

St. Oliver Plunkett's NS



School Self Evaluation

Gathering the Evidence- Analysis

1. Student Questionnaire Feedback
2. Student Focus Group Feedback
3. Parent Questionnaire Feedback
4. Parent Focus Group Feedback
5. Staff Feedback

Student Well-Being Questionnaire Feedback

A selection of children from 1st to 6th class were asked to fill out a student well-being questionnaire. 4 children from each class received a questionnaire, meaning 36 responses were collected in total. The children were chosen by the Student Council and were encouraged to answer the questions as honestly as possible. Children were encouraged to remain anonymous at all times.

Question 1.

My school is friendly and welcoming.

The majority of children agreed or strongly agreed with this statement. Three children gave a neutral response to this statement.

Question 2.

I feel safe in school.

Again, the overwhelming majority of children either agreed or strongly agreed with this statement. Once again there were 3 children who gave a neutral response but interestingly none of these were the same children who gave a neutral response to question 1.

Question 3.

The adults in my school care about me.

The majority of children again either agreed or strongly agreed with this statement and this time there were 6 neutral responses. Again, all but one of these were children who agreed or strongly agreed with the previous two statements- they were not just ticking neutral for everything!

Question 4

We are taught about bullying and cyber bullying and that leaving people out or teasing people is not allowed.

For this question there were four children who didn't give any response- I am assuming they missed skipped this page by mistake. One child strongly disagreed with the statement (perhaps they misread the statement) and there were 3 neutral responses. The rest of the children either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement.

Question 5

The adults in our school praise and encourage us to work hard and try our best.

Again, we had four non responders here and we had five children who gave a neutral response to this question. On this question, more children agreed with the statement than strongly agreed with the statement.

Question 6

My teacher encourages me to ask questions and give my views in class.

This question had the most varied responses to date. There were once again 4 children who did not respond and the majority did either agree or strongly agree with the statement but there was a marked increase in the other responses. There were 8 neutral responses to this question, 3 children disagreed with the statement and one child disagreed strongly with the statement.

Question 7

The adults in our school help children who feel sad or worried.

We were back to a 100% response rate for this question and for this question every single child bar one either agreed or agreed strongly with the statement. The one outlier was a neutral response!

Question 8

We learn that we are special and it is ok when people are different

Again, the majority of children either agreed or agreed strongly with this statement but there were some varied responses. One child did not answer this question and one child disagreed with the statement. There was also one neutral response and there were four children who strongly disagreed.

Question 9

I know if I do not feel safe that I will be listened to and the adults in my school will help me.

The children again overwhelmingly agreed or agreed strongly with this statement. One child failed to answer and there were 3 neutral answers. There was also one child who disagreed with the statement.

Question 10

I know who to speak to in school if I am worried or sad about anything.

On the final question the majority of the children either agreed or agreed strongly with the question. This time there were 3 neutral responses and one child disagreed with the statement.

Focus Group- Feedback- Students

The student council met and were split into 3 smaller groups of 4/5 children. Each group had a selection of children from 1st to 6th class.

Question 1- What is being well-being?

The children reported that well-being means being happy and making other people are happy. Other children reported that well-being means mental health and keeping your mental health well. Children said that well-being is connected to anti-bullying and feeling safe in school. Finally, children reported that well-being is self-care and taking care of yourself and your mental health.

Question 2- What do we do in school to make sure everyone is safe and happy and what else could we do?

Children reported that we help someone if they are hurt either physically or mentally. Children also reported that we look after people if they are being left out and that we stop bullying ASAP. Children reported that some children might feel unsafe if they are not in the loop on certain issues. Some times children can feel there is pressure from peers. Some students reported that we could have more teachers on the football earlier because some children feel unsafe on that part of yard.

Question 3- Who can you talk to in school if you feel unhappy?

