



School and Parents Working Together

Survey Findings and school response

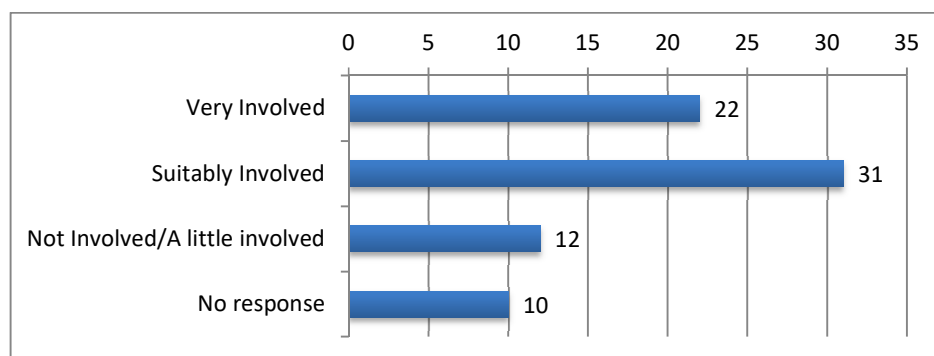
The School Governors recently conducted a survey to find out how involved parents feel in school life generally and more specifically with their children's learning. The key objective of the survey was to learn how the school can work with parents to increase their children's learning opportunities at school and outside of school so they can more effectively support their children's learning at home.

The survey was conducted at Parent Consultation Evenings held at School on 17th and 18th October 2016 and parents were asked to complete a survey whilst they were waiting to see their child's teacher.

Parents were asked not to disclose their identity but simply to confirm the particular year group(s) of their child/children.

75 parents completed the survey with a good representation across all 5 year groups. This represents [59]% of families at Flitwick Lower School.

Question 1 – To what extent do you feel involved in school life at Flitwick Lower?



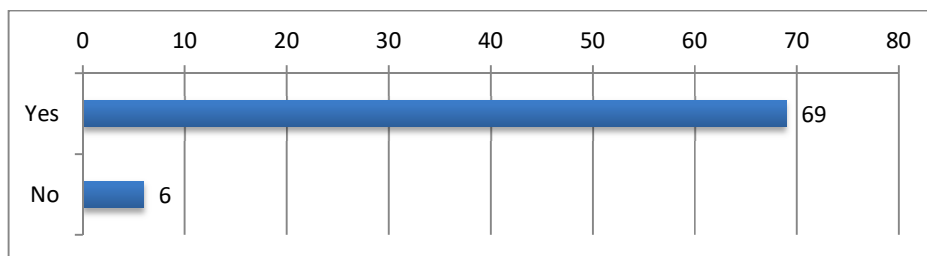
There is a general feeling that there are lots of opportunities to be involved, with a large number of parents wishing to be more involved in school life but due to work commitments or other time constraints are simply not able to be.

School Response:

We try to ensure that parents are included in everything we do. We arrange events with parents availability in mind so that the children feel supported and valued. In the future we will set key dates well in advance to help with work commitments.



Question 2 – Do you feel you receive enough information about what is happening in school?



92% of parents surveyed felt that they receive enough information about what is happening in school.

Interestingly, 83% of those parents who answered question 1 as not feeling involved still feel they receive enough information about what's happening in school.

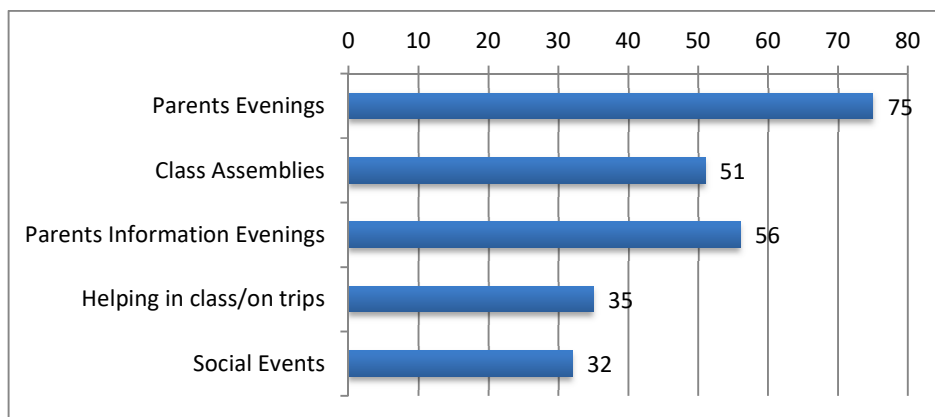
8% of parents who do not feel they get enough information is predominantly due to lack of information regarding their children's education rather than social events/school activities.

