



Seaburn Dene Parent Questionnaire Results 2023

Thank you to the **114** parents who completed this survey online. Our highest response came from parents in Nursery, our lowest was from Year 3. Below you can see the overall results to the questions and the key development points suggested.

I continue to encourage parents to bring any concerns that they have to us directly at any point in the year as we are committed to providing the best support for our community that we can, which includes reflecting on any areas that families feel we could be supporting them with more. This year's survey has introduced some new questions, which aren't comparable to previous years surveys.

Mr J Howe, 21.08.23

What made you choose Seaburn Dene above other local schools?

1. Small, friendly and caring school - with a family/community feel.
2. Principles of the school.
3. Reputation of the school.
4. Recommendation of family/friends.
5. The smaller class sizes and friendly, welcoming nature of the school.

1. My child is happy in school.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2020	76%	21%	1%	2%	0%
2021	73%	27%	0%	0%	0%
2022	91%	9%	0%	0%	0%
2023	81%	18%	0%	1%	0%

Total % in agreement (2023) = 99%

Our response: While 99% of parents reported that their child was happy at school, we will continue to talk to parents and children on how we can improve and continue to encourage parents to use our “open door” philosophy to address any concerns that they may have.

“The school is warm, caring and encouraging. It is a friendly school which cares about all their pupils.”

“The school has given my child the confidence and skills to achieve in life.”

2. My child feels safe at Seaburn Dene Primary School.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2020	82%	16%	1%	0%	1%
2021	80%	20%	0%	0%	0%
2022	84%	16%	0%	0%	0%
2023	82%	17%	1%	0%	0%

Total % in agreement (2023) = 99%

Our response: 99% of parents reported that their child feels safe at school. This year, we have rolled out our Safeguarding curriculum (Kidsafe) across the whole of school, with very positive feedback and outcomes from children. Children's voices are very important to us. We carry out monthly Safeguarding Checks with our children, while children are proactive in safeguarding within school via class risk assessments, online safety, anti-bullying and the School Council.

“I feel the school makes sure my child is safe at school. Safety is taken very seriously by the school and this is very reassuring as a parent.”

3. The school meets my child's particular needs.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2020	73%	23%	4%	0%	0%
2021	59%	36%	4%	1%	0%
2022	72%	26%	2%	0%	0%
2023	72%	27%	1%	0%	0%

Total % in agreement (2023) = 99%

Our response: At Seaburn Dene, we pride ourselves on our small, family community. This means that ALL children are valued, respected and supported in equal measure. We know our children well. Pupils with Special Needs are dealt with in a sensitive, supportive and inclusive manner. Our new SENCO intends to continue to work hard with parents to provide support, expertise and offer guidance. Our Local Offer for Special Educational Needs can be found on the school website.

"Such a lovely school with a community feel. I love how it focuses on not just the academic side but provides a good, well rounded education with a focus on being healthy and being outdoors. I love how almost everyone knows each other and how the headteacher knows all of the children's names. So glad I picked Seaburn Dene for my daughter."

4. My child is well looked after at Seaburn Dene.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2023	74%	26%	0%	0%	0%

Total % in agreement (2023) = 100%

Our response: This is fundamentally important to all our staff and cuts across so many different parts of our school. Our staff team set and strive for high standards of care.

"It's a very nice calming atmosphere and very welcoming, my child is happier at Seaburn Dene than her previous school."

5. My child is taught well at this school.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2021	69%	28%	3%	0%	0%
2022	70%	28%	2%	0%	0%
2023	74%	24%	2%	0%	0%

Total % in agreement (2022) = 98%

Our response: We have high expectations of all our children and want each and every child to do their best at all times. Our school vision is 'We always try to be that little bit better'. We will talk to parents if we are concerned that your child is not trying their best in class and teachers will employ a variety of strategies to support children if this is the case. As teachers, we are always seeking to improve our own practice.

“There is a friendly and welcoming atmosphere and approachable teachers. My daughter has become so much more confident and developed loads since starting. We are so happy with her development, especially her reading and writing.”

