

# **Survey of Whitleigh Community Primary School Parents and Carers: Initial Findings**

## **1. Introduction**

Following publication of the Ofsted report on Whitleigh Community Primary School Maggie Graham, Parent Support Adviser, organised four focus groups for parents to gather their views about the school. Ten key themes arose from the Focus Groups, and a questionnaire encompassing each of these themes was designed in order to find out what all parents<sup>1</sup> think and feel about the school (see Appendix 1). Forty three questionnaires were returned by parents and carers giving a response rate of 15%, and these were analysed by Plymouth Parent Partnership.<sup>2</sup>

## **2. Findings**

### **2.1 Aspirations for the performance of pupils**

Information	% Yes	% No	% Don't Know
Governing Body (n=43)	58.1	20.9	20.9
School Leadership Team (n=43)	67.4	7.0	25.6
Teaching Staff (n=43)	83.7	2.3	14.0
Support Staff (n=43)	83.7	4.7	11.1

#### **2.1.1 Governing Body**

Just under 3 in 5 parents (58.1%) considered that the Governing Body has high enough aspirations for the performance of pupils at Whitleigh Community Primary School, whilst around 1 in 5 (20.9%) did not consider this to be the case and around 1 in 5 (20.9%) were unsure.

---

<sup>1</sup> Throughout this document the word 'parent' is taken to include all those with a direct responsibility for parenting. These might be birth parents, step-parents, grandparents or other members of the family, foster or adoptive parents or other adult caregivers.

<sup>2</sup> Plymouth Parent Partnership analysed the questionnaire using SPSS (originally Statistical Package for the Social Sciences), a computer program that can be used to analyse data.

The following illustrative comments<sup>3</sup> were also made by parents:

<p><b>Yes</b> <i>"Some members have"</i></p>
<p><b>No</b> <i>"Need to have more focus!"</i></p> <p><i>"Never met them do not know who they are"</i></p> <p><i>"Not enough governors for the no. of students"</i></p> <p><i>"Having written to the Governors about concerns and receiving an inadequate reply I believe they are all useless"</i></p>
<p><b>Don't Know</b> <i>"Not sure because we do not know enough about the governing body role in the school"</i></p> <p><i>"Don't know what they do?"</i></p>

### 2.1.2 School Leadership Team

Just over 2 in 3 (67.4%) parents considered that the School Leadership Team has high enough aspirations for the performance of pupils at Whitleigh Community Primary School, whilst less than 1 in 10 (7.0%) did not consider this to be the case and just over 1 in 4 (25.6%) were unsure. The following illustrative comments were also made by parents:

<p><b>Yes</b> <i>"Keen for children to improve and impressed by motivation"</i></p>
<p><b>No</b> <i>"Wasn't invited to there last parent/team meeting. Sorry don't know there aspirations"</i></p>
<p><b>Don't Know</b> <i>"Don't know who this is"</i></p> <p><i>"Don't know what they do"</i></p>

---

<sup>3</sup> Throughout this document the researchers have sought to achieve a balanced selection of comments from individual parents to illustrate the range of views expressed. This is additional to the quantitative analysis of parents' responses to the given question. All comments are typed exactly as received with no change to spelling, grammar, punctuation etc.

### 2.1.3 Teaching staff

Over 4 in 5(83.7%) parents considered that the Teaching Staff have high enough aspirations for the performance of pupils at Whiteleigh Community Primary School, whilst fewer than 1 in 20 (2.3%) did not consider this to be the case and 14.0% were unsure. The following illustrative comments were also made by parents:

**Yes**

*“Although I feel the mixed classes age groups may lower their aspirations than they could be”*

*“Some, but don’t act on aspirations just go with the flow”*

*“Always impressed by enthusiasm of teachers – keen to provide positive environment”*

**No**

*“Not all staff”*

*“Depends on which teachers of which year groups”*

### 2.1.4. Support Staff

Over 4 in 5(83.7%) parents considered that the Support Staff have high enough aspirations for the performance of pupils at Whiteleigh Community Primary School, whilst fewer than 1 in 20 (4.7%) did not consider this to be the case and just over 1 in 10 (11.1%) were unsure. The following illustrative comments were also made by parents:

**Yes**

*“Some T.A’s”*

**Don’t Know**

*“Don’t know enough to comment”*

## 2.2 Receive sufficient information

Information	% Yes	% No
What kind of behaviour the school expects of your child (n=40)	95.0	5.0
Your child's targets (n=40)	80.0	20.0
How well your child is doing (n=40)	77.5	22.5
School policies (e.g. bullying, holidays in term time etc.) (n=41)	75.6	24.4
What your child is taught (n=41)	70.7	29.3
Transition (e.g. from Infants/junior/secondary school) (n=38)	68.4	31.5
SATs (n=32)	46.8	53.1

The majority of parents (95.0%) indicated that they received sufficient information about what kind of behaviour the school expects of their child, and 4 in 5 stated that they received sufficient information about their child's targets (80.0%). Around three quarters indicated that they received sufficient information about how well their child is doing (77.5%) and about school policies (75.6%). 70.7% of parents indicated that they received sufficient information about what their child is taught and around 2 in 3 (68.4%) said this was the case in terms of information about transitions. Just under than half of the parents (46.8%) considered that they received sufficient information about SATs.

## 2.3 Receiving information from the school

Method	% Yes	% No
Newsletter (n=43)	97.6	2.3
Parent Evenings (n=43)	97.6	2.3
Letters from school via my child (Book Bags) (n=42)	95.2	4.8
PSA Notice Board (n=37)	67.5	32.4
Notes in Child's Yellow Reading Record Books (n=41)	58.5	41.5
Notes in Child's Red Homework Diary (n=33)	39.3	60.6
PSA Coffee Morning (n=36)	36.1	63.8
School Assembly (n=37)	27.0	72.9
Website (n=38)	15.8	84.2
Electronically (e.g. email, text) (n=42)	9.5	90.5

### 2.3.1 Newsletter

All but one parent (97.6%) indicated that they received Newsletters from the school and two made the following comments or suggestions for improvement:

*"Not always though"*

*"Some things could be a bit more in advance"*

### 2.3.2 Parent Evenings

All but one parent (97.6%) indicated that they received information via parent evenings and four made the following comments or suggestions for improvement:

*"But could have more notice rather than just a few days before"*

*"Feel there could be more of these"*

*"But not long enough with teacher or, often enough sessions"*

*"Liked that nursery stage had a parents evening"*

### 2.3.3 Letters from school via my child (e.g. Book Bags)

The vast majority of parents (95.2%) received letters from the school via their child's Book Bags and three made the following comments:

*"Don't always get them"*

*"Sometimes"*

*"Occasionally not enough notice given."*

### 2.3.4 PSA Notice Board

Just over 2 in 3 parents (67.5%) received information via the PSA Notice Board and four made the following comments:

*"Needs to be one in KS2"*

*"Well planned and easy to read"*

*"Don't know where it is"*

*"Don't read"*

### 2.3.5 Notes in Child's Yellow Reading Record Books

Just under 3 in 5 parents (58.5%) received information via notes in their child's yellow reading record books and three made the following comments:

*"Few since KS2"*

*"From one child's teacher but not the other"*

*"Very little"*

### **2.3.6 Notes in Child's Red Homework Diary**

Just under 2 in 5 parents (39.3%) received information via notes in their child's red homework diary and two made the following comments:

*"Don't have one"*

*"Doesn't bring it home"*

### **2.3.7 PSA Coffee Morning**

36.1% of parents received information via the PSA Coffee Morning and three made the following comments:

*"Very interesting"*

*"Work that morning"*

*"Don't go"*

### **2.3.8 School Assembly**

Just over 1 in 4 parents (27.0%) received information via attending a School Assembly and three made the following comments:

*"We attend when they occur"*

*"Sometimes "*

*"I think you should be able to come to more assemblies e.g. 'Star of the week'"*

### **2.3.9 Website**

15.8% of parents received information via the school website and the following illustrative comments were also made by parents:

*"Not up to much site under construction"*

*"Complete the website and ease of use of the website"*

*"Don't know will try and look"*

### **2.3.10 Electronically (e.g. email, text)**

Just under 1 in 10 parents (9.5%) received information electronically (e.g. email, text) and the following illustrative comments were also made by parents:

*"Text would be good!"*

*"Don't have but wouldn't mind it"*

*"No need"*

### **2.3.11 Other Information methods**

Only four parents indicated that they received information via other information methods. They made the following comments:

*"Get info from Gossip from other parents"*

*"I think that there should be a separate book to relay message to and from school to keep each other informed"*

*"I talk to teachers and staff"*

## **2.4 Homework and supporting children's learning at home**

### **2.4.1 Children receive the right amount of work to do at home**

Almost 3 in 4 parents (72.1%) did consider that their child had the right amount of work to do at home, whilst just over 1 in 4 (26.2%) did not think this was the case. Comments made by parents who **did** consider that their child had the right amount of work were wide ranging. The following are an illustrative selection:

*“Appropriate to their level”*

*“But it could be more self explanatory to us parent”*

*“Feel they should do after school homework clubs, not so much pressure on parents then. Not all parents understand, may not be able to read so above would be good, give children in less able families more of a chance. Sometimes too much. Home life is very busy and can't always have the time”*

Comments made by parents who **did not** consider that their child had the right amount of work were also wide ranging. The following are an illustrative selection of these comments:

*“My child has had about 3/4 pieces of homework in Year 1 since September”*

*“My daughter could do with more than 1 book a week”*

*“Never seen H/W diaries so don't know when it is set”*

*“I think that every child is different and some children can cope with more homework and some cant”*

*“There doesn't seem to be any set routine for homework and very little feedback. I think they could have more home learning”*

*“I am against homework. I like to spend time with them on weekends not stressed out doing homework with them”*

#### **2.4.2 Supporting children's learning at home**

The majority of parents (92.5%) indicated that they support their child's learning at home. The following illustrative comments were also made by parents:

*“Always. My child is year 4 and his lit is 2.2 very concerned”*

*“My child's teacher informed me of different website that we could use at home, which we have and enjoy together learning websites”*

*“I do but she gets in a mood at times so it can be stressful at times”*

*“Using parents sessions i.e. Maths and reading organised by teaching staff”*

## 2.5 Resources to support children’s learning

Resource	% Parents/Carers who would use Resource
Termly information sheets about what your child will be learning (Bubble sheets) (n=41)	92.6
Campus Library (n=42)	83.3
Homework guidelines for parents (n=41)	80.4
Information sessions/workshops for parents on literacy and numeracy areas being taught at KS1 and KS2 (n=41)	78.0
Homework clubs for children (n=37)	75.6
Internet Awareness session (n=42)	61.9
Parents pages on the school website (n=38)	57.9
Glossary of frequently used educational terms, standards and targets (hardcopy) (n=37)	56.8
Glossary of frequently used educational terms, standards and targets (website)	45.9

The majority of parents (92.6%) indicated that receiving termly information sheets about what their child will be learning (Bubble sheets) would be useful, and over 4 in 5 (83.3%) stated that they would use the campus library to support their children’s learning. In terms of ‘homework guidelines’ for parents, around 4 in 5 (80.4%) would like these, and 78.0% would like ‘information sessions/workshops for parents on literacy and numeracy areas being taught at KS1 and KS2’.

3 in 4 (75.6%) parents would like ‘homework clubs for children’, just over 3 in 5 would like an ‘internet awareness’ session (61.9%), and just under 3 in 5 (57.9%) indicated that they would like ‘parents pages on the school website’. Nearly 3 in 5 would like a ‘glossary of frequently used educational terms, standards and targets’ as a hardcopy (56.8%), whilst 45.9% would like this on a website.

Comments made by parents included:

*“We don’t use computers”*

*“I know enough already as I come from education background so already understand”*

*“Homework guidelines - often a need for this as parents may be embarrassed”*

*“I do work so difficult to attend workshops which is a shame!!”*

## 2.6 School resources and arrangements

Resources/Arrangements	% Satisfied	% Dissatisfied
Learning materials (n=43)	93.0	7.0
Merit/reward systems (n=38)	84.2	15.8
Staffing arrangements (n=40)	82.5	17.5
Security, Health and Safety (n=43)	74.4	25.6
Shared spaces (n=40)	70.0	30.0
Play areas, activities and equipment (n=43)	53.4	46.5
Mixed Year Groups (n=39)	41.0	59.0
Dining Hall/arrangements(n=40)	40.0	60.0

