

Parental feedback from July 2018
Stars (the things you really like about St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery)
'Similar' responses have been grouped together

Many thanks for all your 'stars'. It is great to receive feedback on things you feel are going well. It is also encouraging to hear that amendments we make in school are having a positive impact on the children and yourselves.

Parental star – Staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *A big thank you to all the staff of St. George's for successfully completing another year in the education of our children. I would also like to note how nice and welcoming Mrs Reeder, Miss Chase and Miss Harper are in breakfast club. *Many thanks to Mr Simmons and the rest of the team in his class this year. They have been lovely. *Friendly and approachable teachers. Great to have male teachers too. *I like the way all staff are friendly and approachable. *I would like to thank Mrs Wright and Miss Chase for their excellent teaching skills. My child has thoroughly enjoyed his time in Y3. *All the staff that teach my children are always very helpful and always available to talk to. *Staff and teachers always helpful. *I really like the staff and teachers. All are very friendly. *Teachers work alongside the children to improve home/school life. *Mr Simmons is a very good teacher. We have seen a great change in our son's personality and educational ability this year. *Very passionate teaching staff, giving up own time to focus on extra-curricular clubs and children's developmental needs. Eg – SEND – great improvement since Mrs O'Brien took over the role. *Staff are always very welcoming and approachable in the morning or at the end of the day if you need to pass a message to them, we always feel that is ok. We like that Mr Grogan is around in the morning welcoming children and parents, his presence is important and again shows how easy it is if you need to ask a quick question.
Parental star – Extra-curricular activities/Community events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *I really like the wide variety of after school and lunchtime clubs in St. George's. I also like the fact that the Eco Club ran for the entire year. Well done to Miss Harper and Mrs Rigby for running it so successfully. *Fantastic sports opportunities for everyone, not just those that are sporty already. I think it's important for every child to at least have a go. You don't know if you like it unless you try it. *The choice of after school clubs and cost of the clubs are great value. My daughter enjoys attending the clubs and found some of them very educational. *The school trip to the Christmas pantomime and also other school activities i.e. music concerts, mosque visit and crucial crew. *Very good community links. Teaching the children the importance of their local community/church etc. *Wide variety of after school clubs which means there is something for everyone and encourages the children to get involved and be more part of the school community.
Parental star – Communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Love the interaction through Tapestry and Twitter showing us what they are doing on a daily basis. *I like the communication via Facebook/Twitter. It's great to see what the children have been up to. *I find the text messaging updates really useful. *Very communicative i.e. SMS, emails and the school App. *The use of Tapestry App which allows you to share experiences of home and see more of what the children have been up to and how they are progressing. Loved the video of the wedding and recordings from assembly. We will be sad not to continue using it next year.
Parental star – Children
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *I like the way that children are always polite to visiting adults i.e. holding doors open.
Parental star – Open door policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *We enjoy the stay and play sessions so we can see what they are doing in school. *Parents' evening feedback and detail. *I love the stay and play sessions.
Parental star – PE kits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Children going to school in their PE kits, rather than changing in the classroom. It is easier for the children and must save time, giving more time for the actual PE lesson.
Parental star – Provision/Ethos
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Outside learning improves every year for the children. *I am happy about the level of education school is providing for my child. *Breakfast club. *I really enjoy the assemblies, just a shame that each class only does one worship a year. *I enjoyed our first sports day recently. *A positive and happy school. *The 'TEAM' initiative is fantastic – it gives children an incentive to motivate them to try harder. *We love the class assemblies and being invited to the stay and play sessions. School is such a big part of their life and it is lovely to share in it and it helps them to remember more about what they have been up to.

Wishes (ways that you think we could improve St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery)

