



Parent Voice 2019

	What works well	How could it be improved	What we are going to do
Understanding the curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The half termly sheet with topics being covered. • Workshops are great. • Newsletter - topics covered over the half term/ class teacher ran parent workshop for Reception and year 3 class. • Display board outside classrooms showing what children are learning about in class. 	Parents who do not attend workshops do not always understand the topics	<i>If you have a question about your child's topic, you can ask your child's teacher or one of the senior leaders on the gates in the morning/ afternoon.</i>
		All handouts from curriculum meetings should be given to parents who do not attend with short video clips on website of workshop summaries.	<i>This is difficult to arrange. We are trying to give parents more notice about workshops and spread out ones targeted at different year groups. This is to enable working parents to take time off to attend if it is a topic they are interested in.</i>
		Progress report – detailing how well children are doing in all areas of development (Nursery).	<i>There are parent conferences twice a year and the annual end of year report. You can arrange an informal meeting with your child's teacher if you would like a more regular update about your child's progress.</i>
		There have been no parent workshops for nursery parents/ more info about English and Maths curriculum.	<i>Thanks for the feedback. We will try to include more workshops which are relevant to parents of Nursery children.</i>
		Parents would like to know about the curriculum. How it is in taught in school.	<i>There is a welcome coffee morning at the start of the year which explains how the curriculum is taught. Then there are half termly curriculum newsletters.</i>

		Curriculum needs to be more visible, maybe have them in our newsletters.	<i>We do! Curriculum newsletters are sent half termly and are on the school website. http://www.columbia.towerhamlets.sch.uk/demo/curriculum-newsletters.html</i>
How welcoming is our school?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents are very welcome in school. • School feels like a community space. • Teachers are very accessible. • SLT and Tony on school gate is great; they get to know all the families. • Office staff are amazing! Perfect front door - know all the children. • Staff are approachable and happy to help. • Very welcoming/ Olly is always available/ you can always chat to teachers • Very good. • Head teacher outside on gates welcoming. 	No improvements suggested.	
Additional support for children and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School is really supportive of children with behaviour difficulties. They support the 	Maybe coffee morning for parents with children who have special educational needs	<i>Good idea. I'll arrange one!</i>

	<p>children to manage - my son and I are very happy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good support for bullying issue, handled very well. • Pastoral care really great! All staff care. • Home school support team are always at hand to help parents. There's been times where they have even helped children get into school due to parents being ill. • Good communication with school and parents/ booster sessions for maths 8 till 8.30 every Friday/ staff interact well with children. 	<p>Parents need to be aware of procedures related to flagging up additional needs concerns. If a concern is flagged up by a parent how long does the process of dealing with this concern take? Parents are left waiting not knowing whether or not their concern is being dealt with or has been dropped.</p>	<p><i>Thanks for the feedback on this. I'll arrange a Family Friday in the summer term to discuss this.</i></p>
		<p>Specific workshops dedicated to children with special educational needs.</p>	<p><i>Good idea. I'll think about how we can make this work.</i></p>
<p>Out of hours learning – Club and activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singing assembly is fantastic. • Lunch time clubs are good. • Football, Lego, fencing clubs are all great and some clubs are run by parents. • After school clubs are relaxing and children enjoy them. • Good variety of clubs/ parents are also running clubs. 	<p>Maybe remind children to attend the clubs, they sometimes forget</p>	<p><i>Parents are informed which clubs there child is attending. They could remind them before the start of the school day.</i></p>
		<p>Sometimes parents find out about clubs by word of mouth – how are the clubs allocated?</p>	<p><i>Children are told about which clubs are available in class.</i></p>
		<p>What happens to children who are shy and won't speak up in class when clubs are been allocated.</p>	<p><i>We aim for all children in Yrs 3 – 6 to attend at least three clubs a year. If children don't attend clubs, we ask them which they would like to attend. You can help by reminding them to put their hands up in class.</i></p>

