

## Community Survey March 2026

**Dear all,**

**If you managed to fill in our survey this year, thank you – your feedback is so helpful to our team here and we always read all of it and discuss it between senior leaders and teachers.**

**Here is a summary of the main feedback people have given and some of the actions or responses that we can give to you from this. Where your feedback was really specific / personal to your own child or year group, we have kept this out of our general summary but have passed it forward to each year group team:**

### **The POSITIVES:**

**Just like all human beings, it will be the negatives that we hear the loudest, take to heart and cling onto. So, here's the positives to hear loud and clearly first...**

- 71 of you responded. From an initial uptake of just 6 responses, this is really helpful!
- Three-quarters, or more, are happy in every single category asked – no question had a positive response of less than 75%
- 90% of you feel comfortable approaching the school with concerns and problems – this is brilliant to hear. Without this, nothing can be made better.
- 92% of you feel that communication is a strength of the school

**Some lovely comments – often people only write the negative but some of you took the time to share positive comments too...**

- ✓ He loves coming to school and loves his friends!
- ✓ The assemblies and certificates are wonderful celebrations and it's great to be able to attend as a parent
- ✓ Her teacher makes learning fun and playful
- ✓ ...I am happy that an emphasis is put on play and experiencing the outdoors. Nature based learning is vital to us as a family
- ✓ The teachers are very supportive and encourage my child to do her best
- ✓ She is pushed to achieve her potential
- ✓ Once I spoke to the teacher it was sorted and he has progressed quickly, in-line with other children
- ✓ Class teacher has been really supportive with informal chats on how our child was settling in
- ✓ I have found the school and teachers warm and approachable. The reception team is really helpful as well as class teachers, leadership team, SENDCO, family liaison
- ✓ I'm always heard and things acted on quickly
- ✓ The teachers have been lovely whenever I've approached them about my children's worries and have actively helped them
- ✓ We are very happy with the school
- ✓ Thank you to the whole staff team for all you do for the children

## Summary of CONCERNS & Responses to these:

### 1) My child is happy and enjoys coming to school:

TOTAL RESPONSES		
YES	NO	UNSURE
54	6	11
CONCERN	RESPONSE or PLANNED ACTION	
<i>The behaviour of other children stops some children enjoying school</i>	This is a very normal part of child development in a school environment. We have lots of supportive systems in place and we do a great deal to help all of our children with their behaviours. Please follow our escalation processes and let us know quickly if you are concerned.	
<i>OPAL used to be more enjoyable</i>	Our OPAL project finished last year and it is very true to say that we haven't had the same level of focus on this area so far this year. We are working in the background to improve this. This is really helpful feedback for our senior leadership team.	

### 2)The school celebrates and values the achievements that children make:

TOTAL RESPONSES		
YES	NO	UNSURE
61	3	7
CONCERN	RESPONSE or PLANNED ACTION	
<i>Attendance shouldn't be celebrated as it's not in the child's control</i>	As a school, we will always have a duty to raise the profile of good attendance – it is the main factor in children's learning and progress. We do celebrate a really broad range of attendance and punctuality factors and not just 100% attendance. These are explained really well in our Friday assemblies – all families welcome.	
<i>F2 children not being included in celebration assemblies and awards</i>	F1 & F2 are definitely included and get the same 'red carpet' treatment and the same framed certificates at the end of each term. They are still too little to go to the hall with lots of other children and adults in there, but they do this in Summer term. The same awards happen in classroom environments until they are old enough to cope with a long and busy assembly hall.	
<i>A broader range of awards to model good behaviours to others</i>	Each Friday we celebrate our school values, spellings, times tables and writing skills. At the end of term, we celebrate making mistakes, creativity, sports and values again. At the end of the school year, KS2 have a trophies and awards ceremony that again broadens the scope of recognition over time with awards for perseverance and collaboration, for example. We think this makes for a very broad range of recognition over the year and again over the entire time your child attends our school. Our pupil surveys this term asks the same question – I will share their thoughts with you soon.	

