

**The Parental Engagement Team
Columbia Primary School Parent Voice 13 January**

18 parents attended the parent voice event at the school on 13 January 2023

The event was facilitated by the Tower Hamlets Parental Engagement Team, who structured the meeting consultation with parents on the themes that support the school's work with families to identify areas of good practice and those for development. Feedback from the parents on the subjects discussed is below.

Columbia Primary Parent Voice 13 January 2023	Yes	No	Not sure	Percentage of parents asked who agreed (or weren't sure)
The school is welcoming	18	0	0	100%
The school supports parents to understand the curriculum and what children are learning	15	0	3	100%
Parents are supported to help children learn	14	0	4	100%
Communication at the school is good	15	1	2	94%
The school provides additional support for families	12	2	4	89%

	What works well	How could it be improved	What we are going to do	Date achieved
1. How welcoming is school?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff introduce themselves and greet families in a friendly way ● Staff are friendly and approachable ● There is a friendly, happy atmosphere at the school ● The environment is pleasant and welcoming with lots of interesting artwork ● The coffee mornings are a great way to meet other parents and helps you feel welcome ● Personal tour by HT for mid-term starters ● Visit to school for EYFS ● School tour for prospective parents ● A parent commented she met a dinner lady outside the school as she recognized her 	<p>1a) Could have more opportunities for parents to come into school and visit classrooms</p> <p>1b) What about occasionally offering parents a guided tour of the school which could be conducted by Year 6 pupils- this would help parents get a better understanding of the school</p> <p>1c) The 2nd gate of the school is hard to open, no notice to push or pull to open, this frustrates a lot of parents.</p> <p>1d) To maybe introduce a one-way system in the mornings and after school as it does get congested around the gates.</p>	<p>1a) Good suggestion - I'll think about how we can start to do that again.</p> <p>1b) Safeguarding checks would make it difficult for Yr 6 children to show parents around the school. However, I think we could do more workshops which involve parents visiting classrooms again.</p> <p>1c) I agree. I think we need to change the signs on this gate because it says it's automatic and it isn't!</p> <p>1d) There aren't enough gates for them to be one way although I do agree it gets congested. There are senior leaders on each gate to help with this.</p>	<p>1a)</p> <p>1b)</p> <p>1c)</p> <p>1d) 20.01.13</p>

	<p>child, and she always says hello now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All teachers know the children's name, this makes us trust them. It also demonstrates they are welcoming. • Olly the Head is extraordinary. He greets all the children by their first name and all the children admire and respect him as do the parents. • Having the big gates open in the morning makes it easier for all the children to get into the school safely. 			
<p>2. Parents are supported to help with children's learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like the way the school emphasises the core subjects like Literacy and Maths. • Parents are provided with hand-outs at the beginning of term that outline what the children will be learning • Parents are invited to a meeting at the beginning of the year where the teachers 	<p>2a) More parent workshops to help them understand how they can help at home with learning</p> <p>2b) One parent felt that not enough homework was given to her children in Year 2 and Year 6</p> <p>2c) One parent felt that the work in class is a bit too easy for her child</p>	<p>2a) We aim to have one workshop per week. I think these need to be better advertised and we could distribute the handouts more effectively.</p> <p>2b) I'll check to see what's being given out. It's our policy to not give too much homework to children.</p>	<p>2a)</p> <p>2b)</p> <p>2c) 20.01.13</p> <p>2d) 20.01.13</p> <p>2e)</p> <p>2f)</p>

