



Seaburn Dene Parent Questionnaire Results 2021

Thank you to the **133** parents who completed the online .Your responses and comments contribute to the school's development. Below you can see the overall results to the questions and the key development points suggested.

I continue to encourage parents to bring any concerns that they have to us directly at any point in the year as we are committed to providing the best support for our community that we can, which includes reflecting on any areas that families feel we could be supporting them with more.

Mr J Howe, 31.08.21

What made you choose Seaburn Dene above other local schools?

1. Small, friendly and caring school.
2. Inclusive ethos.
3. Reputation of the school.
4. Recommendation of family/friends.
5. The smaller class sizes and welcoming nature of the school.

1. My child is happy in school.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2020	76%	21%	1%	2%	0%
2021	73%	27%	0%	0%	0%

Total % in agreement (2021) = 100%

The happiness of our pupils is central to the ethos of the school. We encourage the children to foster a love of school – a love of learning – by providing the best opportunities that we can in a warm, safe and caring environment. . Our teachers make learning fun. Children enjoy coming to school – we exceed National attendance figures. Happy children make happy learners.

“The school has a lovely atmosphere. My daughter is very happy at Seaburn Dene and that is so important to us as parents. I feel there is real effort put into keeping things varied and interesting for the children. I love hearing about all the things my daughter is learning about at school.”

“There is a genuine desire to create a happy productive environment allowing children to thrive.”

2. My child feels safe at Seaburn Dene Primary School.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2020	82%	16%	1%	0%	1%
2021	80%	20%	0%	0%	0%

Total % in agreement (2021) = 100%

Pupil wellbeing and safeguarding is paramount to the success of the school. The Pastoral care offered by staff is evident at all levels. Our staff care and know the children. Where we are unable to offer the most appropriate help, we seek support from outside agencies.

“All in all a friendly, safe, learning environment which both of my children have enjoyed immensely.”

3. The school meets my child's particular needs.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2020	73%	23%	4%	0%	0%
2021	59%	36%	4%	1%	0%

Total % in agreement (2021) = 95%

The small, family atmosphere at school means that children are valued, respected and supported in equal measure. Pupils with Special Needs are dealt with in a sensitive, supportive manner. Our fabulous SENCO works hard with parents to provide support and offer guidance. Our Local Offer for Special Educational Needs can be found on the school website.

"It's strength is developing each child individually to their needs, organised, professional, with good communication."

"The school's strength is its inclusion, support for children and parents, availability of teachers."

4. This school provides a balanced offer of education.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2020	78%	21%	1%	0%	0%
2021	62%	35%	3%	0%	0%

Total % in agreement (2021) = 97%

Seaburn Dene is proud to offer a broad and balanced curriculum which gives children opportunities to learn and grow.

“Educational standards, due diligence, communication, values, respect, behaviours, teachers hard work and caring attitude. Balance of PE / classroom / external learning opportunities. Many thanks to all at SDPS, very much appreciated.”

5. My child is taught well at this school.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2021	69%	28%	3%	0%	0%

Total % in agreement (2021) = 97%

The teaching across our school aims to spark interest, offer challenges, promote aspiration and prepare pupils for life in and beyond Seaburn Dene. We are very lucky to have highly skilled and dedicated teachers but even so we are constantly working on ways to improve our teacher's skills.

“The school has small classes with excellent teachers.”

6. The school communicates well with parents.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2021	53%	41%	0%	6%	0%
2021	51%	39%	6%	4%	0%

Total % in agreement (2021) = 90%

After a brief trial, we now use Class Dojo as our prime method of communicating with parents (alongside our email and text message service). Over 98% of our parents are able to access correspondence in this way – the remaining families will continue to receive hard copies of letters - where necessary. All communication to parents is uploaded to the school website, which is also full of information. We do try to plan events in advance and give as much notice as we can. Where there is a shorter notice period we will also always try to give a variety of options and also to consider how we can make it as easy as possible for families. We constantly seek out ways to improve efficiency at school.

“There is good communication. Always approachable I feel like the school does listen to parents when there are problems.”

I feel this year, which has been very challenging, the school has excelled in every aspect. Communication has been excellent. This has been mainly through class dojo which i feel is great for working parents.