**3) My child is kept safe at school and learns about how to keep themselves safe:**

TOTAL RESPONSES		
YES	NO	UNSURE
57	2	12
CONCERN	RESPONSE or PLANNED ACTION	
<i>Concerns about bullying and other children's negative behaviours</i>	<p>Bullying, and how we deal with it, is explained in our Behaviour and Relationships policy. We also have a parent and carer guide to anti-bullying. We follow Department for Education guidance and statutory duties set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education publications. If you would like a conversation or have a real concern please follow our escalation processes and come and speak with someone quickly – you will be listened to.</p> <p>Here's a link to our policy page:  <a href="https://www.walterhallsprimary.co.uk/web/policies/642759">https://www.walterhallsprimary.co.uk/web/policies/642759</a></p>	
<i>The size of our grounds and concerns about enough supervision</i>	<p>The OPAL page on our website explains our approaches to supervision over lunchtimes. We use 'ranging' supervision approaches and follow risk assessment processes and guidance from Health &amp; Safety Executive. We will never have lots of adults to oversee children's every move at lunchtime and that will never be our intention. It is true that we have a really big site and that some children will sometimes not make great choices when they have lots of free time. If there are repeated problems, please make sure you always talk to us quickly. We have clear escalation processes in place.</p>	

**4) The school sets high expectations for my child's learning and expects them to aim high and work hard:**

TOTAL RESPONSES		
YES	NO	UNSURE
55	4	12
CONCERN	RESPONSE or PLANNED ACTION	
<i>A lack of quality homework</i>	<p>We use a research-informed approach to our Homework Policy. The Education Endowment Foundation does lots of work looking into the varying degrees of impact of different initiatives to improve learning. Homework in primary school is shown to have very low impact. Our approach is explained well in the homework policy, which is always shared in our September welcome meetings and can be found on our website:  <a href="https://www.walterhallsprimary.co.uk/web/policies/642759">https://www.walterhallsprimary.co.uk/web/policies/642759</a></p>	

5) The school nurtures my child and encourages them to become independent and decent citizens

TOTAL RESPONSES		
YES	NO	UNSURE
57	2	11
CONCERN		RESPONSE or PLANNED ACTION
<i>Attendance shouldn't be focused on, time away from school during term-time for good reasons should be authorised.</i>		See previous response regarding attendance. It is true that our attendance targets and outcomes are monitored by school improvement bodies. We follow statutory expectations for school attendance and taking term-time holiday – we don't make the rules ourselves, but we do follow them and fully support the fact that attendance matters and makes a huge difference to learning outcomes.
<i>Food menus should be reviewed with a wider range of healthier choices</i>		As a local authority school, Nottingham City Council catering teams are responsible for setting their own menus for our children. They have to follow strict guidelines for creating a balanced and healthy menu. They also listen to feedback and will ask our children what they think too – last year we took part in one of their food tasting events and our children gave them their feedback. Any thoughts or opinion will be passed forward to their team, so thank you for letting us know.

6) I am kept well-informed about how my child is doing at school via parents' evenings, informal chats or other communication channels

TOTAL RESPONSES		
YES	NO	UNSURE
60	5	6
CONCERN		RESPONSE or PLANNED ACTION
<i>Would like more frequent and more personalised feedback. Hearing more negatives rather than positives</i>		Thank you this is helpful feedback and we will discuss this balance with our teachers and as a senior leadership team. The teachers' contract requires them to formally report to parents 3-times per year. Like most schools, we hold 2 parents' evenings and then do a final end-of-year written report. Teachers will often be required to attend staff training and staff meetings after the end of each school day but if you have concerns and would like more time to discuss your child then most of our teachers will make time for this if you call the office and ask for them to ring you and chat.

