

# Annual Survey - Response to all comments made

July 2021

1. *Both my children attend dps in year 6 and year 3 they both thoroughly enjoy their time at school with their friends and teachers It has been a difficult year and more for all but I have been thoroughly impressed by all the staff at dps throughout their eagerness to communicated and to support both children and parents has always been obvious. They have always done what they thought best (which was hard to know what it was). I have nothing but gratitude and admiration for all the staff*

I am very pleased that everything has gone well for your children. Communication is very important to us.

2. *I can't say if the school is tidy and well maintained as I haven't been in there for nearly 18 months.*

Hopefully this will be able to change in the coming weeks and months 😊. It has been very odd not having more visitors to the school.

3. *I am extremely happy with the school. Mrs Rice's efforts to keep the community together during Covid have been commendable. There is always someone to talk to about concerns. My child is happy and safe at school.*

This is great to hear and everything that we strive for - thank you.

4. *Once again during very difficult circumstances the school has done an outstanding job*

Thank you - The whole DPS team (including the governors) have gone over and above.

5. *School tends to support the disruptive children at the expense of those that want to learn*

I'm pleased that you've shared this so that we can continue to reflect on the needs of all children, ensure that the balance is there and that we are better at communicating what different individualised support looks like. It might, at times, appear that we support some groups of children more than others and it's important that this sort of intervention support is better understood and shared with you from us.

6. *The teachers and school were amazing during lockdown and did everything in their power to support us as parents and the children at home. They were all amazing!!! Thank you for going above and beyond to make learning continue. Mrs Dennis, Mr Gregory and Mrs Watson are truly amazing members of Staff!!! My children are very lucky to have been taught by these teachers.*

Great to hear - thank you

7. *During lockdown DPS quickly adjusted to providing home learning and daily communications. We learned a lot from the first lock down and from receiving lots of helpful feedback from parents/carers.*

8. *During the last term I wished there would be more updates on my child progress and on what to focus during home leaning time*

Thank you for this feedback. We will consider this as a whole school and as year groups to ensure that we share as much information as possible with you.

9. *I question why improvements aren't being made to the management structure, teachers or to the school to improve ofsted reports. Although I actually can't fault the foundation stage team I am hesitant with my child moving forward within the school due to the continuing 'needs improvement' ofsted reports*

Thank you for airing this. From an external perspective, it can be hard for you to see the progress so it's a good opportunity for us to share a response. Due to covid, all regular Ofsted visits had to be put on hold and all statutory assessment points did too. As a result, it could look as if there has been little change since the Ofsted that judged us RI in June 2019. Very positive feedback has been shared from the Local Authority (LA) during their numerous visits and our two Ofsted visits in March and May 2021, were very positive. The full reports are on the Ofsted page of the school website. If you would like to know more about school progress, development plans, our work with the LA, a National Leader in Education (NLE) and the governing body, please don't hesitate to make contact. I'd be more than happy to listen to your concerns and provide further information to ensure you of the strong journey that we are on.

10. *Staff are lovely Keep you informed of any issues as and when they arise and have worked extremely hard during the pandemic to make sure the children's education carried on. Keep up the good work Deanshanger primary school staff.*

Thank you

11. *The whole school community has done a brilliant job despite the challenges this year. Very much hoping that staggered start and end times do not need to continue in Sept!*

Thank you. We will most likely start the year with staggered starts and finishes but hope that these might be able to change soon.

12. *Thank you for everything you do. Hope you all have a well-deserved break over the summer.*

Thank you

13. -

14. *I have been concerned this year sometimes about what I have heard about other children's behaviour in my son's class. Both my son and myself have questioned why they are not removed from the school (appreciate my lack of understanding does not help) as it hinders other children's progress.*

*As question 5. Please always share your thoughts and concerns as and when you can so that we can share more information immediately. Although we wouldn't share any information about other children, we would be able to share examples of what individual intervention support looks and feels like and hopefully reassure you about this.*

15. *All great if throughout the year we could get update from teacher with details of what the kids will focus during the term ( just like we did during a lockdown fee bullet points for each subject) that would be lovely*

*Thank you. We will ensure that we prioritise sharing more curriculum information with you.*

16. *No further comments needed*

*Thank you*

17. *The school goes above and beyond for my children and always supportive. They have been Outstanding through lockdown ect*

*Thank you*

18. *It is important for parent to feel equal with teachers rather than being spoken down to. Most of us are wanting to help our children as much as possible.*

