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.

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? .

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

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.