'Similar' responses have been grouped together

Parental wish – Mixed classes	School response
<p>*Each year group better streamlined into just one or two classes for each year rather than mixing them oldest/youngest.</p> <p>*Obviously, that there are no more mixed classes at St. George's Central!! Regardless of financial constraints, admission numbers or space in school children should be with their peers and not discriminated against on either age or ability. Please bring St. George's in line with ALL the other schools in the Tyldesley area and have either two classes per year group or only 30 children per year.</p>	<p><i>Our annual intake number is set by the local authority and, because of our available space in school and our budget allocation, this means that we have to have mixed year group classes. It would not be financially viable to organise our children in 'straight age classes' throughout school as this would mean that we have to increase the number of classrooms we currently have by three. In addition to this, in order to meet statutory requirements, we would have to employ three more full time teachers. In total, that would cost approximately £800,000 which is a very large majority of our annual school budget.</i></p> <p><i>With regards to this 'wish', I have done everything currently in my control to ensure that our children are taught in straight age classes and there is currently nothing further I can do.</i></p>
Parental wish – Filming	School response
<p>*You should be able to purchase videos of the school assemblies or performances as you are not allowed to do your own.</p>	<p><i>The KS2 performance at the end of the year is professionally filmed and the Y6 children who are the main actors, are given a free copy as a leavers gift. I have never really thought before about asking the person who does the filming for us to do the same for our Nursery, Reception and KS1 performances at Christmas and so I will make arrangements for this straight away. We will most likely have to charge for this – I will provide you with an update with the progress I make with this in the November newsletter (23/11/18).</i></p> <p><i>Dates for all productions and Class Worships are published in the key dates letter, which this year, was emailed out to you before we broke for summer (this is also on the opening page of our website and paper copies are in the letter holders in the entrance area). In doing this we aim to give advanced notice so that you are able to make suitable arrangements should you work. Although we do realise that we cannot control if you are able to take time from work and so for those people unable to attend, we provide images on our school Facebook and class Twitter accounts.</i></p>
Parental wish – Awards	School response
<p>*A child to receive some kind of achievement award when retaining 100% attendance throughout the entire year. It is a shame if the class doesn't reach 100% but the individual does.</p>	<p><i>I think we could look at rewarding children in school with the highest attendance at the end of the year. For me, it would give mixed messages if we just rewarded the 100% attendance children as while 100% attendance is a good thing and something that we would whole heartedly encourage, under the policy section of our website we have the 'Guidance for Infection Control' which 'encourages' children who are ill to remain off school. This year we have set ourselves a target that all children can achieve 98%+ attendance for the year.</i></p> <p><i>We could therefore, reward the 100% attendance children as well as the children from each class with the highest attendance. We could then factor this into our annual prize giving at the end of the school year? We could maybe include termly rewards for this? We will discuss rewarding attendance at both staff and school council meetings to see what we can put in place.</i></p>
Parental wish – Online Payments	School response
<p>*The online payment system was more user friendly and you could pay for everything online, rather than only certain things.</p>	<p><i>From my own experience using online payment systems, I would agree that I am yet to come across a system that is totally user friendly. All school items (except play tickets) can now be paid online. This now includes extra-curricular clubs online. As we issue seat numbers with school play tickets at the time of purchase this cannot be added to our online system. The only things that cannot be paid online are things where an external company is involved This includes: school photographs, Let's Sing and £1 contributions for Children in Need/Comic Relief etc.</i></p>
Parental wish – Parking	School response
<p>Also stop people parking on the 'zig zag' lines outside school as they are putting children in to real danger!!!</p>	<p><i>I am fully aware of the issues with the car parking restrictions with Darlington St and I agree that there are some people who put children (and more recently) adults in physical danger! School would find it difficult to 'police' parking arrangements outside school and I wouldn't recommend to any of our staff to start approaching cars on the street. Traffic Enforcement Officers do appear from time to time, however, I will make contact with them to see if they can increase their patrols in our area.</i></p>