School Response:

We hold parent consultation evenings every term and send out detailed reports in the summer term. Parents are able to book appointments outside these times to discuss progress with the class teacher. We will look at interim reports to help with academic progress.

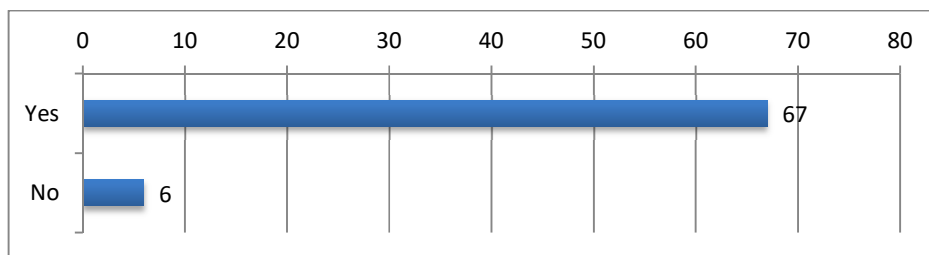
The termly curriculum newsletters inform parents about the curriculum content the children will cover in their learning for the term.

Question 3 – Which events have you attended at school?



Generally parents would like to help in class on a more regular basis but are unable to do so due to work commitments or child care arrangements.

Question 4 – Do you feel well informed about what your child is learning at school?

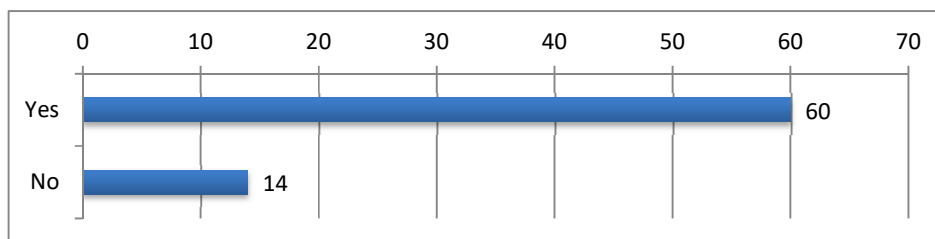


A minority of parents responded that whilst they felt informed this could be improved upon. In particular, better use could be made of the website and the learning platform and ensuring information is sent direct to parents rather than via children.

School Response:

Since the survey we have updated the website and uploaded more information to help you support the children at home. The curriculum information has been developed to ensure you can access as much information as possible.

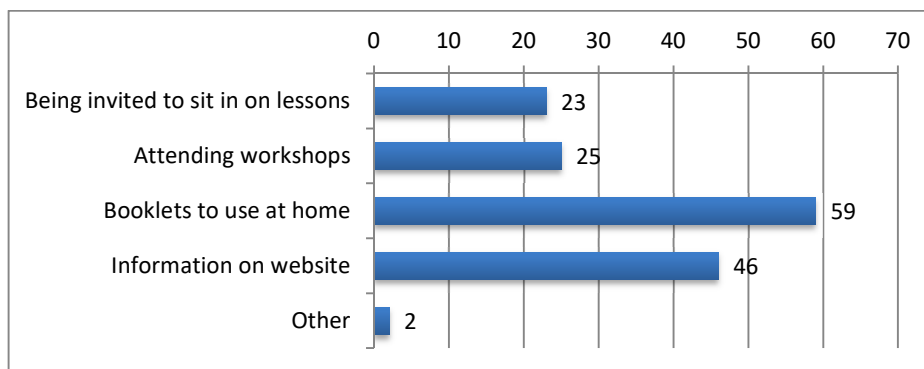
Question 5 – Do you think the school provides parents with sufficient information to enable them to help their children at home?



Parents who felt that they don't get sufficient information would like more guidance on home learning and key areas of the curriculum and how subjects are taught in class.

Parents in Foundation particularly like the weekly updates.

Question 6 – Would you be interested in learning more about how subjects are taught in school? If yes, would this be through:





Parents are keen to learn more about how subjects are taught in school to ensure consistency at home. Whilst 30% of parents would like the opportunity to sit in on lessons, this could be difficult due to work commitments and some parents only being able to attend school in the evenings.

Parents in Foundation and Year 1 would like to see more workshops for reading, phonics and maths.

Other suggestions were for the school to produce a DVD/Video.