		Information letter about clubs should be sent out more frequently.	<i>There is information about clubs in each school newsletter which is sent out half termly.</i>
Getting involved in school life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love the Bengali mums fundraising group selling food. • Many parent workshops on offer. • Parents can run after school clubs – this is great. • Teachers utilise parents who are available to help out. • Reading Mondays – parents can be in school in the morning to read with their children. • Parent volunteer courses/ assemblies/ twitter feed /very inclusive for parents/ reading day/ family learning day. • Monday reading club - read with your child. I come to do that, it's a good opportunity for us to be with our child. • Singing assembly - parents come. 	Parents should be informed on the website how much money parents raise for school and what it is spent on. This will encourage more parents to be involved. The Christmas Wednesday mums raised money for school. This needs to be fed back via website so whole school.	<i>I've started to include a section on the half termly school newsletter which explains how we spend money raised by the Friends of Columbia. I could also include how much money has been raised. As well as paper copies sent to parents, this is uploaded on the school website. http://www.columbia.towerhamlets.sch.uk/demo/newsletters.html</i>
		Maybe do an audit of what parents can do.	<i>The difficulty with this is updating and maintaining the list. I would prefer it if parents have a specific way they would like to be involved, they either talk to their child's teacher or a member of SLT.</i>
		Get children to promote Winter/ Summer fair to parents.	<i>Good idea. We will talk about them more in assemblies.</i>
		First aid training workshops (collaborate with St. Johns)	<i>Thanks for the idea. We have arranged a First Aid session this half term.</i>

		Offer more curriculum based workshops/ safeguarding workshops/ parenting courses/ strengthening families/ shorter courses	<i>Thanks for the ideas. We have arrange a First Aid and Safeguarding sessions this half term.</i>
		The method of the teaching - how maths is being taught?	<i>Last year we ran several sessions for parents about our approach to teaching maths. We can run these sessions again later in the year.</i>
Home - school communication / Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twitter is great – daily updates. • Parents coming into school to do sessions with the children is a great idea. • Communication is good. • Parents are informed and are aware of what things are on in school. • Display board outside classrooms are always updated – it tells us what children are doing in class. • Parent volunteer courses/ assemblies/ twitter feed/ very inclusive for parents/ reading day/ family learning day • Have twice a year parents’ evening. • Text service is very good. • We can chat to class teacher 	All classes need to do it (Twitter) regularly.	<i>I agree. I will remind staff.</i>
		School messages to be sent via email not a phone number so all parents have access (not all have smartphones).	<i>The text messaging service seems to work better for most parents. Please inform the office if you are not able to receive messages via text.</i>
		First aid training workshops (collaborate with St. Johns).	<i>Thanks for the idea. We have arranged a First Aid session this half term.</i>
		Curriculum based workshops/ safeguarding workshops/ parenting courses/ strengthening families/ shorter courses	<i>Thanks for the ideas. We have arrange a First Aid and Safeguarding sessions this half term.</i>
		We would like 2 times a year parents evening	<i>There are! They are in October and February.</i>
		Once a week newsletter would be good	<i>We don’t have any plans to increase the frequency of newsletters sent home.</i>