Parental wish – Sports Day	School response
<p>*That sports day was in a more of the old fashioned style with the children competing against each other directly, still working in teams. I think it would build more of an atmosphere and children's/parents cheering on their team. Some children's strengths may not be academic and it would give others time to shine. Healthy competition is something they will have to face throughout their lives.</p> <p>*.....Also sports day should be competitive, the children have no drive.</p>	<p><i>Our approach to sports day ensures that children have an opportunity to 'have a go' and master a variety of different sporting events (long jump, javelin, triple jump etc). There are many reasons why we approach our sports days in the way we do:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>*Children have an opportunity with a wider range of events;</i> <i>*Children are competing against 'national standards';</i> <i>*Children are 'competing' against themselves year on year (so it is based on individual merit);</i> <i>*It is more inclusive and our % uptake in our sports day is very high;</i> <i>*We feel that our events are more effective in preparing children for future sporting events, for example: we choose speed bounce as opposed to a sack race etc;</i> <p><i>This year we will be doing something different. On our usual KS2 Sports Day, we will continue to include the optional 'good old fashioned running races' at the end so that children do have the opportunity to compete against others and there can be an atmosphere created as you cheer the children (and some parents and staff on). But on Friday 28th June, we will be having a 'KS2 Sports Afternoon' where children will be competing directly against each other. We do not know what the final version of this will look like yet and so if you have any ideas that you could contribute to this, then please let Mr Cooke know in school.</i></p> <p><i>There is plenty of healthy competition in our school and children are given an opportunity to shine, we just manage it in a different way. Some children who are not 'sporty' can feel demoralised if they see that they always come last with such a large audience watching. The way we do it, the children compete against the stopwatch (and themselves, year on year) as they aim to beat their previous time.</i></p> <p><i>We wouldn't demonstrate individual performance in any other subjects with such a large audience: For example: we wouldn't read out Maths test scores or Spelling test scores in class as this would demotivate children with low scores and 'turn them off' that particular subject. We are aiming to inspire healthy lifestyles and create a love of the subject area, no matter what the 'performance level' of the children and that's why we plan our inclusive sports day, the way we do.</i></p>
Parental wish – Stay and Plays	School response
<p>*There were more stay and plays</p>	<p><i>Throughout the year there are many opportunities for you to come into school to see your children 'celebrate' their learning. There are the Open afternoons (twice a year), a sports day and a class worship (with a stay and play session afterwards for Nursery and Reception). As well as the above, we also have two 'stay and play' sessions in Nursery after the Christmas productions and Reception have an annual 'Pirate Fashion Show'.</i></p> <p><i>Last year, as well as the above, Nursery held three further 'stay and play' sessions, therefore I agree that we could look into providing further opportunities for you to come into your child's class. Look out for the termly dates letters that will be emailed out to you (paper copies in the letter holders in the entrance area) which, over the year, will outline opportunities for you to come into school.</i></p>
Parental wish – Dance and Drama	School response
<p>*I would like to see dance and drama given as much recognition in terms of events and achievements as the other arts i.e. music and drawing</p>	<p><i>All areas are given recognition – we have a dance club each week led by staff: children work towards putting a dance together for a final performance at an event involving other local schools in November for KS2 and March for KS1. In the Autumn term, there is a dance club led by leaders from Fred Longworth High School. Again, children come together to put on a performance at the high school each Christmas.</i></p> <p><i>In terms of drama/speaking and listening, last year, Y6 children led a lunch time drama club, our children contribute in school and in church at the Harvest Festival, KS2 Christmas service, Nursery and KS1 Christmas performances, Mothering Sunday, KS2 Easter Service and the KS2 end of year production. Each week we have a celebration assembly on a Friday, where the children receive merit certificates for a wide variety of areas. Many children receive certificates for dance and drama activities.</i></p> <p><i>After seeing the excellent performance of our children in the KS2 production last year, I am keen to explore this area further with our children.</i></p>

Parental wish – Information sent home	School response
<p>*Less paperwork coming home and less activities that full time working parents cannot attend.</p>	<p><i>We aim to keep emails/paperwork sent home to a minimum. We produce a monthly newsletter as opposed to a weekly one and prefer to send half termly information out (dates and clubs letters).</i></p> <p><i>We do usually plan lots of parent/carer activities/information sessions in a variety of areas. When we plan these, we do sometimes provide session beyond the school day for working parents. I have previously consulted on this but maybe it is time to consult again?!</i></p> <p><i>However I do exercise caution with this as we have planned many activities and sessions in an evening and then very few or no people have attended. One main example of this is with our parent/carer ‘drop-ins’ in December and July. We have included these in our calendar of events from a previous parent ‘wish’ as he felt parents would wish to discuss their child’s progress at the end of the first term and then again at the end of the year once the child has received their annual report. And so on these nights, teachers are available in school from 3pm until 6pm to speak to you about your child and their progress and annual report. Very few people attend these sessions with many teachers having no one return to school. I can therefore understand our teachers frustration with me when they are asked to stay for a total of four ‘parents evenings’ (we already provide two other formal parents’ evenings across the school year)</i></p>
Parental wish – Breakfast Club	School response
<p>I’m also very disappointed with the breakfast club solution for children.</p>	<p><i>I am sorry that you feel disappointed but I am unsure what the ‘...breakfast club solution...’ is that you are referring to. Please contact the school office to make an appointment with me so that I can fully investigate.</i></p>
Parental wish – Environment	School response
<p>*To remove most of the grass areas from outside Year 4 door as it is not safe for children and parents.</p>	<p><i>Having spent some time in this area of school, I tend to agree with you. We are currently in contact with some building companies about making the necessary amendments in this area of school. Please bear with us as this will take time. For the time being, please exercise caution in this area.</i></p>
Parental wish – After school provision/opportunities	School response
<p>*An afternoon club like breakfast club to help working parents.</p> <p>*Introduce before/after school care and holiday clubs. Would be invaluable resource for working parents.</p> <p>*I would like St. George’s to arrange to have a music club after school if possible featuring various instruments.</p>	<p><i>An after school club, like breakfast club, has been considered as an option in the past and is something we may consider in the future. I’ll keep you informed as soon as I have any further news with this area.</i></p> <p><i>There are plans for our school, in collaboration with other local schools, to host the ‘ATSA All Sports Holiday Provision’. With this, there will be an opportunity for some of our KS2 children to attend some sessions.</i></p> <p><i>This is a great idea and one that we have already ‘actioned’. You may have seen from our recent ‘Extra Curricular clubs letter’ how we have included the child led club: Magical Music which takes place at lunch times in the music room in the extension.</i></p>



Mr M Grogan
Headteacher
Friday 28th September 2018