Children reported that they could talk to a number of adults in the school, including Mrs Murphy, Muriel, the class teacher, SNA etc. Some children mentioned the DLP and DDLP. Some children reported that they don't always feel like the teacher is being listened to and that if they do report an issue that it is not always acted upon by the adult you have told. Some students reported that some teachers listen more than others.

Question 4- How do we deal with bullying in our school?

Children reported that teachers have a big roll but sometimes if bullying is reported that nothing changes. Children reported that they are encouraged to stand up for themselves but it might be better to do more work on bullying at the start of the school year. A lot of the time children reported that work on anti-bullying is done at the end of the year in conjunction with Stay Safe but it'd be better to keep a focus throughout the year.

Parent Well-Being Questionnaire Responses

Note-not all questions were open to comment. 25 parents responded.

Question 1- The school is welcoming and accessible to all pupils and parents?

The majority of parents (64%) strongly agreed with this statement with the remaining parents agreeing.

Question 2- My child feels safe in school?

An overwhelming majority (92%) agreed with that statement but there was some concern in relation to the yard and this was also reflected in the comments. Parents commented that their child trusts the staff, that their child is happy going to school every day and that there is a lovely welcoming atmosphere in the school. There were some concerns around yard with parents commenting that the yard can be dangerous for falls and that the playground is not big enough for the older children and this can lead to fights.

Question 3- The school sees health and well-being as important?

The majority agreed strongly with this statement with the remaining responses agreeing.

Question 4- The school delivers the SPHE curriculum including RSE, Stay Safe and other programmes

The majority agreed strongly with this comment with the remaining responses agreeing or giving a neutral response. Parents commented here that they well being homework is very good and that there is a consistent delivery of all requirements. Other parents commented they marked neutral as they were not up to speed with the programmes while another parent commented they would like more sports.

Question 5- The school is committed to dealing with bullying and its prevention?

44% agreed strongly with this comment while 28% responded with agree or neutral. Comments here included that bullying is taken seriously and all incidents are investigated. Other parents commented that anti-bullying is discussed frequently in school while another parent commented that there seems to be less bullying here than in other schools. A number of parents commented that they have had no experience with this with their children.

Question 6- My child can get support in the school for social, emotional and behavioural needs?

The majority (56%) agreed with this statement with almost a third of respondents agreeing strongly. The remaining responses were mainly neutral with a small proportion disagreeing with this statement. Parents commented that the school are doing their best but more resources/ personnel would be beneficial. Other parents commented that children with

additional needs are looked after, that issues are dealt with, that staff are reactive to kids changing behaviour and that communication in this area is good. Some parents commented that their child doesn't feel challenged enough in school and so finds it a stressful environment.

Question 7- My school promotes healthy eating?

The majority (68%) agreed strongly with this statement with the remaining parents agreeing with the above statement.

Question 8- The school communicates with me when things are going well for my child- e.g., to acknowledge my child's progress and achievements in all areas.

There was a mixed response to this question with 56% agreeing with the statement, 28% agreeing strongly, 16% answering neutral and the remainder disagreeing with the statement. Parents commented that the school are doing a lot with assembly awards, school website etc. but that further interaction would be appreciated. A lot of parents commented that they feel they only hear from the teacher at Parent/ Teacher meetings and end of year reports. Some parents commented they receive great updates from their child's support teacher but there was a majority of parents who commented they would like further communication throughout the year.

Question 9-If I share a worry or concern with a staff member, I know that my concern will be dealt with?

The majority agreed strongly with this comment with the remaining responses being "agree" or "neutral". There was one disagree response. Parents commented here that they feel their concerns are taken on board and dealt with accordingly. Parents also commented that staff are approachable and open to discussion and that all issues are handled professionally. A number of parents commented that they haven't had to ask yet while another parent commented that teachers are very busy and so not all concerns can be dealt with and reported back on.

Question 10- I am informed about school policies- e.g. Anti-bullying policy, Child Safeguarding, Mobile phone and smart device policy...

92% responded yes with 8% responding no.

