

## Parent Survey – Feedback from Governors January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you so much for taking the time to fill in and return the parent/carer questionnaire regarding your child/children's experience of Broomhaugh CofE First School as a Church of England School. We especially appreciate you taking the time to tell us how we are doing. Parent questionnaires are an important part of the way in which our school evaluates what we are doing well and where we can improve.

We are really pleased to report that the overwhelming majority of parents/carers are really happy with their child's experience of school. This is so brilliant to read as governors, and we are really grateful to our staff and wider school community for their continuing support. What was remarkable this year, was the number of parents/carers who used the questionnaire as an opportunity to say thank you to BFS staff for their support, dedication and friendliness this year and governors would also like to take this opportunity to echo this thanks.

We've enclosed the numerical data (apologies: it makes for cheerful but dry reading!) but have also summarised below the qualitative responses from the feedback box at the end of the questionnaire. The responses have also identified some areas in which we can do better and, in addition, we've received some helpful suggestions as to how to improve in specific areas. All of the praise, advice and suggestions will be taken on board, carefully considered and acted upon.

The survey was completed across the Federation of Broomhaugh and Corbridge CofE First Schools. If you would like to see the results from the CFS survey, they can be viewed here: [http://www.corbridgefirst.northumberland.sch.uk/website/parent\\_view\\_/522486](http://www.corbridgefirst.northumberland.sch.uk/website/parent_view_/522486)

Thank you.

Summary:

**20 responses were received.**

**1 response = 5%**

### Why did you choose Broomhaugh CE First School for your child?

- Sibling already attended and I knew the school would provide an excellent start to my child's school career, with its focus on developing the whole child in a nurturing and warm environment;
- Small school, small class sizes and great staff;
- Great small school with small class sizes and great staff;
- Local school;
- Broomhaugh had a great reputation and we knew other people whose children attended Broomhaugh;
- Local school, good reputation;
- Proximity to home;
- We live in the village and a sibling was currently there;
- We moved to the area and Broomhaugh was our catchment school;
- It is our village school;

- I chose it because his sister was there and because he knew the school well after spending so much time next door at the outdoor preschool. Also, because it has small classes and a strong reputation in the area;
- Attended adjacent preschool so most friends were going to Broomhaugh. Love that it's small and friendly!
- Proximity to home;
- I had heard good things about the school such as its family and community values;
- My other son went here. The smaller size of the school;
- Friendly small school. Good reputation. Location;
- We weren't happy with the direction (another school) was going, plus we'd heard great things about Broomhaugh and liked the fact that the school was "Outstanding".
- Unhappy with closest school, which made us consider other schools. Small class size and school, loving atmosphere, promoting individuality, Flexi schooling arrangement.
- Local to us and a good reputation.

**What do you think makes Broomhaugh CE First School a distinctly Christian school?**

- Broomhaugh has great interactions with the local church and a Christian approach including worship and lessons on how to treat others as you would like to be treated;
- Worship;
- Promotion of the Christian Values across school, close links with church and Rev Diana;
- Teaches and practices Christian values;
- Teaching of Christian values and putting them into practice on a daily basis;
- Close links to the church;
- The Christian values that it upholds;
- Clear in links with St James', services, activities, teaching and communications to parents;
- It has regular visits from the local vicar, they use Christian values for the children to follow, they have a strong RE curriculum and attend church for special occasions;
- The reference to Christian values throughout the children's time in school and the worshipping;
- The use of the church;
- The things the children are taught in worship;
- The Christian values taught to the children;
- Good teaching of values and link with local church;
- Morning Christian assemblies, regular church services and teaching of core Christian beliefs. Even as an atheist myself, I still think this is extremely important in England - a country that has been traditionally Christian;
- Teaching the children Christian values;
- Values.

**75% of respondents said school fully upholds the vision of, 'Inspired by Jesus, we make a difference in God's world by being the best we can be' (with a further 20% of respondents "unsure").**

**95% of respondents believe that our Christian Values give the children an understand of how to act in a Christian way towards each other (with the remaining respondent unsure).**

**95% of respondents attend the church services.**

**Do you have any comments about the church services?**

- Always warmly welcomed by Rev Diana and her team. A beautiful and calm place for our pupils to have links too;
- All very child friendly services;
- Uniquely child focused services delivered in a child friendly way;
- Rev Diana is excellent with the children and making faith accessible and approachable without it feeling enforced;
- I attend these when I am able to and always find them lovely;
- There is so much thought that goes into the service. The children and parents seem to enjoy them. I know I do despite being from another faith;
- The children are so lucky to have such a lovely building available to them. it's wonderful to see Rev Diana's enthusiasm and clear knowledge of the children. and it's nice that other members of the church help out. please keep doing them, they're always brilliant;
- It was a sound traditional nativity with good singing from the children. There was less enthusiasm from the adults around!
- Really enjoy the relaxed nature of the services, and how Diana can talk to and relate to the children;
- The vicar is very friendly;
- Friendly and welcoming;
- Great services. Love seeing all the kids there being so happy and an opportunity for the parents to see them all together;
- Lovely!