6. The school responds well to any concerns/questions I have.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2023	54%	39%	5%	1%	1%

Total % in agreement (2023) = 93%

Our response: While we currently use Class Dojo, the school website and social media to communicate with parents, we ensure that our staff also are available to speak to parents with any concerns, via telephone or face-to-face. Feedback has indicated that where parents have queries around communication, the main concern is timing or the lack of notice given, particularly around school trips, where parents would like to attend, but need to factor in time off work. On many occasions, trips eg the beach, are based on staffing levels available, weather conditions etc, so are not planned months in advance. With that in mind, this will be feedback to staff for future planning and the school calendar amended accordingly.

“Communication, care & concern for both child and parent, safety, all additional work and support from teachers to ensure my child was given help when needed.”

7. The school is well led and managed.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2020	76%	23%	1%	0%	0%
2021	60%	35%	5%	0%	0%
2022	60%	37%	3%	0%	0%
2023	68%	31%	1%	0%	0%

Total % in agreement (2023) = 99%

Our response: Teachers - including senior leaders, learning support, staff administration and premises staff work hard to ensure the school is a friendly, happy and safe environment for children to learn. We share the same aspirations for our learning community.

“Staff care about family dynamics and are 100% supportive without judgement. Being a small school, it is possible for all teachers to get to know all of the pupils well through their time in school. The admin team is the friendliest, most understanding and supportive that I could ever ask. The kids build fantastic rapport with support staff such as the caretaker, supervision staff, kitchen staff, teaching assistants and learning support; they have a full and positive interaction across all roles - nothing is hidden away.”

8. My child receives appropriate homework for their age.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2021	38%	51%	9%	2%	0%
2022	49%	47%	2%	2%	0%
2023	56%	28%	11%	5%	0%

Total % in agreement (2023) = 84%

Our response: We are striving for consistency and establishing a strong working relationship with parents to enable all children to excel. Part of the challenge is a shared understanding around each year group's expectations around homework - central to which is reading. We accept that there is an opinion among some parents that children either receive too much or too little.

“The positives are leadership and all of the staff. Class sizes are perfect. It's a strong recommendation when your child likes going to school.”

9. My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.

Date	Strongly Agree or Agree	My child has <i>not</i> been bullied	Don't know	Disagree or Strongly Disagree
2023	75%	20%	4%	1%

Total % in agreement (2023) = 75%

Our response: We take bullying issues very seriously in our school and will act promptly and openly to resolve any concerns raised.

"Seaburn Dene is a friendly school, which cares about all their pupils."

10.The school responds well to my concerns.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2020	66%	21%	9%	4%	0%
2021	57%	37%	6%	0%	0%
2022	65%	33%	2%	0%	0%
2023	55%	40%	4%	1%	0%

Total % in agreement (2023) = 95%

Our response: As a rule, we aim to respond within 24 hours to queries/questions via email/Class Dojo. In reality, I and most staff are often outside in the morning and around at the end of the day. If you miss me then then call the school office and I can get back to you or make an appointment to meet in person, which I am more than happy to do.

“Seaburn Dene is a small community school built on respect. Everyone at the school is friendly, all staff/pupils seem to know one another. I love it, and it’s been an amazing place for my two children.”

11. My child can take part in clubs and enrichment (eg visits and visitors) at Seaburn Dene

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2023	70%	22%	6%	2%	0%

Total % in agreement (2023) = 92%

Our response: This is a central part of our curriculum and - as a small school - we aim to promote as many opportunities, particularly those which raise the children’s aspirations, as possible. Many staff run clubs after school, such as Warhammer, Lego, Dodgeball, cycling and football.

“The school continues to have a community or family feel - the teachers know pupils across year groups and there is a cohesive close knit atmosphere. The choice of after school clubs this year has been varied and it’s good the kids are having opportunities to try different things.”

13. My child is making good progress at this school.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2020	76%	20%	4%	0%	0%
2021	57%	38%	4%	1%	0%
2022	70%	30%	0%	0%	0%
2023	71%	26%	1%	2%	0%

Total % in agreement (2023) = 97%

Our response: We are pleased with the levels of progress across the school. We see all our children as individuals and now have systems in place to find out where they are, what their gaps are and we then use this to plan their next steps in learning. The teachers work really hard at meeting individual needs for children at all levels of abilities, leading to good levels of progress for all.

