

**Hart Memorial
Primary School and
Nursery Unit**



**Parental Consultation
Feedback
December 2024**

Parental Consultation – December 2024

The consultation was created on Microsoft Office Forms and launched through the school app on Monday 18th November. The consultation closed on Tuesday 3rd December.

There were 56 responses in total; this represents approximately 29% of families in our school at the time.

Through this report, you will be provided with percentage results for each question, alongside comments in response of queries/comments.

Statement	I am always made to feel welcome at Hart Memorial Primary School and Nursery Unit.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
73%	25%	0%	0%	2%
Comment	We are delighted that nearly all of our families feel welcome at school; you are most definitely welcome!			

Statement	I am kept up-to-date and informed about what is going on at school through effective communication means.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
54%	41%	5%	0%	0%
Comment	We are delighted that most of our families feel that they are well informed. To communicate, we use our Facebook page, our website, our school app, letters and Seesaw. Our school app is the main way through which important messages, notes etc are communicated to you.			

Statement	The school is led and managed well by staff and governors.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
54%	38%	0%	0%	9%
Comment	We are delighted that most of you agree with this. The governors and staff work hard to keep moving the school forward to ensure the best outcomes for the pupils. At all times, if we can do things better, please talk with us.			

Statement	The school has a clear vision for improvement.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
46%	39%	0%	0%	14%

Responses	We are delighted the majority can see our vision for improvement. We hope that over this incoming year, this becomes even clearer as we work to plan the next 3-year cycle.
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Statement	The school deals effectively with any concerns I may have.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
45%	45%	0%	0%	10%
Responses	We are delighted that the majority agree that we deal with things effectively. At all times, we try to work for the best of our pupils and address any concerns in a timely fashion.			

Statement	The school values the opinions of parents/carers.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
43%	50%	0%	0%	7%
Responses	We are delighted that parents/carers feel that their opinions are valued; they really are! At all times, please speak with us if we can do things better.			

Statement	There are strong links between home and school.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
43%	48%	2%	0%	7%
Responses	We are glad that the majority agree with this statement. Positive links and views between home and school are instrumental in ensuring that pupils are engaged and able to learn. If there has been a breakdown in communication, please talk with us.			

Statement	The school keeps me informed of relevant policies e.g. Child Protection, Behaviour, Acceptable use of the internet etc.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
57%	39%	4%	0%	0%
Responses	Key policies are available on the school website. When policies are updated, we also consult on these through the school website. If you need a copy of a policy which isn't available online, please contact the school office.			

Statement	I feel involved in the education of my child.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
46%	45%	9%	0%	0%

Responses	We are delighted that 91% of families feel involved in their child's education. Please speak with your child's teacher if you need some support in how be more involved with your child's education.
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Statement	The school takes account of children's views.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
36%	50%	4%	0%	11%
Responses	As a school, pupils are one of our main stakeholders. To take account of their views we have a successful school council scheme, and we are currently working on how we develop the link between the school council and their class representatives. From time to time, we have class surveys on pupils' views, too. Our Digital Leaders are an asset in involving the pupils' views, as are our Shared Education School Council members and our Eco Committee members. Furthermore, at the beginning and end of each SEN cycle, pupils' views are consulted on to give them a voice in how their plan is actioned.			

Statement	The school promotes high standards of behaviour.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
46%	52%	0%	0%	2%
Responses	We are delighted that parents can see the high standards of behaviour in school; this is most certainly the case on a daily basis and we are thankful for parents' help and support with this.			

Statement	The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
43%	38%	5%	0%	14%
Responses	As a school, we work swiftly to deal with unacceptable behaviour and follow an agreed flowchart on how behaviour is dealt with. Although you may not always agree with our approaches, we are grateful for support and compliance.			