**65% of respondents said that their child talks about Collective Worship in school. No concerns were raised about Collective Worship.**

**Do you have any comments about Collective Worship?**

- My children seem to enjoy collective worship;
- I'm not sure what is included but I hope that there is discussion regarding all religions and also those who are not religious;
- I am not sure what this refers to but my child definitely talks about workshop and what she has learnt;
- It feels balanced and appropriate and reinforces values well;
- Sometimes they children enjoy discussing the topics that have come up;
- My child enjoys the time and is taught in an open way;
- It's great to have that.

**The Bible tells us that we must care for our neighbours at home and across the world. What do you think about the opportunities in school to support charitable causes?**

- It has been lovely to see local charities benefitting from school fundraising, as well as national charities;
- I think supporting charities through school is a great initiative which is a continuation of what a lot of families practice at home;
- I think these are very valuable lesson for the children. There is great value in helping others. Assisting local charities is always a good starting point;
- I think there are great opportunities. It would be lovely to canvas the parents to see what causes the school could support;
- I feel that there are enough opportunities;

- It fine to support charities but I think seeing what they are raising money for by having trips to the soup kitchens, shelters to see what it is like. will have a bigger impact;
- Not sure but plenty of opportunities to support charities;
- I understand it's a hard area for school to balance. Riding Mill is generally a well-off place so sometimes I feel we could do more but there are a lot of asks of families to. Could school adopt one cause for a year or a term and children learn about that cause and fundraising is focused on that? Could also include ideas for extra support from families in their own time at home if they want to do that;
- There are opportunities for the children to support charitable causes. It is a shame the children and the school don't support the charity who operates on its doorstep. I doubt anyone even realises that the outdoor preschool is a charitable cause. It also seems like the PTA has been disbanded which was a charitable cause within the walls of the school;
- I think it's really nice that local charities have been chosen recently;
- I think there are enough opportunities;
- Not great. I think the children could learn about and support more charities;
- Encouraged well;
- I'd prefer they were domestic/local charities so there's more transparency re where the money is going and that it has been received;
- Disappointed to not take part in anything for Children in Need (comic relief also coming up?). Parents would happily donate and have a non- uniform day

**Spirituality is a core component to, 'Living life in all its fulness' as the mind, body and soul need to be nurtured equally. What do you think about the opportunities given to develop your own and your child/children's spirituality at school?**

- Broomhaugh very clearly nurtures the whole-child, with children encouraged to grow and develop as individuals who believe they all have something special to offer the world;
- I'm not currently aware of examples of helping the children identify or develop their own spiritual awareness;
- Good;
- They have a lot of opportunities which is great;
- I agree that all should be nurtured equally;
- It is good to experience different opportunities;
- I am sure that there are plenty of opportunities and they are welcome without being too enforced;
- I do feel this is an area school are getting right. spirituality is very personal but nothing feels pushed. There is space for individuals within the school and space to explore more. Keep going with what you are doing because it feels gentle and kind and that is what is needed of a first school;
- As a parent there are few opportunities to nurture my mind, body and soul at school - I wouldn't want there to be!
- I think there are some opportunities for the children to develop their spirituality but I would be interested to know what they are;
- I agree that all needs to be nurtured equally;
- I've only heard of mindful breathing being introduced can't really comment on this;
- I don't think I have seen any opportunities for my child;
- Good range of teaching and activities;

- The more rounded education, the better. I just want them to be exposed to as many ideas as possible (without indoctrination) so they can make up their own minds and learn critical thinking.

**In your view, is there anything that could improve Broomhaugh as a Christian school?**

- Teachers know best. In them we trust!
- I'm sure some may say there is always more that could be done but I'm of the opinion that the teaching staff know best. Being a Christian school without becoming too 'Goddy' must be a delicate balance;
- No;
- I think it's a lovely school with great children and fabulous teachers. We feel very fortunate that our children can attend such a great school;
- Carry on teaching and exploring other faiths and beliefs and carry on developing children with kind, questioning minds;
- The adults who have input into the spiritual lives of our children could get to know Jesus and his teachings. They could act in love, generosity and kindness in all their communications and dealings around the community. I am certain that if Jesus was at work amongst the leaders of this school They would not be evicting the children and families who have made the land adjacent their second home and nurture and care for children there with love and kindness;
- In practical terms for the school itself - really listen to the children, they will tell you everything you need to know. There are none as close to God as the children. Forget thinking of the practicalities of curriculum, the government, the money, the church and listen to what the children are telling you;
- No;
- My child enjoys the learning and opportunities provided;
- No.

**Additional Comments**

- Love this little school and the family within xxx
- I feel very fortunate that my little people are able to be part of such a lovely little school
- I don't have any but am very happy with the school!
- I would like less focus on religious points as demonstrated in this survey and more on general wellbeing irrespective of belief as not all families are Christian who attend the school. There isn't the opportunity to choose another school in the area that is not supported by a church in some way. I understand that it is C of E aided but it is not a church school and I feel in recent times there has been an increase in religious focus.
- Could we remove the movie watching at end of term and have more outdoor play/crafting etc? I don't feel it's appropriate to watch movies during school hours unless it is specifically related to school work.
- Brilliant school and dedicated professional staff that work so hard to be on top of everything. you are so attentive to the need of your students - the Christian values are very central and although being of a different faith, I am very proud that my child has these values and they are digestible to young minds without being overpowering.
- A big thank you to all! we know you are doing your best daily for the children. thank you for the opportunities you give the children.