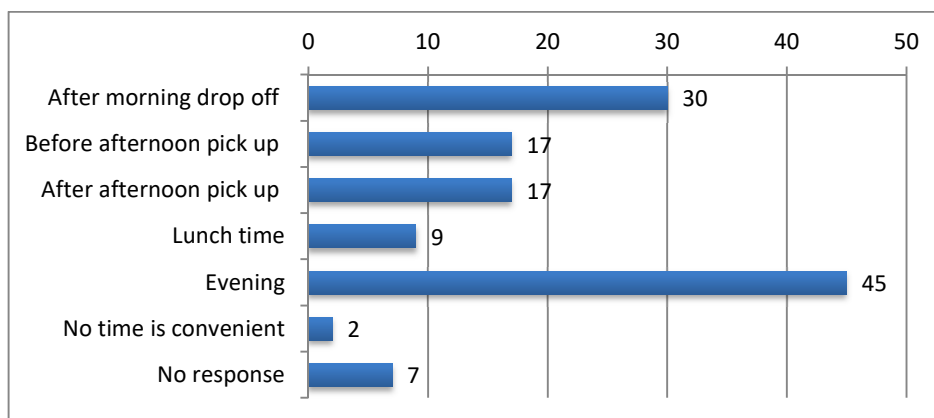
School Response:

The learning at home resources and home learning sheets are being developed to include examples and advice regarding the key learning on the sheets. We are compiling booklets to help parents with the curriculum content and how you can support your child at home.

The information evenings in the autumn term are full of information to help you with the way in which the curriculum is taught in that year group and the different aspects that you can work on at home to help support your child with their learning.

We have held several workshops over the year but will increase these to help you understand how we teach key skills to the children.

Question 7 – What time is most convenient for you to come into school?

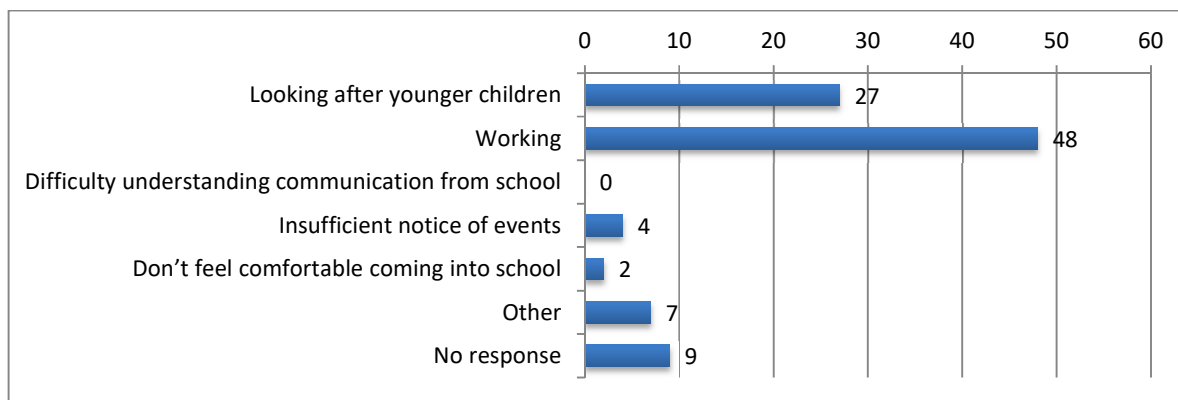


The most convenient times for parents to come into school are after morning drop off and in the evening.

School Response:

We hold most of our events either first thing or later into the evening to try and accommodate as many parents as possible. As we move forward with workshops and events, we will look to hold them over several days at different times to encourage greater attendance.

Question 8 - What prevents you from coming into school?

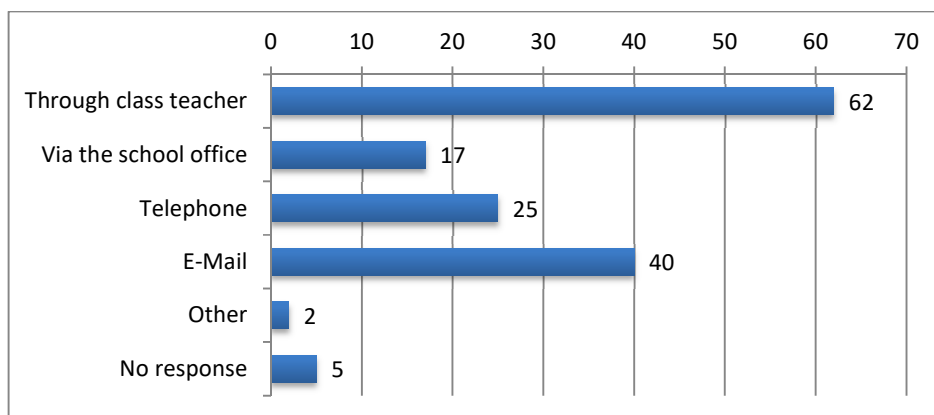


Parents are predominantly prevented from coming into school due to working or looking after younger (and/or older) children.