7. The school is well led and managed.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2021	76%	23%	1%	0%	0%
2021	60%	35%	5%	0%	0%

Total % in agreement (2021) = 95%

Teachers - including senior leaders, learning support, staff administration and premises staff work hard to ensure the school is a friendly, happy and safe environment for children to learn. As I approach my third year as headteacher of the school, I am proud of how the school has moved on in many areas and how this is reflected through your positive comments, the attitudes and behaviour of the children, our curriculum and the growing reputation of the school in the community with many new starters being recommended by our current families.

“Seaburn Dene is a small school with good management and teachers. During lockdown the school was very flexible.”

“We really love Seaburn Dene. I think the school has been fantastic and brilliant support throughout Covid and following Covid restrictions. I think the school is well led by Mr.Howe and think that there is a sense of feeling part of a community being at Seaburn Dene.”

8. Seaburn Dene has developed my child's confidence.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2021	72%	24%	1%	3%	0%
2021	69%	27%	4%	0%	0%

Total % in agreement (2021) = 96%

Through the curriculum, the frequent opportunities we provide to experience and celebrate success across many areas, our determination is to expose the children to challenge and promote a growth mindset: we are glad that parents recognise this.

“A small school where teachers tend to know all the pupils. Good teachers who really help build your child's confidence especially in areas they may be struggling in.”

9. SDPS embeds a growth mindset in my child.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2020	71%	21%	8%	0%	0%
2021	57%	33%	10%	0%	0%

Total % in agreement (2021) = 90%

This is an area which we continually refer to in school and illustrate through assemblies, awards and classroom practice. Summed up, it's the belief that through purposeful practice, determination, being reflective, learning from mistakes and being inspired by those around us - we can improve. It's in our vision: "We always try to be that little bit better." However, it is clear, particularly for the parents of some of our younger children, that's a message we need to continue to improve in sharing.

"Children are pushed to achieve their aspirations and through this show determination to achieve."

10. The school cares about my child's well being.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2020	78%	19%	1%	2%	0%
2021	63%	36%	1%	0%	0%

Total % in agreement (2021) = 99%

Throughout the pandemic and in the wider approach to school life - the children's wellbeing and safeguarding are paramount. This is reflected in the overwhelmingly positive response from parents.

"Putting kids first, good work throughout the pandemic."

"The school makes the child feel safe and happy with a family feeling."

11. The school responds well to my concerns.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2020	66%	21%	9%	4%	0%
2021	57%	37%	6%	0%	0%

Total % in agreement (2021) = 94%

As a school, we seek to not only make children feel happy but ensure that our parents feel valued too. We have an open-door policy, finding time to deal with the issues that matter to our parents – no matter how big or small.

“The school’s strengths are it’s amazing family atmosphere and the fact that concerns are listened to and dealt with.”

12. The school is inclusive.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2020	68%	30%	2%	0%	0%
2021	50%	45%	5%	0%	0%

Total % in agreement (2021) = 95%

Our school is an inclusive school where every child matters and every child is valued. This is a core of the approach and informs our approach to learning.

“Kindness, inclusivity and making every single child feel part of the team.”

“It’s strengths are feeling included, knowing that the school genuinely care, supporting children to develop

13. My child makes good progress at this school.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2020	76%	20%	4%	0%	0%
2021	57%	38%	4%	1%	0%

Total % in agreement (2021) = 95%

While the period of lockdown has impacted on how we have been able to track progress and attainment, children at Seaburn Dene Primary make good progress in Reading, Writing and Maths - and the wider curriculum. This is a result of the quality teaching and learning taking place. Children know how well they are doing and what they need to do next to improve.

Making my child feel like part of a family at school, they feel comfortable, safe and able to learn. They are pushed to achieve their aspirations and through this show determination to achieve

13. This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2020	68%	28%	3%	0%	1%
2021	51%	44%	5%	0%	0%

Total % in agreement (2021) = 95%

Generally the behaviour is excellent in school and this is commented on when our children are out and about in our community. We are undertaking a review of our behaviour policy to look for further improvements. As a result of our work on our school values and linking these into the reward and sanction system, we continue to see a significant improvement in the attitudes and behaviour of children. This improved behaviour is shown in lessons and around the school but reflects mostly in the less structured times with behaviour in the lunch hall, at after school clubs and on the playground.