7) The behaviour policy is clear, and I understand the school's approaches in dealing with and escalating negative incidents

TOTAL RESPONSES		
YES	NO	UNSURE
53	4	14
CONCERN		RESPONSE or PLANNED ACTION
<i>Concerns over free times and the dealing of incidents over break and lunch</i>		<p>See previous responses. Really clear lines of escalation are mapped out in our behaviour and anti-bullying policies and are recorded formally on digital systems. If you are concerned and want to know more, please let us know and we're happy to meet with you and chat in person about this.</p>
<i>Unsure what the school does about bullying</i>		

8) I feel comfortable in approaching the school with any concerns or problems I have

TOTAL RESPONSES		
YES	NO	UNSURE
64	1	6
CONCERN		RESPONSE or PLANNED ACTION
<i>Mostly positive comments for this one</i>		😊

9) I know who the school leaders are and who to go to with any problems or concerns

TOTAL RESPONSES		
YES	NO	UNSURE
58	4	9
CONCERN		RESPONSE or PLANNED ACTION
<i>Mostly positive comments for this one. One comment about not knowing or seeing senior leaders</i>		<p>If you're not sure who we are, our photos are on every newsletter and most days we can be found outside on the playgrounds at the start and end of days. If we're not around at these times it is because we are already in a meeting with someone. The office are really helpful at making appointments for a phone call or meeting with one of us – this can't always be immediately, but it can always be arranged as quickly as possible.</p>

10) I know the Governors of school are and have spoken to them about relevant queries that I have had

TOTAL RESPONSES		
YES	NO	UNSURE
21	39	11
CONCERN		RESPONSE or PLANNED ACTION
<i>Very split feedback here but not many comments offered.</i>		<p>This will be shared with our Governing board and is helpful feedback to see. Thank you.</p>

11) Communication and updates are clear and frequent

TOTAL RESPONSES		
YES	NO	UNSURE
65	3	3
CONCERN		RESPONSE or PLANNED ACTION
<i>Too many Dojo messages that are hard to keep track of and look back on to find the right information</i>		<p>This is really helpful feedback and will be shared with our whole staff team. I agree that the level and frequency can be way too much sometimes. It's a difficult balance between not sharing important updates and overloading everyone. We will discuss as a team how we might be able to improve this.</p>

**Other General Comments to consider:**

<b>CONCERN</b>	<b>RESPONSE or PLANNED ACTION</b>
Unhappy with going out in 'torrential' rain and getting very muddy	This shouldn't happen in really bad cases of extreme weather. We do go out in the rain though and children love getting muddy and having fun in all sorts of weathers. We are an OPAL school and fully support this approach for childhood development. Our OPAL page on the website explains why this is really good for children's overall development and happiness. Please call for a chat if you're really worried.
School should provide funded trips	I would love to be able to do this – sadly we are not funded well enough by the Government to fund external visits out or any experiences. We remain in a deficit budget, like many schools, and we now rely on fundraising to help pay for them. Happily, this year, fundraising and parent payments have covered our trips so far! The generosity of some families who pay for others also helps – thank you.
Not knowing where fundraising money goes to or where the Sports Fundraiser money went	This is always shared on our newsletter in the Community section – all fundraising goes towards making our school visits and experiences happen in every year group or it is allocated towards play resources. The sports event was promoted well and it was clearly shared in letters and messages that the proceeds would go towards new PE equipment, which is exactly what happened.
Roles for pupils should be genuine – they often don't do anything after they are picked for a role	I agree with this one. I think a lot of well-intentioned leaders have wanted to include children in their leadership roles but then find themselves with not enough time to meet with them. Our subject leaders get half a day release time a week to do a very substantial set of leadership tasks. This is the only time we can afford to cover them for. I agree this means that pupil leadership often gets left behind. I will discuss how we can improve this moving forward – thank you this is helpful feedback.
Too much TV/Film time at the very end of term – board games instead?	This should only happen on the very last days of term. We discussed having one classroom for a calm and quiet film and one classroom for board games etc. and this should have been implemented by all year groups. I will discuss this with our team.
Shall we start a litter picking initiative with parents? So much rubbish!	Yes please! Lots of rubbish blows into our site from surrounding streets and also gets dropped by people on school site too. Our focus is learning in classrooms and we always struggle for time to do this – any help by parents and our Friends of Walter Halls committee would be great! If you can help with this and want to set this initiative up, please contact the office and we will help make this happen!
More thought needs to go into homework – Twinkl colouring sheets and general craft activities not great	See homework response above. Thank you for this specific feedback about what is being sent – this will be shared with year group teams.