- None. I think it's a great school and my child seems to be flourishing there. Thank you.

**Information shared from the Federated Governing Body of Broomhaugh and Corbridge First Schools.**

**Compiled by Elisabeth Charman and Gayle Baty.**

**On the following page please find some responses from Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Burton and Miss. Storey.**

## Parent Survey – Responses collected Autumn 2024

- I'm not sure what is included but I hope that there is discussion regarding all religions and also those who are not religious.

The Church of England is a faith that is invitational and open to all, welcoming individuals from all walks of life to explore and engage with its teachings. Rooted in the Christian tradition, it emphasises inclusivity, fostering a sense of belonging and community for people regardless of background or belief/non-belief. During worship, we encourage open dialogue, spiritual growth and mutual respect, in an invitational way.

Our Collective Worship is based around Picture News: <https://picture-news.co.uk/> Each week, they transform a current news story into a ready-made pack for assemblies and classrooms with clear links to the Bible, British Values and Protected Characteristics. This helps to develop the children's understanding of the wider world in an age-appropriate way. Reverend Diana visits each week to work with the prayer leaders.

Festivals from all of the world's religions are discussed and celebrated during this time.

Next steps: We will send further information about the structure and content of Collective Worship and create a dedicated area on the school website for this.

- It fine to support charities but I think seeing what they are raising money for by having trips to the soup kitchens, shelters to see what it is like. will have a bigger impact.

We are pleased to welcome visitors to our school, where they have the opportunity to speak to our students and share their valuable insights. This includes representatives from local charities, such as food banks, who provide important learning experiences for our students about community involvement, empathy and social responsibility.

If you have any suggestions, please do get in touch!

- There are opportunities for the children to support charitable causes. It is a shame the children and the school don't support the charity who operates on its doorstep. I doubt anyone even realises that the outdoor preschool is a charitable cause. It also seems like the PTA has been disbanded which was a charitable cause within the walls of the school.

Last year, the school council collected nominations for local charities to support and then held a vote to select the ones they would focus on, choosing Tanga Club. This process allowed students to have a say in which causes are important to them and how they can make a positive impact in the community. It fosters a sense of responsibility and encourages students to engage with charitable work, promoting empathy and giving back to those in need: the core principles of courageous advocacy. School council also visited Tanga Club to see their work in action. The charity will be in place for two years, before new charities are nominated and chosen.

The PTA did disband and the Broomhaugh Fundraising Committee was set up by a team of volunteers. So far, they have held a disco, wreath making, organised the Christmas hamper raffle and helped with the wildlife photography competition. More plans are on the way, so watch this space! Please do get in touch if you would like to be involved.

- I'd prefer they were domestic/local charities so there's more transparency re where the money is going and that it has been received.  
See above answer.
- Disappointed to not take part in anything for Children in Need (comic relief also coming up?). Parents would happily donate and have a non- uniform day.  
As we have chosen to support local charities, we've decided to move away from supporting national charities for now. This approach allows us to focus our efforts on causes closer to home, ensuring that we can make a more direct impact without overwhelming the children with too many initiatives or non-uniform days, which can cause dysregulation. By concentrating on local charities, we aim to create a more manageable and meaningful experience for students, allowing them to see the tangible results of their contributions while still fostering a sense of community and responsibility.
- The adults who have input into the spiritual lives of our children could get to know Jesus and his teachings. They could act in love, generosity and kindness in all their communications and dealings around the community. I am certain that if Jesus was at work amongst the leaders of this school They would not be evicting the children and families who have made the land adjacent their second home and nurture and care for children there with love and kindness.  
Thank you for sharing your thoughts so thoroughly. We deeply value the importance of love, kindness and generosity in guiding the spiritual lives of our students and staff in line with our core Christian Values. We are committed to reflecting these values in our interactions and decisions. This was not a decision the governing body of Broomhaugh First School took lightly and was only made reluctantly due to a specific set of circumstances and with considerations of Broomhaugh First School children at the forefront of their minds.
- Could we remove the movie watching at end of term and have more outdoor play/crafting etc? I don't feel it's appropriate to watch movies during school hours unless it is specifically related to school work.  
Television and films are used appropriately by staff in school to enhance the curriculum. This may include accessing news reports through Newsround to facilitate discussion with children or accessing documentaries or other media specific to learning objectives in class, such as Explorify in science or Numberblocks in maths. Films can be shown at the end of term as a treat, but children are always given the opportunity to access other games and activities if they do not want to watch.

Moving forward: A review of screen time in school to take place. If any non-educational content is being used, the rationale for this will be discussed.

Once again, we thank you. We have an open-door policy at school and are always available to answer questions and provide clarification – big and small! By working together, we can ensure we are always the best we can be here at Broomhaugh CE First School.