School Response:

When we hold in school events we will look to providing a crèche facility to help parents with younger children.

Question 9 – How do you/would you prefer to communicate with school?



Currently the preferred method of communication with school by parents is through their child/children's class teacher but there is a notable preference to be able to communicate with school and teachers direct by e-mail.

Parents like the home communication book and text message facility.

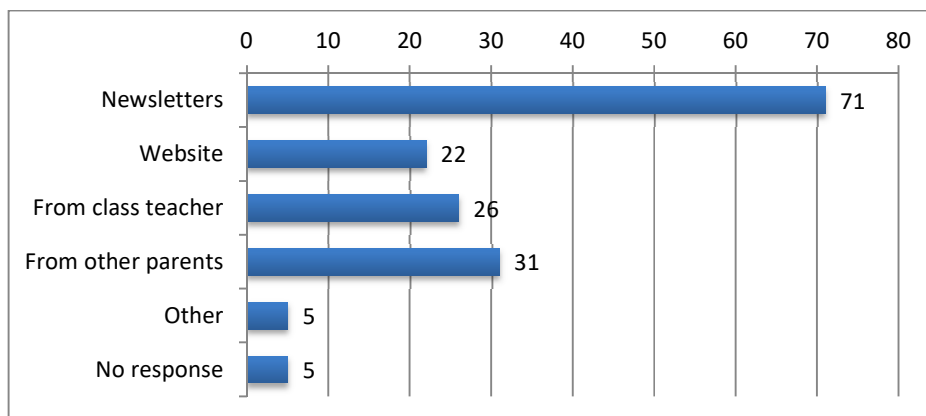
School Response:

Parents can email into the school office and these are then forwarded onto the staff member. This ensures that we can inform staff that parents have emailed and help with the communication.

The text facility is used effectively to remind parents of events that have been previously published in the school newsletter.

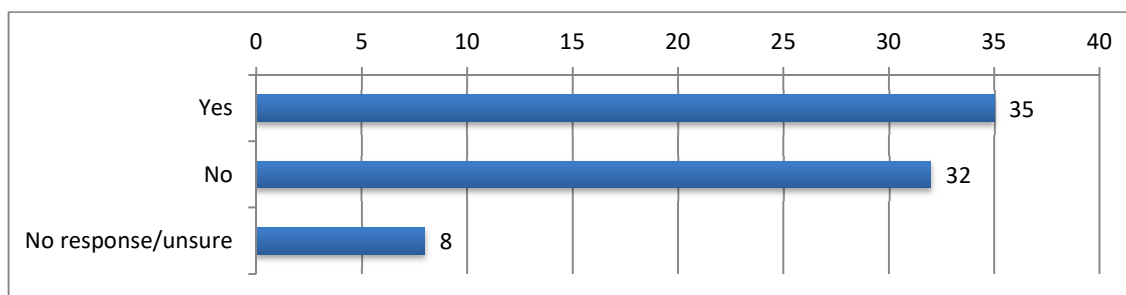


Question 10 – How do you find out information about what is going on at school?



The majority of parents find out information about what is going on at school from the weekly newsletter. The Groupcall text message facility is also very popular.

Question 11 – Would you be interested in taking part in a parents’ forum?



Parent forums offer a way of enabling parents to have a voice within schools. They give parents the opportunity to contribute to decision making on issues which affect them and also to play their part in improving children’s learning.

There was a slight majority response from parents who would be interested in taking part in a parents’ forum rather than those who would not.

School Response:

We have previously held parent forum meetings but have had very little interest and small numbers attend. We will set a new date for the summer term to reinstate this forum.

Summary of Survey Findings

Most parents feel well informed about what is happening at school and what their children are learning, as well as having sufficient information to enable them to help their children at home.

However, parents are keen to learn more about how subjects are taught in school to ensure consistency at home.



The main barriers to parental communication and involvement are work or other commitments which prevents parents from coming into school. Parents are most able to come into school in the evenings. If a parent forum is to be explored in more detail this should be taken into account.

Most parents find out about what is going on in school from the newsletter and Groupcall text message but many would like to communicate directly with their child/childrens' class teacher by e-mail.