Statement	Staff deal with my child's concerns quickly and effectively.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
39%	36%	7%	0%	18%
Responses	As a school, we want to assure all stakeholders that we do take pupil concerns very seriously. If the concerns relate to Child Protection or bullying, these are dealt with by dedicated teams such as our Child Protection Team. At class level, teachers encourage the pupil voice to			

	ensure that they feel confident to bring issues and concerns to them. If, however, we have missed something, please do talk with us, and give us the opportunity to fix it.
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Statement	There are strong links between the school and the local community.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
32%	52%	4%	0%	13%
Responses	As a school, we want to ensure that we are seen as a key part of the community. We have recently engaged Portadown Wellness Centre to work with us and also community members to help improve our outdoor space. After Christmas, we will be offering maths courses for parents, in partnership with Stranmillis University, to help improve their basic and every day mathematical skills. Furthermore, we are delighted to be having our carol services in St Columba's Church.			

Statement	The school respects diversity and welcomes all.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
66%	34%	0%	0%	0%
Responses	We are delighted to be seen as a respectful and welcoming school to all. As a school, we have a richly diverse community, and we think it is a strength and something to be celebrated! Thank you to all of you for the part which you play in this.			

Statement	I am satisfied that the school provides a safe and stimulating environment.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
66%	30%	2%	0%	2%
Responses	We are delighted that 96% believe our school to provide a safe and stimulating environment. If there are concerns with pupil safety, please do raise these with a member of the Safeguarding Team.			

Statement	On the whole, I think the teaching in the school is good or better.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
54%	41%	4%	0%	2%
Responses	As a school, we work hard to ensure our practice is both up-to-date and effective. As teachers, we are constantly on a journey of learning			

	to try and improve things. If you have concerns with any teaching, please do raise these with the Principal or Vice-Principal.
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Statement	The school supports children who have a Special Educational Need. (Please only answer if your child has special educational needs).			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
24%	22%	2%	0%	51%
Responses	Supporting our learners and their teachers with particular needs is something which our Senco, Mrs McNally, works very hard to do. We are grateful that this is recognised. If you have any concerns regarding provision, please arrange to talk with Mrs McNally.			

Statement	My child has been involved with Mrs Handy and Mrs Stevenson in Nurture Support and has benefitted from their experiences; this could be social groups in afternoons or Nurture intervention daily. (Please only answer if your child has availed of Nurture support).			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
7%	9%	0%	0%	84%
Responses	Although our Nurture Group is a relatively new initiative to the school, we are delighted by the impact which it is already having on ensuring our pupils are 'learning ready.'			

Statement	My child's additional needs are catered for and he/she is well integrated into school life. (Please only answer if your child has special educational needs).			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
10%	14%	5%	0%	71%
Responses	We are delighted that the majority agree with this statement. If you have concerns regarding your child and their needs, however, please do talk with us.			

Statement	There is good provision for children identified as more able / gifted and talented. (Please only answer from your experience).			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
16%	27%	2%	0%	55%

Responses	Ensuring that our more able pupils are stretched to make them the best that they can be is also a priority in school; to help stretch our more able, teachers provide extension activities which take learning a little further; they provide digital activities which promote further learning; and they use other staff to help push pupils in their thinking.
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Statement	Children are taught to appreciate people from other cultures and backgrounds.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
48%	45%	0%	0%	7%
Responses	With such a rich diversity, it is important that pupils understand the need to appreciate and show respect to all, regardless of their background.			

Statement	On the whole, my child can approach their class work confidently.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
50%	45%	2%	2%	2%
Responses	We are glad that 95% of families agree with this; if your child is struggling and you feel we could do more, please do talk with us and give us the opportunity to explain/put new measures in place.			

Statement	The school provides a good range of after school activities.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
61%	36%	2%	0%	2%
Responses	We are glad that 97% agree with this; there has been a big push this academic year to ensure that pupils are given opportunities to develop many different skills through after school activities.			

Statement	My child takes part in after school activities.		
Yes	No	N/A (Nursery)	
82%	14%	4%	
Responses	This is a good representation of pupil involvement – many thanks to you all for encouraging your child to be involved!		

Statement	My child attends Young Harts/Early Birds and I find these very helpful to enable me to arrange my work patterns around school drop offs and pick ups.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment

32%	7%	0%	0%	61%
Responses	We are glad that parents have been supported through these two clubs.			

Statement	The school provides an interesting range of out-of-classroom experiences to support the Primary Curriculum e.g. trips, outdoor learning.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
46%	45%	5%	2%	2%
Responses	We are glad that the majority believe there to be a good range of trips; as a school, we try to balance the benefit of the learning experience alongside the cost to the families.			