Question 11- I feel connected and part of the school community

40% agreed with this comment, 32% agreed strongly, 24% answered neutral with the remainder disagreeing. One parent responded that they feel very much a part of the school community while another parent answered that the burden also lies with the parent as to how connected they want to be with the school community.

Parent Focus Group Well-Being Feedback

Question 1- What does well-being in schools mean to you?

Parents responded that well-being needs to be managed and that it means treating all students with kindness. Parents commented on the importance of a healthy mind and body and how it is about promoting inclusion and diversity. Parents commented how it means looking after the mental health of children and staff and how it is the difference between surviving and thriving.

Question 2- Are you aware of anything the school is doing to promote student well-being?

The parents reported on a wide range of initiatives that are being implemented in the school. These include Marathon Kids, Daily Mile, runs, walks, celebration days, wear your own clothes day, yoga, Proud Cloud, mindfulness, healthy eating policy, extra-curricular activities, team games and more.

Question 3- What more could the school be doing?

Parents commented that there could be more cooking classes, reading groups and active play. There was also a comment in relation to a no phone policy. Parents commented that the school are doing everything they can but that well-being can change and so it needs constant supervision and flexibility in reaction to change.

Question 4- In your opinion what curricular areas support your child's well-being at school?

Parents answered that SPHE and PE are areas that support well-being. Other parents mentioned the Weaving Well-being programme, outdoor activities, art and school excursions. Parents also commented that the staff are very dedicated and there is lots of mindfulness taking place in the classroom.

Question 5- Do you as a parent feel welcome in our school?

The majority of parents answered yes to this question. Some parents commented that that would like more interaction with teachers through Google Classroom while others commented that they feel the school has become more remote since COVID and the move to online communication. Parents also commented on the warm environment in the school.

Question 6- What school/ community activities do you participate in/ attend?

Parents answered that they attend Sports Day, the Christmas Fair, the Science Fair and any other events that are open to parents.

Question 7- Any further comments/ suggestions?

Parents commented that it is nice to see their child involved in class and that it is nice to get the photos at the end of the week. Other parents commented that they would like more nature activities and that they would like more information on well-being initiatives in general. Finally parents commented for staff to keep up the good work and to say thank you for asking for their voice to be heard.

Staff Well-Being Feedback

Question 1- The school is welcoming and accessible to staff

The majority of staff agreed with this statement with some of the staff agreeing strongly. Staff commented that the school is very welcoming, that the staff look out for one another and that is a fun place to work. Visitors always comment on how welcoming our school is but some staff also commented that this year has been difficult with the split breaks.

Question 2- There are structures in the school which allow staff to have a voice on issues relating to the development and implementation of school policy.

Again, the majority of staff agreed with this statement, while some staff agreed strongly and an equal number answered neutral to this question. Staff commented that suggestions are always taken into consideration and that staff meetings are a great time to discuss policies etc. Some staff stated that they feel the policies are already set and just agreed upon at meetings. Other staff commented that overall policy is discussed effectively but that there could be better communication in relation to smaller practices/ traditions like Christmas plays.

Question 3- You, a staff member, feel valued by others in the work place. (This question is not asking about being valued by parents)

The overwhelming majority again agreed with this statement with the remainder of the staff equally split between the strongly agree and neutral response. Staff commented that everyone is always open to helping others and that they feel welcomed and supported. Staff commented they receive positive comments when needed but some responded they only feel supported at times. There was also a comment relating to a feeling of disconnect while job sharing.

Question 4- Are you aware of the Employee Assistance Scheme and its contact details?

Two thirds of the staff responded yes while one third responded no.

Question 5- Have you any suggestions on what we can do as a staff to support your well-being in the work place?

There were some interesting responses here, the majority of which were positive. Suggestions included team building activities, Feel Good Friday where each band would organise treats for the staff, mindfulness classes once a week, social events, lunch together once a month etc. Other staff commented that our professionalism should be more valued while another staff member commented that the increased workload is leading to a feeling of isolation and the constant introduction of new initiatives is having a heavy burden on staff.