“All children and staff welcome one another and get to know each other, so children can become confident across the whole school environment. Staff appear dedicated and passionate about their role. The school encourages a good mindset and attitude to learning. The school offers an excellent range of sporting opportunities and encourages children to develop healthy lifestyles.”

12.This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2020	68%	28%	3%	0%	1%
2021	51%	44%	5%	0%	0%
2022	63%	37%	0%	0%	0%
2023	60%	36%	3%	1%	0%

Total % in agreement (2023) = 96%

Our response: Overall, behaviour of children in and around school is excellent. We continue to work on refining our positive behaviour system - linked to our school values - and the system of rewards and consequences. Feedback around the behaviour of our children is very good from external providers and where children do not meet our high expectations, we apply a consistent approach of restorative justice.

“Amazing care for pupils, fair rules for everybody, high educational skills.”

13. The school is welcoming and there are opportunities to get involved.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2020	78%	21%	1%	0%	0%
2021	67%	31%	2%	0%	0%
2022	70%	28%	0%	2%	0%
2023	84%	16%	0%	0%	0%

Total % in agreement (2023) = 100%

Our response: Families are a vital part of a school and we want to involve them in the fullness of school life. We consider ourselves a school family and this year, from the Parent Panel to the Colour Run, we have increased the amount of opportunities for parents and carers to join in.

"Since joining in January, we've been made to feel nothing but welcome. Totally different experience to the other school we were part of, I'm just sad we weren't with you from nursery. Loved our first experience of sports day."

"They get parents involved with events that they do. There is a sense of community, lovely atmosphere, teachers know everyone, great clubs."

14. I would recommend this school to another parent.

Date	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2020	77%	21%	1%	1%	0%
2021	70%	28%	2%	0%	0%

2022	79%	19%	2%	0%	0%
2023	78%	21%	1%	0%	0%

Total % in agreement (2023) = 99%

Our response: As above, so many of our prospective parents who are looking for a school place say that they have had the school recommended to them by one of our current or former families, which we are very proud of. This response has been consistent across surveys.

“The school is smaller than others in Sunderland, therefore I feel there is much more of a personal feel. My child receives good quality care and education. They are happy at school, this gives me reassurance as a parent. My child’s teacher knows my child well and how best to support them. They are also, helpfully, approachable and understanding. The school offers lots of opportunities for parents to be involved in their child’s school life.”

Positives:

- Teachers care about each child and their families. Teachers go above and beyond to help the child's education.
- The principles of the school are great
- Strong staff, lovely family feel to the school, good leadership, good variety of activities
- The teachers are so involved across all year groups knowing each child individually.
The teachers are outstanding
- Strong ethos, smaller year groups, staff engagement, pastoral care, extra teaching support at key times.
- Close knit school where children are at the heart of everything.
- Excellent teachers. My son has grown every year and he is happy.
- Due to the school size and class room sizes I believe this gives a personable feel. I know both my children are well known, looked after and taught well. I strongly agree with almost all the points made above. It’s been a fantastic step in my children’s development in both reception and nursery. Great work.

- Teaching team across the board are fantastic. They endeavour to know each child individually and create a learning environment children can thrive in. Teaching staff respond to any queries you have about your child's progress and are happy to address any concerns. My child has thrived in this school environment and will stand her in good stead for moving to secondary school.
- Friendly, inclusive, Being part of the school makes you feel like you are part of a large family

Even better if...

- There could be more forward planning where possible for working parents who work shifts to try and arrange time off to attend events.
- The school had access to extra funding for the added value experiences and equipment.
- Although communication and notification for events has markedly improved, this could possibly be improved further to help families plan to ensure they can attend all activities. The calendar at the start of the year has really helped though.
- The lunches need a shake up. More choice and bigger portions.
- Homework was not online and in the form of a workbook / folder to reduce screen time at home,
- Cars did not park on the path outside of school. Double gates were opened in the main yard.
- There was a representative from the parents on the school board/committee for children on the SEND register.
- I couldn't think of anything. Only more opportunities for football at playtime ;) Maybe a football dome, however I appreciate funding is limited
- Further options for extra curricular activities outside school, possibly linked in with other primaries to share resources?