



Heron Primary School Heron Way Abbeydale Gloucester GL4 4BN  
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www.heronprimaryschool.co.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Response to parent questionnaire**

**June 2019**

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the parent questionnaire. The school values the views of parents and carers, and the information you provided will be used to help us shape our future school development planning.

We are pleased that the vast majority of responses to all questions were positive.

We received a total of 154 responses (36%)

### **Areas we are proud of**

97% of parents felt their child was happy at school

98% of parents felt their child felt safe at school

96% of parents felt their child was well looked after at school

94% of parents felt their child was taught well at school

94% of parents felt their child made good progress at school

94% of parents would recommend the school to another parent

By removing the 'don't know' element, only 4% of responses were negative for "This school is well led and managed".

We consider all of these areas to be extremely important, and had only a couple of parents disagree with any of these statements.

It is good to know that your child feels safe, happy and well-looked after, and you feel positive about the standard of teaching they receive and overall leadership of the school.

### **Main areas of focus:**

#### **Homework**

Whilst 87% of parents/carers provided a positive response to "My child receives appropriate homework for their age", we felt this was an area for focus and discussion.

The comments from parents/carers evidenced a differing opinion where some felt their child did not get enough homework, whilst others felt they received too much.

The school homework policy explains the rationale for homework:

*"At Heron, we believe that homework provides opportunities for parents and children to work together whilst consolidating, reinforcing and extending skills and understanding. Homework allows parents to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school and assists children to progress towards becoming more independent learners."*

The policy also sets out the responsibilities of pupils, parents/carers and teachers in ensuring the homework achieves its purpose of enhancing the learning of all pupils.

This policy can be located on the school website:

[https://www.heronprimaryschool.co.uk/application/files/2615/4782/8453/Homework\\_Policy\\_updated.pdf](https://www.heronprimaryschool.co.uk/application/files/2615/4782/8453/Homework_Policy_updated.pdf)



The school is currently reviewing the subjects covered and methods used for homework across all year groups, to ensure it achieves its objective of improving the learning outcomes for all pupils and is set according to pupil needs.

If homework is causing you or your child any concerns or distress, please speak to their class teacher.

### **Progress Updates**

86% of responses were positive for “I receive valuable information from the school about my child’s progress”, with 14% negative responses.

Although the majority of parents/carers felt they did receive valuable information, the school is aware of the need to continue to improve how we keep parents updated and engaged with their child’s progress. Proposals include:

- Timetabled drop-in sessions to come and review your child’s work during school hours.
- Review the format of parent’s evenings to ensure more areas of your child’s learning and school experiences are shared.
- Providing parents/carers with a guide to marking, to improve understanding of teacher comments in workbooks.
- Feedback on weekly spelling and maths tests.

We will update you before the end of the year on what changes will be made and when. The school operates two parent evenings and an end of year report, in line with other local primary schools, however, if you have specific concerns regarding your child’s progress, please make an appointment to discuss this with their class teacher.

### **Behaviour**

90% of parents/carers felt ‘The school ensures its pupils are well behaved’, with 7% giving a negative response, while 3% did not know.

The school follows robust Anti Bullying and Behaviour Policies, you can find these on our website by following this link, <https://www.heronprimaryschool.co.uk/about-2/governors-2-6> and is committed to ensuring the physical and emotional safety, and wellbeing of all pupils and staff, and will not tolerate any instance of bullying or disruptive behaviour.

Comments made in the questionnaire indicated that some parents/carers feel the school could deal more effectively with bad behaviour and disruption in class/at playtime.

We are aware that this is very important.

If you feel there are issues involving your child which aren’t being addressed please speak to the class teacher in the first instance to ensure that we are aware of the problem. Similarly, if you have mentioned something once and don’t feel it has improved please keep talking to us, it is important that and that we work together to ensure that all children feel listened to and their school experience is not affected by other pupil’s behaviour.



The school is in the process of investigating further strategies/ programmes aimed at enhancing pupil's opportunity to play and creating better play spaces in order to further enhance the children's experiences at school and further promoting positive playtime behaviours.

### **Before school playground supervision.**

In line with our duty of care, teachers will be on the playground from 08.35am each morning, therefore, please be aware that if your child is in the playground before this time, there will be no adult supervision.

If you are on the school premises with your child before or after school, please remember you are also responsible for their behaviour.

### **Other comments:**

#### **Parking**

Parents/Carers expressed their concerns regarding the dangerous driving and parking outside of school. The school has invested a lot of time and resources in educating and informing parents/carers about parking. Parents/carers are reminded that it is their responsibility to park carefully and legally when dropping or collecting their child from school.

The school has been working closely with the local authority to maximise road safety for pupils.

Please also note that the parents/carers should not drive into the school car park unless they have a permit to do so.

There is also sufficient pedestrian walkways within the school grounds, therefore, eliminating the need for parents/pupils to walk across the car park.

### **Parent/child behaviour before or after school.**

Parents/carers expressed concerns regarding the behaviour and language used by parents within the school premises.

Please be aware of your language and behaviour whilst on the school premises and have respect for other parents, pupils and staff.

Unacceptable behaviour from parents can be unsettling for other members of the school community.



## **Communication**

Website – the website is still in a period of transition, however, we hope that you have found it more user friendly. As well as meeting the statutory requirements, the aim of the website will be to share the many wonderful opportunities our pupils experience and to celebrate pupil's personal and team achievements. We are hoping to further enhance the use of the website by making it more interactive for pupils to access useful information and relevant websites.

Twitter – The school Twitter feed is updated on a regular basis, showing parents/carers activities that have taken place in school. However, we are aware this is not representative all classes. Staff have been reminded of the importance of sharing pictures and information about their class.

Newsletter – we have listened to feedback from parents and the first 'revamped' newsletter was circulated April 2019. We hope you like the new format and content and would welcome feedback for any further improvements. The newsletter can be found on our website [https://www.heronprimaryschool.co.uk/application/files/6215/5905/3241/Term\\_5\\_NEWSLETT ER.pdf](https://www.heronprimaryschool.co.uk/application/files/6215/5905/3241/Term_5_NEWSLETT ER.pdf)

Thank you for all the positive comments relating to staff members.

There were further more specific responses – both positives and suggestions for improvement – all of which will be discussed with the staff and governors. If you would like a personal response to any of the comments made in your questionnaire please email the office, [admin@heron.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@heron.gloucs.sch.uk).

All of your feedback is invaluable in helping us continue to develop our school.

If you would like to see a breakdown of the results of the questionnaire it can be found on our website here: <https://www.heronprimaryschool.co.uk/about-2-2-2/governors-5>

Yours Sincerely

**THE GOVERNING BODY**