### 2.6.1 Learning materials

The majority of parents (93.0%) were satisfied with the 'Learning Materials, whilst fewer than 1 in 10 (7.0%) were not. An illustrative selection of comments made by parents is as follows:

#### **Satisfied**

*"Not enough resources for children with needs"*

*"Need more variety"*

#### **Dissatisfied**

*"Need more up to date books"*

### 2.6.2 Merit/reward systems.

Over 4 in 5 parents (84.2%) indicated that they were satisfied with the 'merit/reward systems', and 15.8% were dissatisfied. Only three of the parents who were dissatisfied made comments:

*"Good kids not enough praise"*

*"Don't even know what this is no info sent home"*

*"What merit/award systems? Stickers? Certificates?"*

### 2.6.3 Staffing arrangements

Over 4 in 5 parents (82.4%) indicated that they were satisfied with the 'staffing arrangements', whilst nearly 1 in 5 (17.5%) were dissatisfied. Only three of the parents who were dissatisfied made any comments:

*"No consistency"*

*"Sometimes the kids don't know if they are coming or going"*

*"Teachers often on courses, no continuity for children"*

### 2.6.4 Security, Health and Safety

Around 3 in 4 parents (74.4%) indicated that they were satisfied with the arrangements at the school for 'security, health and safety', whilst 1 in 4 (25.6%) were dissatisfied. Parents who were satisfied with the arrangements at the school for 'security, health and safety' did not make any comments. The following comments are illustrative of those made by parents who were dissatisfied:

*"Playgrounds too easy to access"*

*"Lack of accident report forms issue"*

*"I see no security teacher to busy keep warm and dry rather out checking children coming at and going to school"*

*"My 3 yr old son can make his own way out from nursery out of main entrance due to height of buttons on the wall"*

*"Parking of cars on grass and in school gateway"*

### 2.6.5 Shared spaces

70.0% of parents indicated that they were satisfied with the 'shared spaces', whilst nearly 1 in 3 (30.0%) were dissatisfied. An illustrative selection of comments is as follows:

#### **Satisfied**

*"Gives children a chance to interact with other children"*

#### **Dissatisfied**

*"Campus is too large to share such small spaces"*

*"Could do better, Woodlands and SJH seem to have priority"*

### 2.6.6 Play areas, activities and equipment

53.4% of parents indicated that they were satisfied with the 'play areas, activities and equipment' whilst nearly 46.5% were dissatisfied. An illustrative selection of comments made by parents is as follows:

#### **Satisfied**

*"Like secure foundation area and equipment"*

#### **Dissatisfied**

*"What equipment never seen any. More things to use such as hula hoops, soft balls, skipping ropes etc to play with at playtimes"*

*"They areas they have are not big enough and nothing in them"*

*"Could be more planned activities for playtimes etc."*

### 2.6.7 Mixed Year Groups

Only just over 2 in 5 parents (41.0%) indicated that they were satisfied with the arrangements for 'Mixed Year Groups', whilst nearly 3 in 5 (59.0%) were not. Parents who were satisfied with the arrangements for 'Mixed Year Groups', did not make any comments. The following comments are illustrative of the fifteen comments made by those who were dissatisfied:

*"Why? Whats the benefit of mixed yr's"*

*"Think it would be so much better and less confusing if there were separate year group".*

*"I am concerned about how lessons are planned to have the best learning experience for both age groups"*

*"I think this idea can hold children back and be disruptive"*

*"Think 5/6 should be separate to enable 6's to focus on SATs"*

### 2.6.8 Dining Hall/arrangements

Only 2 in 5 (40.0%) parents were satisfied with the dining hall/arrangements, whilst 3 in 5 were dissatisfied (60.0%). Parents who were satisfied with the dining hall/arrangements did not make any comments. The following comments are illustrative of the twenty comments made by parents who were dissatisfied:

*“Too rushed my children unable to finish meals”*

*“The campus too large to share such small spaces”*

*“The space and time allocated is shocking. Whoever agreed on the dining hall might like to try eating their lunch in there”*

*“Why special needs & mixed yrs in dining hall?”*

*“The children find it too busy and not enough room and they should be able to sit with friends”*