*I'm sorry that this was felt to be the case. Please ensure that you come and share with myself or the Chair of Governors, if you have such concerns at any point in the future.*

19. *Overall we love the school :)*

*Thank you*

20. *I believe communication from teachers to parents could improve. throughout lockdown, communication was outstanding and could not fault any of the staff during this time. But since my child has settled back to school life I am less aware of the process my child is making and how support my child at home to improve.*

*This has been noted and is an area that we will look at. Please share your thoughts on what would be helpful, thank you*

21. *Thanks you so much for all your hard work and supporting my child to be the very best they can.*

*Thank you - very much appreciated.*

22. *Communication is the poorest part of DPS. Listening to parents opinions is the second worst. It would be interesting to see if we get to see the results of this survey and what happens as a result of it.*

It would be good to hear more information about the types of communication that work for you. If you could make contact, it would be very much appreciated. Thank you. The results of the survey are shared every year on the school website, with governors and help us build to the school development plan.

23. *Would be really good if the teachers responded to emails quickly. I wanted to help my child with their learning and emailed asking what areas to cover with him. I got no reply, he was invited to interventions but couldn't attend. Then the report shows lack of progress but I was trying to get the information I needed to help him... hope he catches up in year 4.*

As a team, we try really hard to respond to emails quickly - apologies if an email has been missed. I would recommend that you call the school, or pop into the office, if this happens again. Intervention groups are a strong way of us supporting gaps in knowledge and boosting progress. If you want to know more about a group, going forward, please always make contact. Thank you

24. *I've hardly used the Arbor app, I found the old system much better*

Sorry that you don't find Arbor as straightforward to use as ParentMail. In school, we find it invaluable for pulling together behaviour, attendance, data, communication etc. Let us know if you'd like any training to support this; it could of course be more down to preference though.

25. *Ms McKenzie works so hard and has made my daughters first year at school amazing. Her pastoral care has been second to none and very much appreciated. All of the EYFS staff work incredibly hard.*

This is great to hear and yes, I agree! EYFS and indeed all staff give their absolute all.

26. *My children joined later on in the school year and we have seen a huge improvement in their confidence and learning. The staff have been amazing and it's been a breath of fresh air knowing our children's needs have been met.*

Great to hear - thank you for sharing. It's really important that children feel well supported at all times, but particularly when they are new to the school.

27. *We were happy with the approach of leaders of DPS when we transferred here. Mrs Rice is far the best head teacher I've met so far. The school is brilliant.*

Thank you very much - it's a big team effort though.

28. *Very disappointing experience over the 6 years. Very pleased my child has moved on from this awful school which needs to look at the leadership, around the repeated Ofsted failures and lack of progress to improve.*

Oh dear. Sorry that you feel like this. Six years is a very long time to be unhappy. Please be reminded that open communication is the key either with class teachers, myself or the governors. I wouldn't suggest that anyone bottles up their feeling for such a long time as this really isn't healthy. Every school is very different and it seems like DPS wasn't a good choice for you despite the over and above efforts of the team.

29. *This year my son has commented several times that "naughty children" or "children that cry" get "to do what they want." He has said several times that if you are naughty or start crying you don't have to do your work or you're allowed to leave the classroom. He has also commented that they get to do more "fun things like forest school". I think he feels like they don't seem to miss anything as punishment and in fact get to do it more often / have added privileges. I understand that the actions that are taken are taken for a reason but I wanted to comment how it's coming across to some others in the class.*

*See the response to no.5. We'll continue to communicate further in this area so that additional support is better understood. We do not reward children in this way, but we do tailor make support for them so that it is appropriate to needs, the situation..*

30. *I think that school is lead by an excellent and strong headteacher. I think they work hard and generally want what's best for the children.*

*Thank you - we certainly do want the best for every child.*

31. –

32. *No further comments. My daughter loves going to school and I feel she is well supported and is learning and progressing.*

*Excellent - thank you. If children are not happy they simply won't achieve their potential.*

33. *The portaloos for year 5 girls have to go. They were meant to swap for boys to use after Christmas this hasn't happened. My daughter hates using them (don't we all) boys would find them easier and quicker to use.*

*I do apologise for this. Yes, you are right, we did say we would swap them, but I completely forgot. Please let us know if anything like this happens again as it can be easily resolved.*

Rachel Rice

Head teacher

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If you would like to contact our Chair of Governors at any time about school life, please contact David Aaronson on [ChairofGovernors@deanshanger.northants.sch.uk](mailto:ChairofGovernors@deanshanger.northants.sch.uk)