	<p>introduce themselves and offer advice on how parents can support learning at home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents are provided with a very detailed report at the end of the year. ● Staff at the school are very good at identifying children who may need additional support at an early stage ● My child gets one to one help with phonics which has been really helpful ● In reception, I got a lot of support understanding how phonics is taught etc which was very helpful ● Helping out at the Forest school. ● Classroom teachers are approachable to speak to and discuss our children's learning. ● Having parents' workshops on phonics, reading skills and maths is very useful. 	<p>2d) I would like to get more regular feedback on my child's progress</p> <p>2e) We get the school report to late at the end of the academic year. It would be more useful to get this earlier on.</p> <p>2f) Sometimes the report is difficult to understand.</p> <p>2g) It would be helpful if somebody could go through the report with me.</p> <p>2h) In Year 3, it would be great to have a parent workshop about reading at this level and what kinds of books are suitable for this age group.</p> <p>2i) More variety, choices for the after-school clubs and opportunity for all children to attend.</p> <p>2j) Knowing what children are learning, timetables and objectives covered would be useful.</p>	<p>2c) Please contact your child's teacher if you have concerns about the challenge level.</p> <p>2d) We are only able to give formal feedback about progress three times a year. You can contact your child's teacher in between these meetings to see how your child is doing and the teacher will be happy to meet you.</p> <p>2e) Good point. We'll aim to do that this year.</p> <p>2f) Good point. Let me think about this.</p> <p>2g) Let me think about how we can manage this.</p> <p>2h) We'll arrange a parent workshop to explain accelerated reader.</p> <p>2i) I'll send a letter to explain how clubs work.</p> <p>2j) We try to explain this in the class welcome meeting at the start of the year and the Knowledge Organisers that are sent home half termly.</p>	<p>2g)</p> <p>2h)</p> <p>2i)</p> <p>2j) 20.01.23</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Every Friday Years 4 & 5 have a sheet of paper containing their homework. (Very good). ● Sports day was inclusive with an emphasis on enjoyment and taking part as opposed to competing. ● Staff really care about children's emotional well-being; this filters out to other curriculum areas. 			
3. Parents are supported to understand the curriculum and what children are learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I trust the school completely, so I don't need understand everything detail about the curriculum. ● I am happy with the amount of information I get. ● Seeing the class timetable was really useful- it gives me an understanding of the subjects covered. ● Parent conference was appreciated, if a little short ● Teachers in EYFS were approachable for informal chats 	<p>3a) Teaching methods are so different today, it would be good to have workshops explaining some of these methods</p> <p>3b) Difficult for working parents who are unable to make workshops, meetings etc. Perhaps they could be emailed the contents of the sessions</p> <p>3c) RSE consultation needed to be clarified with all parents about how it was delivered</p>	<p>3a) We aim to have one workshop per week. I think these need to be better advertised and we could distribute the handouts more effectively.</p> <p>3b) I agree. I'll think about how we can send handouts more effectively.</p> <p>3c) We sent out a letter explaining this during the consultation.</p>	<p>3a)</p> <p>3b)</p> <p>3c) 20.01.23</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops about RSE curriculum were very much appreciated 			
4. Communication at the school is good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The newsletter is great Text messages are really helpful The school gives reminders about events at school There is a twitter account for each class- it's really nice to see photographs of what the children have been doing at school The App was good The noticeboard is helpful The school is very much solution focussed and not judgemental when it comes to communicating with parents 	<p>4a) More advance notice about events at the school.</p> <p>4b) More physical printouts - I am less likely to forget then.</p> <p>4c) Twitter accounts could be updated a little more frequently</p> <p>4d) Bookbag resources are a little underwhelming</p> <p>4e) Other schools using apps like 'Class Dojo'. Maybe apps could be researched and the school can start using one.</p> <p>4f) Weekly summaries or emails of what has gone on would be useful, also what is coming so parents can support learning at home.</p>	<p>4a) I agree. We will try to get better at this.</p> <p>4b) We'll start doing this more.</p> <p>4c) I agree. We're thinking about how we use Twitter at the moment.</p> <p>4d) I'm not sure what you mean. Please let me know so we can discuss further.</p> <p>4e) We're not planning to do this at the moment but we may consider it in the future. We'd need to think about the purpose for using this sort of app.</p> <p>4f) It would be difficult to provide this level of information at the moment but let me think about this.</p>	<p>4a)</p> <p>4b)</p> <p>4c)</p> <p>4d) 20.01.23</p> <p>4e) 20.01.23</p> <p>4f)</p>
5. The school provides additional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school has run Strengthening Families My child gets extra support and art therapy 	<p>5a) More mental health support for children and families</p> <p>5b) Interpreters at workshops</p>	<p>5a) We currently employ a learning mentor, a children's counsellor and art therapist who provide mental health support to children. Please</p>	<p>5a) 20.01.23</p> <p>5b) 20.01.23</p> <p>5c) 20.01.23</p>

<p>support for families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The school has an open-door policy- I feel I could easily approach them if I needed extra support ● Heidi on the reception does so much more than her job title- she provides so much support for families or children who may need some emotional support ● The staff are very approachable ● The school has provided speech therapy for my child ● Support is provided in a very discreet way for families who may be struggling financially ● The school provides bagels every morning ● Learning mentors are appreciated ● Breakfast club and afterschool club being run with school staff is a positive ● Free specialised after school clubs 	<p>5c) Support for single parents i.e. help taking their child to school if parent is ill</p> <p>5d) After school club/Breakfast club can be restrictive for low-income families</p> <p>5e) Not everyone is aware of 'Friends of Columbia'</p> <p>5f) Not enough support for mid-year admissions. (a pack about who parents can talk to or where they can access support within the school would be useful. This is especially important for families coming from abroad where the schooling system is slightly different).</p>	<p>talk to your child's teacher if you have specific concerns.</p> <p>5b) We always have Bengali translation at Workshops. It is difficult to always provide translation in other languages as we don't have staff members who speak those languages.</p> <p>5c) Please contact the school office in the morning if you are unable to bring your child to school and we will try to support you.</p> <p>5d) We are able to offer reduced price places at Breakfast Club for families on low/ no income. After School Club is very expensive to run so we are unable to offer reduced prices.</p> <p>5e) We send out a newsletter about the Friends of Columbia every term and they often have a section in the school newsletter. The Friends are also introduced in the welcome meetings at the start of the year. I'll explain how they work in a Coffee Morning.</p>	<p>5d) 20.01.23</p> <p>5e)</p> <p>5f)</p>
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			5f) Good idea. Let me think about this.	
<p>6. Is there anything else you want to tell us about?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good after school specialised clubs 	<p>6a) Communication about everything except clubs is great. It's the only area that is not clear.</p> <p>6b) I would like to know a little more about the school's bullying policy</p> <p>6c) Flexibility when settling children, particularly getting late marks.</p> <p>6d) Outcomes of RSE consultation to be shared with parents</p> <p>6e) It would be nice for families to meet other families and learn about the different cultures and backgrounds of the pupils in the school.</p>	<p>6a) I'll send out a letter explaining how clubs work. I'll also talk to other schools to see how they manage this.</p> <p>6b) We'll send out our anti-bullying policy when it's anti-bullying week. This policy is also on our website.</p> <p>6c) We are flexible with children at first but an important part of their routine is coming to school on time every day.</p> <p>6d) They will be!</p> <p>6e) Perhaps this could happen at a coffee morning. Let me talk to the Friends of Columbia about how this could work.</p>	<p>6a)</p> <p>6b)</p> <p>6c) 20.01.23</p> <p>6d)</p> <p>6e)</p>