*“The space and time allocated is shocking. Whoever agreed on the dining hall might like to try eating their lunch in there”*

## 2.7 Parent and Carer Involvement in the School

Currently involved:	% Yes	% No
PSA comments box in reception (n=33)	18.2	81.8
Learning alongside my child in school (n=34)	17.6	82.4
School trips/supporting sport teams(n=33)	12.1	87.9
Helping in the classroom (n=33)	9.1	90.9
PTFA (n=37)	8.1	91.9
Parent Forum (n=33)	6.1	93.9
On-line parents forum (n=32)	3.1	96.9

Just under 1 in 5 parents were currently involved in the school via the ‘PSA comments box’ in reception (18.2%) and by ‘learning alongside their child in school’ (17.6%). Around 1 in 10 were currently involved in the school via ‘school trips/supporting sport teams’ (12.1%), through ‘helping in the classroom’ (9.1%) and by being involved in the ‘PTFA’ (8.1%) Very few parents were currently involved in the school through either the ‘Parent Forum’ (6.1%) or via an ‘on-line parents forum’ (3.1%).

Parents who were **not** currently involved in the school in any particular way were asked how they would like to be involved and their responses are outlined below:

Like to be involved in:	% Yes	% No	% No Reply
School trips/supporting sport teams(n=29)	69.0	31.0	0.0
Helping in the classroom (n=30)	56.6	33.3	11.1
Learning alongside my child in school (n=28)	50.0	50.0	0.0
Parent Forum (n=31)	45.1	38.7	16.2
On-line parents forum (n=31)	35.4	54.8	9.8
PSA Comments Box in reception (n=27)	25.9	48.1	26.0
PTFA (n=34)	14.7	37.8	48.6

Just over 2 in 3 (69.0%) parents would like to be involved in the school through 'school trips/supporting sport teams' and 56.6% favoured 'helping in the classroom'. Half of the parents would like to be involved in 'learning alongside their child in school' and 45.1% would like to be involved in a 'Parent Forum'. Around 1 in 3 (35.4%) favoured an 'on-line parents forum', around 1 in 4 (25.9%) would use the 'PSA comments box' and 14.7% would like to be involved in the school via the 'PTFA'.

One parent commented that they would like to be involved in the school but were unable to because of family pressures and another parent made the following comment:

*"I am not involved as I tried to make my feelings clear to old and new staff, Governors and PCC – all of my views were politely ignored only now after a shocking Ofsted report does anyone seem interested in what parents who want to help their children succeed think!"*

## 2.8 Parents Views

Do you feel:	% Agree	% Disagree
The school has a caring environment (n=41)	95.1	4.9
The school helps my child enjoy and achieve (n=39)	92.3	7.8
The school helps my child to be healthy and safe (n=41)	90.2	9.8
The school is a welcoming place to visit (n=41)	87.8	12.2
It is easy to approach the school with questions or concerns (n=40)	85.0	15.0
The school is well led and managed (n=40)	82.5	17.5
The school addresses my concerns (n=36)	80.6	19.4

### 2.8.1 The school has a caring environment

The majority of parents (95.1%) agreed that the school has a caring environment, whilst 4.9% disagreed. An illustrative selection of comments made by parents is as follows:

#### **Agree**

*"They do try"*

*"Very good"*

#### **Disagree**

*"Not always"*

### 2.8.2 The school helps my child enjoy and achieve

The majority (92.3%) of parents agreed that the school helps their child enjoy and achieve, whilst just under 1 in 10 (7.8%) disagreed. An illustrative selection of comments made by parents is shown below:

#### **Agree**

*"They work well with enjoy bit"*

*"My children love the love"*

#### **Disagree**

*"Could be better"*

*"Not always"*

### 2.8.3 The school helps my child be healthy and safe

The majority of parents (90.2%) agreed that the school helps their child to be healthy and safe, whilst around 1 in 10 (9.8%) disagreed. Only two parents made any additional comments:

**Agree**

*“Very good”*

**Disagree**

*“Rushed meals. Playground security etc”*

### 2.8.4 The school is a welcoming place to visit

87.8% agreed that the school is a welcoming place to visit, whilst just over 1 in 10 (12.2%) disagreed. The following comments were made by the two parents who did not consider that the school is a welcoming place to visit:

