



## Our Lady and St Thomas RCVA Primary - Parent Questionnaire Results November 2019



*Many thanks to our parents and carers for your feedback this term. OLST prides itself on the strong partnership we enjoy with our families  
Your comments are essential in ensuring we always do our very best for your children and that our provision continues to be outstanding.*

### What we do well:

#### Quality of Education:

- Everything!
- My children are thriving in OLST.
- They are supported as individuals and all teachers and staff know them all.
- I am proud that my children attend OLST.
- Fantastic supportive teachers.
- What is being taught is very impressive!
- Teaching is rigorous and necessary to get a good education.
- Great monitoring of my child's learning journey.
- Ensures that my child can learn, grow and develop their own potential.
- My child has just started OLST and talks constantly about what she has been doing at school.
- My child says every day that she enjoys going to school and loves breakfast club.
- My daughter is often excited to show us her homework and enjoys spending time completing it.
- A very high standard of teaching.
- Parents Evenings, assessments and after school clubs are a strength.
- Overall we are very happy with school.

#### Safeguarding:

- OLST makes sure they provide a caring and safe environment for children.
- The school environment is very friendly and welcoming.
- Provides a safe, caring environment and the correct support when needed.
- The feel of the school is very welcoming, both through staff and the environment.
- My child has been welcomed into OLST and settled well.
- My daughter was new into Y5 and has been welcomed and looked after by all staff and pupils at OLST. I as a parent am very happy with her school and my daughter is a very happy and settled little girl.  
Mrs Brown has a caring, nurturing and gentle approach, perfect for this age group.

**Leadership and Management:**

- The school is well led and organised.
- Excellent home/school links.
- Excellent extra-curricular clubs.
- Behaviour management is good – all pupils I have seen have been well dressed and very polite.
- I truly feel supported by all staff members at OLST. We had a challenging year as a family and OLST have made this more manageable. I have felt empathy and support without any negative judgement. I am proud my children attend OLST.
- OLST supports families and individual needs.
- OLST has supported us through financial difficulty.
- My child has been supported to explore his feelings, helping him to understand his emotions and reassuring him that it is okay to feel sad sometimes.
- My children feel safe and comfortable in school, allowing them to just be ‘themselves’ and be proud of who they are.
- Keep parents well informed, celebrates all events.
- Getting involved with different charity events.
- I feel that the school and staff keep me well informed about activities and it has been a joy to walk into school every time, everyone is very welcoming.
- Supports my child and myself when needed.
- Has an open door policy.
- Is welcoming and inviting.
- OLST makes sure they provide a caring and safe environment for the children.

<p><b>What we could do to improve:</b> (8 suggestions from parents out of 88 families which I have grouped into categories).</p>	<p><b>School Comments and Actions:</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sometimes more clarifications in texts or on newsletters/calendar (x1)</li> <li>• Information sessions/workshops on teaching methods or information sent home to help parents with homework/ phonics support – correct pronunciation materials.</li> </ul>	<p>We are thrilled that there was only one comment about communication, which we have worked hard on. We have a new social media Facebook Page which in addition to our text messages, website and monthly newsletters gives you timely updates/ reminders and an insight into life at OLST. We will utilise this more in the Spring term.</p> <p>Many thanks for this suggestion. Although we have tried to ensure you feel able to support your child at home – there is more we can do.</p> <p>OLST held ‘Welcome to Class’ sessions across the whole school in September which aimed to provide parents with these materials. These sessions had very few parents attend. Staff aimed to address</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Links to websites aimed at parents.</li> <li>• Support to encourage child further at home – spellings, effective ways of practising timetables. (x3)</li> <li>• Homework is important – at least every two weeks (x1).</li> <li>• An online journal where parents can put updates on about family activities or things we have done outside of school that the children enjoy. We had this at nursery that was well received.</li> <li>• More information available for the children first starting school – what they need to bring in the first week and what to expect (x2).</li> <li>• Wrap Around Care (x1)</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">supporting parents at parents night with support materials and information about age related expectations and homework.</a></p> <p>We will produce a class newsletter termly outlining the learning, websites and apps and messages for the term ahead.</p> <p>OLST will also host family learning opportunities and workshops for you to come into school and join a class lesson or to share our teaching methods and strategies to keep you fully involved and informed.</p> <p>The homework debate is a national one. At OLST we have explored the most effective ways of reinforcing learning at home and trialled some over the Autumn term. Many thanks for your support. We have children that do their homework religiously but struggle with spellings and multiplication tables in school, homework that is rushed or not done at all and many parents who have said that they are too busy with family commitments at weekends. OLST is trying to navigate this and find a happy medium so that it is effective for all.</p> <p>Class teachers have worked with parents and pupils to decide the way forward for an individual class as each class has different priorities.</p> <p>OLST is having a push on the non-negotiables – reading x 5 per week, spending at least ten minutes a night on reading, spelling or timetables and ensuring that all the multiplication tables are learnt by heart as this is the new national expectation for Year 4.</p> <p>Short bursts of homework daily is proven to ensure children commit this knowledge to their long term memory and remember it.</p> <p>Teachers will communicate their individual class expectations again in their class Spring term newsletter.</p> <p>This is an idea we will explore. This could further enhance the school’s provision and pupil’s transition into the EYFS.</p> <p>We have a strong induction into school ensuring all our new children settle quickly and learn new routines. Pupils have three stay and plays initially supported by parents then on their own to ensure a smooth transition from nursery. We also have an Induction Evening for parents with Mrs Brown available to answer any queries. We will add some extra literature into our ‘Welcome Packs’ and make this more explicit.</p> <p>OLST is exploring this and hopes to provide this facility in the Spring/Summer for our working families. We are currently evaluating viability, staffing costs and insurance – watch this space.</p>
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## **Governor Comments:**

Parents and carers are one of the most vital stakeholder groups that we as the Governing Board communicates with and gathering and listening to your views and feedback is crucial to our school's success.

Engaging with you provides a key insight into our school, ensures we demonstrate transparency and informs better decision-making.

This partnership helps us to deliver the best educational outcomes for every pupil and helps parents and carers to gain a better understanding of what your children are learning at school.

So many thanks for responding to our recent questionnaire and we hope that the website, and our new social media Facebook Page will help to further develop the vital partnership between parents and our school.

We are committed to identifying ongoing interventions that are effective in supporting parental involvement.

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Governing Body to wish you and your families a very happy, peaceful Christmas and look forward to working with you in the New Year.