



Hardenhuish School Parents' Survey 2024

Dear Parents

In May of this year, as part of our ongoing commitment to school improvement, we sent you a request to complete a Parents' Survey in order to find out your opinion of the school and to help us consider what aspects we could further develop.

The survey was conducted by Kirkland Rowell who are a company that specialises in surveys for schools and are part of the GL Group who conduct our CATs tests and pupil surveys. 157 of you responded to this request, which compares favourably with other schools' completion rates for parent surveys. Thank you for taking the time to help us by providing this valued and important feedback.

Parents gave an excellent overall performance score of 82.1% (78.4% in 2023), consolidating our position as one of the highest performing schools based on parent opinions amongst schools who conduct this survey. We are incredibly grateful to the large number of parents who continue to support the school and provide us with such positive feedback. The survey has also provided some points for our consideration and a summary of what you told us and our response is included here.

Below are the categories that are considered our relative strengths (the top 6 areas based on parent feedback). This takes into account a combination of the areas that parents rated us the highest and the areas that were rated as most important to parents.

82%	Careers advice
79%	Social health education
78%	Caring teachers
78%	Teaching pupils with SEN
78%	Control of bullying
76%	Levels of homework

Although still identified as good, the relative areas for development (the lowest 6 areas based on parent feedback) are listed below.

73%	Computer Access
73%	Exam results
73%	School security
73%	Happiness of child
72%	Truancy control
70%	Quality of feedback on pupil work

The above percentages are the number of parents stating that these areas are either 'good' or 'very good'. The colour codes were defined by Kirkland Rowell, who conducted our survey and analysed the results, comparing us to hundreds of secondary schools who take this survey each year. Gold is regarded as comparatively 'Outstanding' and green is comparatively 'Good'. These colours are also determined by the low numbers of parents stating 'poor' or 'very poor' in each category, with 'don't know' as the other option. As you can see, no category was considered less than 'Good'.

The summary from the survey report states that:

- 89.2% of parents would recommend this school to others.
- Only 3.9% of parents rated the school overall as "poor" or "very poor", down from 7.7% in 2023.
- Of the parents whose children were not in their first year at the school 22% said the school had improved over the last year and 7% thought that the school's performance was worse.
- Of the parents of new students, 30% said the school was better than they expected, whereas 11% felt that the school had not lived up to their expectations.
- Control of bullying and Celebrating and rewarding achievement received significantly higher scores than the previous survey.
- The parents' top priorities for improvement are School communication and Developing potential.



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As part as the survey, we also received a large number of comments from parents, which, along with the scores provided, have helped us to finalise our development plans for next year (please see below). We were also very grateful for the large number of positive comments that were provided. These included...

"I have been incredibly impressed by Harden since my daughter arrived. The support of the staff has been exceptionally good, and my daughter is happy and thriving in the school environment. I cannot speak highly enough about the school and staff - thankyou."

"Overall I'm delighted with the school and the way it is run. The opportunities to try so many new activities is an amazing add on, and from everything my daughter has said, it's a positive uplifting environment for the young people."

"We can't praise the school highly enough. We feel privileged that our child can attend such a warm and supportive school that focuses not only on academic results but really values the wellbeing of young people too and prepares them for adult life."

"They're excellent and won't put targets at the expense of pupil welfare which is a rare thing these days."

YOU TOLD US...

that some parents think we could improve our communication methods. Some parents feel they receive too many emails from the school and find it difficult to read them all. Some parents feel they do not get enough communication from teachers and would like more opportunities to discuss learning or pastoral issues. Some parents fed back that they felt key dates were not communicated clearly enough.

WE ARE...

reviewing the ways we communicate with parents to make sure key information is clear and that parents feel any issues raised have been responded to in a timely fashion. This will involve evaluating at all the means we use to communicate with parents (email, telephone, Arbor, PPCE and PSCEs) and considering how best to meet these aims.

YOU TOLD US...

that some parents feel the toilet facilities need to be improved.

WE ARE...

investing in a major refit and restructure of our toilet facilities in E Centre, M Centre and C Centre in Term 6 and throughout the summer to be completed for Term 1 2024-25. Work is already underway to create facilities that will be modern, more appealing to users and help staff to be able to supervise communal areas more easily, reducing groups gathering in toilets. Our expectations for our young people to share in the responsibility for looking after these new facilities when finished so everyone can benefit from them will be clearly emphasised next year.

YOU TOLD US...

that some parents feel our approach to behaviour needs to be reviewed; although there were differences of opinion about this, with 8 parents saying we needed to increase our sanctions in response to poor behaviour and uniform misdemeanours and 5 stating they felt our response was too harsh.

WE ARE...

reviewing our Positive Behaviour Policy and assessing our systems for responding to negative behaviour choices from pupils and students to ensure they are encouraged to make positive choices and deterred from making/repeating poor ones.

More details of our plans for the future will follow. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments regarding our school or our plans, please do not hesitate to contact us.