Statement	The school encourages my child to develop his/her personal and social qualities.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
48%	43%	2%	0%	7%
Responses	A key part of school is ensuring that pupils have the opportunity to become contributing citizens in our society. Part of this process is to develop their personal and social skills. In school, we do this through working together, playing together and developing different skills in after school activities.			

Statement	My child has a good knowledge of how to keep healthy; this is further developed through school.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
43%	55%	2%	0%	0%
Responses	As a school, we have a healthy eating policy in place which pupils are encouraged to adhere to. Through our work with Healthy Kidz we also work hard to ensure that pupils are made aware of how to develop a healthy lifestyle and the benefits of this.			

Statement	My child participates in regular physical activity (PE.)			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
64%	36%	0%	0%	0%
Responses	We are delighted that all of our pupils regularly take part in PE; this is a great way of encouraging a healthy lifestyle.			

Statement	As a parent/guardian, I see great value added with regards to the PE lessons which Coach Steve takes on behalf of Healthy Kidz.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
77%	21%	2%	0%	0%
Responses	We are delighted that 98% of families believe Coach Steve and the work which he does to be an asset to our school. Coach Steve works alongside the teachers to devise lessons which are curriculum focused, challenging to the pupils' abilities, and fun and engaging!			

Statement	My child is given opportunities to make positive contributions to both the school community and the wider community.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
38%	45%	4%	0%	14%
Responses	Developing further links with the local and wider community is a key focus for the incoming years. Please do contact us if you have suggestions on what can be done to improve the pupils' experiences in the community.			

Statement	The school helps my child to become more independent and take on responsibility.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
38%	54%	2%	0%	7%
Responses	In school, we are trying to develop further opportunities for the pupils to develop independence and take on responsibilities. At this time, we have our School Council, Digital Leaders and Eco Clubs; all of these provide opportunities for pupils developing independence and taking on roles of responsibility.			

Statement	The teacher provides my child with effective feedback regarding their work.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
46%	39%	9%	2%	4%
Responses	In order for our pupils to improve, staff will employ a range of feedback strategies to our pupils to ensure they know how they have done and how they could improve. As we develop Literacy over the incoming years, ensuring that feedback is effective will become a key part of this.			

Statement	The information I received when my child started school was very good (Nursery and Primary 1 parents only).			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
30%^	20%	2%	0%	48%
Responses	For the current year, a new Beginning Primary School booklet was created to help you with key information. A new booklet was also created for Nursery. If there is anything which you feel could be included to improve this, please let us know.			

Statement	Transition arrangements into Nursery and Primary 1 were effective and my child settled in quickly. (Nursery and Primary 1 parents only).			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
31%	13%	2%	0%	53%
Responses	We are glad that the majority of families feel that our transition arrangements were effective. It is important that Nursery and Primary 1 pupils transition into school slowly so as not to overwhelm them.			

Statement	The Literacy and Numeracy provision is of a high standard.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
46%	46%	0%	0%	7%
Responses	We are delighted that 92% of parents believe our Literacy and Numeracy provision to be of a high standard. As Literacy becomes our focus, we hope to make further gains.			

Statement	The staff provide a wide range of approaches to the teaching of phonics, reading and mental maths.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
43%	45%	2%	0%	11%
Responses	As a staff, we work hard to ensure that we are constantly updating our approaches to teaching areas such as spelling, reading etc. This year, there will be a big push to utilise online resources for Spelling Shed which seem to work well in a number of classes. We provide hands on games, interactive games and encourage parents to participate with their child at home using these resources. From P3-7, we support pupils with Accelerated Readers, Spelling Shed and Mathletics. After Christmas, we introduced Time Tables Rock Stars to help with table recall and fluency; so far, this has proven very beneficial.			

Statement	The provision for using ICT effectively is of a high standard.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
39%	41%	0%	0%	20%
Responses	With an ever-evolving digital society, we work hard to ensure that our pupils receive the best and most appropriate training in using ICT.			