		We want to know how our child is progressing	<i>You can discuss your child's progress in the termly parent consultations. You can also arrange an informal meeting with your child's teacher.</i>
Supporting children's learning and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No homework is great! • The schools focuses on making children want to learn not SATS. • Phonics is taught well/ accelerated reader/ handwriting/ homework/ literacy coordinator is amazing/ Family Fridays. • Intervention clubs for less able children. • Booster Clubs. • Great Teachers – experienced and well trained • 1:1 TA support for children who need it. • School House used to support and teach children (some parents were not sure what/ where the 'school house' is) 	Do they have laptops/ iPads to use in school?	<i>We do.</i>
		Is there enough support in place in class for each child?	<i>We carefully monitor the progress of each child. If it looks like a child is not making sufficient progress, we think about what they need in order to do as well as they can.</i>
		Children should be given some homework from school or worksheets to try at home like other schools.	<i>Please see our website for our approach to homework: http://www.columbia.towerhamlets.sch.uk/demo/work-policy.html</i>
		More work needs to be done around tolerance of different religions as some children come home saying they believe in a certain religion when in fact their parents are atheist.	<i>All classes cover the RE curriculum. Please let me know if you have specific concerns relating to your child.</i>
The school building and environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School and playground lovely. • School looks colourful and child friendly. • Nice to see big kids saying hello and helping little children (friendly children). 	School needs to become more involved in environmental issues such as: promote walking to school; clean air issues; healthy living awareness.	<i>We have recently been awarded the Healthy School Gold Award for our work on improving lunchtimes to make them healthier. Where possible, we look for links to current issues within our curriculum. However, it is not possible to</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children like to be in school. • Children with additional needs don't feel isolated. • Amazing playground/ great displays/ children feel comfortable/ feel safe. • N-Y1 you take your child to classes. That feels good. 		<i>cover all areas as the National Curriculum is vast.</i>
	School to do more about the ice cream van outside (diesel). It is there for hours although children are still in school.	<i>Please report this to one of the Council Enforcement Officers if you see them in the local area.</i>
	There is no recycling in school.	<i>All classes have a recycling bin. Yr 3 pupils can choose to be 'paper protectors' who help empty recycling bins in school.</i>
	As Year 1 children have to be taken to class there is heavy traffic especially going up the stairs – some sort of system needs to be in place	<i>Parents can pick Yr 1 children up between 3.20 and 3.30. This means that not all parents need to be on the stairs at the same time. We ask parents to keep to the right hand side when they are on the stairs.</i>
	School is small – although this can't be changed parents need to be more considerate especially to parents with pushchairs.	<i>I agree!</i>
	EYFS overcrowded/ need a larger playground/ school to collaborate with other schools to share their space and facilities.	<i>I agree the playground is small but there is nothing we can do about this.</i>

		2 nd floor toilet no hand rail and there are often puddles of water.	<i>We arrange for the toilets to be cleaned before school and during the school day to ensure they are kept clean.</i>
School meals / breakfast clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love how Olly has changed the dining hall and how the children have water on the tables. • Healthy food/ food has improved • Breakfast available. • There is childcare after school – paid. • Menu on display – daily. • Lunchtime more relaxing for children 	Invite parents to eat lunch with their child.	<i>Unfortunately the dining hall is not large enough to accommodate parents for lunch.</i>
		The portion of lunch is very small. My child gets very hungry.	<i>Please talk to your child's teacher if you are concerned your child is not eating enough.</i>
		We pay for nursery lunch so we need to make sure my child is eating enough of it.	<i>Please talk to your child's teacher if you are concerned your child is not eating enough.</i>
		Children should be encouraged to clean their hands and mouth before and after eating - maybe have tissues on tables	<i>They are. Each class has handwashing facilities which children use before they eat lunch.</i>
Developing links with the local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children visiting the Sundial Centre is a great idea. • Good set of leaflets in reception area/ notice board. 	Make stronger links with the Sundial Centre, community links need to be embedded into the curriculum.	<i>Nursery children have started visiting the Sundial Centre and Gardening Club are looking after their garden area. We are looking for other local organisations we can form stronger links with.</i>
		Make links with the Hoxton storytelling project.	<i>We are looking for local organisations to make links with so I will investigate this.</i>
		Share more info in coffee mornings	<i>Please let me know what sort of information you would like sharing.</i>

		Speed humps outside school gate.	<i>The council is looking at how to make the roads around Columbia calmer at the start and end of the school day.</i>
Is there anything else you would like to tell us about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendship squad, lunchtime volunteers are great. • School trips are now great! Thank you 	There is lots of running and shouting upstairs in the morning, many of the children find it stressful- could the Golden Rules and the Thank you for walking signs be displayed in a prominent position?	<i>I agree that this is a problem. SLT are going to thinking about how to improve the situation.</i>
		Advertise the library a bit better. Ask for parent volunteers to help tidy it up- it's messy and underused.	<i>We remind parents when the library is open in the half termly 'what's happening this half term?' letter. http://www.columbia.towerhamlets.sch.uk/demo/letters.html</i>
		Invite other service providers e.g. youth, community to give parents info/ idea store to promote their services.	<i>I will ask Reha and Verna to look in to this.</i>
		Children with allergies should be known to all staff in school.	<i>We have posters in relevant places with photos of children with allergies. Class teachers are reminded that they are responsible for checking that members of staff working with these children are aware of these allergies.</i>