“Amazing care for pupils, fair rules for everybody, high educational skills.”

14. The school is welcoming and there are opportunities to get involved.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2020	78%	21%	1%	0%	0%
2021	67%	31%	2%	0%	0%

Total % in agreement (2021) = 98%

We pride ourselves on our open door policy and willingness to involve families in the fullness of school life. We consider ourselves a school family and live by those values.

“The school community is very strong. Everyone seems to know each other within school which makes things very personal.”

“The school is welcoming, interactive, friendly.”

“A little bit off topic but we would also like to praise the schools handling of the lockdowns. Well done.”

15. My child receives appropriate homework for his / her age.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2021	38%	51%	9%	2%	0%

Total % in agreement (2021) = 89%

Homework is a divisive issue. Some parents love it, others loathe it! Our policy is clear about the role homework plays at school and we use technology (Google Classroom, ReadingPlus, Oxford Reading Buddy to underpin this.) We also recognise that time spent at home as a family should be instructive in other ways. Playing games, sharing a story, cooking together, engaging in conversation, going for a walk – are all fantastic ways to improve the quality of life for our children.

16. I would recommend this school to another parent.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2020	77%	21%	1%	1%	0%
2021	70%	28%	2%	0%	0%

Total % in agreement (2021) = 98%

As above, so many of our prospective parents who are looking for a school place say that they have had the school recommended to them by one of our current families. This is the best advertising the school can get!

“The school’s ethos and nurturing approach are a credit. There is a positive, can-do attitude which is felt across school from staff to pupils.”

“The commitment of all staff is outstanding.”

“I can’t think of anything that I could say that would make this school even better.”

“The kids’ reports are testament to how much they know the children and know their strengths and weaknesses. I honestly love this school.

Structure, caring, I love that the teachers know my children throughout the school even ones that haven’t taught my children.”

Our school would be even better if...

1. *“I feel more emphasis is placed on reading than other subjects. As an avid reader I do agree it is important but Maths also needs to be equally supported.”*

Fundamentally, we believe reading is a core skill that unlocks learning in so many areas. However children - across school - access two separate maths sessions on a daily basis, alongside challenges such as TT Rockstars and Numbots - which we celebrate on a weekly basis and during special events. Evaluating the maths curriculum so children are able to master the basic skills for their year group, while improving their fluency and reasoning skills is a key part of the ongoing School Improvement Plan.

2. *“Swimming lessons across all year groups regularly as this is a life skill and a lot of children don’t have the opportunity outside of school and rookie lifeguard training water polo teams in the future.”*

We focus on swimming in Yrs 5 and 6 - although the closure of Monkwearmouth’s pool (permanently) means we now use the Aquatic Centre - which hasn’t been available to us in the last 18 months. We also access the RNLI’s Hit The Surf programme and agree that swimming is a life skill.

3. *“If music was prioritised to an equal measure alongside sports.”*

Music - as part of the creative arts - is an integral part of our weekly curriculum. We are always looking at ways to improve, but have been hampered by the whole school restrictions on singing - for example - and performance. Individual and group music tuition are part of our offer (keyboard, guitar), there are plans to work alongside Monkwearmouth Academy, to access a greater range of musical equipment, while projects (such as Summer Streets, The City Sings and songwriting with The Lake Poets), I hope demonstrate our commitment to music.

4. *“Outdoor exploring, and more outdoor activities. Given the location, the cemetery and beach need to take more advantage of it.”*

I agree! We are very fortunate to have these resources on our doorstep and have planned outdoor learning days and beach/coastal experience days, alongside our wider extra-curricular/school visit programmes for the next academic year.

5. *“I believe a little more communication...there are times when I haven't known about money due it etc until on the day or with not much notice.”*

We are working hard to increase the amount of notice given where parental involvement or money is requested in an activity. Class Dojo messages, emails and texts will be used to speed up the process. The website is also a useful source of information.