Statement	The staff of the school have identified 2 main areas of development for the incoming years. The 2 main areas are Literacy (new resources and approaches to teaching for all pupils) and Play/Activity Based Learning. Do you agree with these?			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
41%	50%	0%	0%	9%
Responses	We are delighted that the majority of the families agree with the need to focus on these areas to ensure the best possible experiences and outcomes for the pupils.			

Statement	My child is happy and likes coming to school.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
64%	32%	0%	2%	2%
Responses	We are delighted that the majority of children are happy in school. If there is anything infringing on a child's happiness, please speak with the school and we will endeavour to sort it out.			

Statement	Overall, I am happy with my child's experiences at Hart Memorial.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
70%	27%	0%	0%	4%
Responses	We are delighted that nearly all of our families are happy with their child's experiences in the Hart!			

Statement	My child is making good progress.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
57%	39%	4%	0%	0%
Responses	We are delighted that the majority of families feel that their child has made progress. Please speak with your child's teacher if you have concerns regarding progression.			

Statement	The school sets high expectations for the children.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
36%	57%	2%	0%	5%
Responses	We are delighted that the majority see the school as having high expectations for their child; if you have concerns regarding provision for your child, please speak with the class teacher.			

Statement	My child is encouraged to give of his/her best.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
59%	38%	0%	0%	4%
Responses	We are delighted that families acknowledge that at all times, we strive to push our pupils to give of their best.			

Statement	The school provides effective reporting and feedback regarding my child.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
43%	41%	13%	2%	2%
Responses	The school provides 1 parent-teacher interview per year, alongside a written report in June. As a staff, we have reviewed and updated our report formats for June 2025 – we are confident our new format will be both clear and informative. Pupils who are on the SEN register also receive 2 education plans and reviews per year. Our school website and class pages are also used to keep parents up-to-date regarding what is going on in a child's class. At all times, parents can request to speak with teachers regarding concerns and queries.			

Statement	The school helps me to understand how to support my child.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
39%	50%	7%	0%	4%
Responses	We are delighted that the majority believes the school helps them to understand their child; if you have queries or concerns, please speak to your child's teacher.			

Statement	The end of year report provides helpful information about my child's progress.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
50%	43%	0%	0%	7%
Responses	We are delighted that the report provides good feedback. Already this year, teachers have been working on improving the report formats further to ensure that you get detailed and precise feedback regarding your child and their individual needs.			

Statement	I am able to contact my child's teacher when needed.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unable to comment
64%	32%	2%	2%	0%
Responses	Contact with the teacher can be made by requesting a phone call through the school office or by sending a Seesaw message. If you are unable to contact the teacher, please let the office know and we will endeavour to assist.			

Statement	On the whole, would you recommend Hart Memorial to another family?		
Yes	No	Maybe	
98%	0%	2%	
Responses	What a great endorsement, thank you, all!		

Survey Comments and School Responses

We are thankful to have received a good number of comments throughout the survey. Some of these are shown below, as are some of the concerns. Following on from the survey comment, you will see a school comment.

Comment have been copied exactly as they were recorded in the survey.

Survey Comment	'My child is safe in this school. All the staffs are Very helpful and friendly.'
School Response	Many thanks for this comment; pupil wellbeing and happiness is at the heart of what we do!

Survey Comment	'The school teachers could interact more with the parents And if there is an accident involving a child parents should be notified.'
School Response	In terms of interaction with class teacher, we have annual interviews, Seesaw as a way of messaging between school and home, and at any time, you are welcome to phone the school/email and arrange to speak with your child's teacher. In addition to this, all class teachers put photos of what they are doing on class website pages. If a child has an accident in school, a First Aid slip is sent home detailing the incident; following more serious incidents/accidents, parents/guardians are contacted by staff.

Survey Comment	'The boys love the new after-school activities.'
School Response	We are glad to hear this; it is our hope to continue to develop these and offer the pupils of our school as many opportunities as possible to develop different skills.

Survey Comment	'Keep up the great work. Sad this is my sons final year.'
School Response	This is a very welcome and greatly appreciated endorsement, thank you!

Survey Comment	'More than happy with all the teachers, staff and way the school is run/managed!!!! My child is ALWAYS happy!!! Well done everyone!!!!!!'
School Response	We are delighted to hear this!

Survey Comment	'Traffic on Charles street is a nightmare at end of school. This is further impacted by staff leaving school at same time as children. Vehicles shouldn't be leaving school grounds until 3pm.'
School Response	We understand your concerns and frustration, it is a busy street. We do, at all times, try to ensure that staff exit safely and slowly. Unfortunately, some staff finish times are the same as the pupils and therefore have a need to leave at this time. Furthermore, some parents/guardians do ignore the parking and drop-off rules outside the school gates; this does not help the situation either.

Survey Comment	'The only query we have is security..the door is often opened before confirming who is ringing the doorbell. Making the buzzer pointless as a
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	means of security. Maybe there is a doorbell camera that we don't know about though?'
School Response	You are quite right, there are cameras which we can view before buzzing people in.

Survey Comment	'Meals/clubs/early birds prices etc as money fairly adds up.'
School Response	We understand the costs associated with these and do try to keep them down, however, the money enables us to cover costs and wages if needed. This in turn also enables us to offer more experiences for the pupils.

Survey Comment	'It be good see school involved more out community Carol singing for elderly homes, in supermarkets be lovely see involved in communities.'
School Response	Our shared education choir have been singing at Mahon Hall and Rushmere – we do want to build on this with our own choir.

Survey Comment	'My daughter is very excited to go to school. She enjoyed also the after class activities.'
School Response	We are glad to hear this!

Survey Comment	'Could do with more outdoor excursions Maybe get parents to pay a monthly fee to inaid this.'
School Response	We appreciate this feedback, and we recognise the value in trips for pupils, however, at all times, we need to balance this with the need to make the curriculum accessible for all, without incurring cost.

Survey Comment	'The best school! And all it has to offer is just outstanding!! Especially after schools and extra help!'
School Response	Wow! Thank you!

Survey Comment	'We consider Play and activity based learning very important.'
School Response	Yes, we agree with you and hope to make these areas more prevalent in our whole school focus over the incoming years.

Survey Comment	'Have noted some children needing extra support but this takes away from others if not enough staff.'
School Response	It is our job in school to ensure that all pupils are catered for. Although we support pupils with particular needs, we hope this is not at the detriment of anyone else. At all times, we aim to work for the best of all pupils, regardless of ability. As a school, we do, however, work within the remits of a restricted and stretched budget and do try to make the best of this.

Survey Comment	'We particularly enjoy the mathematics online programme which has really helped my daughter who struggles with maths.'
School Response	In an ever increasing digital climate, these programmes are becoming more and more important for learning.

Survey Comment	'Teacher doesn't provide positive feedback on school work or much communication threw seasaw on how children our or what activities there up to.'
School Response	We appreciate this feedback, however, Seesaw is currently not used in school as a means of showcasing work, but rather, as a way of keeping contact between home and school. Our website class pages are updated to reflect work completed.

Survey Comment	'Young harts and early birds are a great support as a working parent.'
School Response	We are glad to hear this; things are busy for parents, and we are glad to be able to provide this little 'crutch.'

Some of the strengths (as recorded in responses):

- Friendly dedicated teachers and staff.
- Teaching method and friendly staffs.
- The teachers are fantastic and so approachable. The new after school clubs are excellent and well enjoyed. The curriculum is well explained to the children and understood.
- Bringing the best out in the children.
- Teachers are the biggest asset of this school. The vast majority are characterized by great commitment, empathy and form a strong bond with both children and parents.
- Sense of community and very welcoming.
- Communication regarding my children and the constant support they gave them.
- Fantastic teachers and principal. Great school trips and after school clubs. Homework is not overwhelming which is appreciated.
- Tolerance respect to any Child. Listen to parents.
- The way the teachers talk to the kids at their level.
- Good parent and child interactions.
- Christian values.
- Promotes inclusiveness/ good communication/ well structured.
- Generational and community ties.
- Beautiful gardens, well attended to. Friendly and good teaching staff.

How we could develop to improve the learning experiences:

- More learning through play/activities.
- Keep doing what you's are doing and offering the extra services.
- More training for teacher?
- More teaching assistants to improve individual support.
- The 2 main focuses being put in place are ideal.
- More readibg activities.

- Maths to add in some play based learning for younger classes.
- More hands on learning.
- More interaction with parents.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report.