*“Clinical reception area. Brighter and more displays needed”*

*“Reception out of the way from entrance etc”*

### 2.8.5 It is easy to approach the school with questions or concerns

85.0% agreed that it is easy to approach the school with questions or concerns whilst 15.0% disagreed. An illustrative selection of comments made by parents is as follows:

**Agree**

*“Very very easy”*

*“Sometimes”*

*“Its different depending on staff member”*

*“Not always dealt with efficiently and no or late feedback”*

**Disagree**

*“Theres times when you feel your bugging them”*

*“Not always”*

### 2.8.6 The school is well led and managed

Over 4 in 5 (82.5%) parents agreed that the school is well led and managed whilst just under 1 in 5 (17.5%) did not. An illustrative selection of comments made by parents is shown below:

#### **Agree**

*“Very well”*

*“Well done - school is led great”*

*“But could listen and act on comments made”*

#### **Disagree**

*“Why does the school ask for voluntary contributions and when not enough received why are they paying for the ones whom haven’t contributed why not just teach the kids you have a responsibility in society to pay your way - NO PAY - NO TRIP!”*

*“I think the school could do more to inform parents ie if afterschool clubs is not on”*

### 2.8.7 The school addresses my concerns

4 in 5 (80.5%) parents agreed that the school addresses their concerns, whilst nearly 1 in 5 (19.5%) did not. An illustrative selection of comments made by parents is shown below:

#### **Agree**

*“Very good”*

*“Not always dealt with efficiently and no or late feedback”*

#### **Disagree**

*“Some issues are not dealt with”*

## **2.9 Main qualities of the School which parents would not like to lose**

All the parents identified various qualities of the school which they would not like to lose. These have been grouped under the key themes arising. An illustrative selection of comments is listed under each identified theme:

### **2.9.1 Culture/Ethos**

*“Good community spirit. We all look out for others and there children. Clean and friendly”*

*“I think the school is fantastic, very welcoming, friendly and it has a real family/community feel”*

*“Co-operation/learning with Sir John Hunt making it a less scary place when they transfer to secondary”*

*“The sense of belonging to a secure and positive environment”*

*“Impressed at wide variety of opportunities my son is being given to be involved in school activities such as school council and how he is being encouraged to achieve his very best”*

### **2.9.2 Welcoming and Accessible**

*“Friendly and happy welcome from reception”*

*“Staff are always approachable and willing to discuss any issues. They make the children feel special for doing something good”*

*“Teachers are brilliant, very helpful and approachable – firm but fair”*

### **2.9.3 Campus Leadership**

*“I don’t think the school as any qualities but theirs only 1 thing I’d like to keep and that would be the Head of Campus although I do think he could do more. Mr. John Butcher”*

### **2.9.4 School Leadership Team**

*“Would not like to lose the Head/deputy’s passion to change the school for the best, like it was years ago”*

*“I would not like to lose any of the school’s qualities, the school is great and led very very well all staff are great and I would not change a thing”*

### **2.9.5 Teaching staff**

*“Teachers and TAs that really care about the children”*

*“Good quality teaching ensuring that my child is happy and learning what she needs to meet targets”*

*“My children are really happy, love coming to school and love learning, they both have different needs but you all quietly and confidently teach them in ways they both need which makes it a happy, safe school for them to be in and I’m, proud of my children and their school”*

*“The staff have an excellent approach to what’s best for the children. Led well and my son has come on so well since attending the foundation class”*

### **2.9.6 Parent Support Adviser (PSA)**

*“Would not like to lose the PSA”*

*“Maggie Graham as P.S.A. very happy and helpful”*

*“I use Maggie Graham a lot for advice and guidance on issues I need help with”*

*“P.S.A. Coffee club Friday mornings”*

### **2.9.7 Nursery**

*“My daughters in the Nursery, I think it’s a lovely area and she is doing well. I like that even at this age they are being taught and have a routine which is getting them ready for starting school”*

*“I see the nursery and infants (up to KS1) part of the school as safe and the teachers are approachable”*

*“My son is in the nursery and in my opinion the school is doing an excellent job in teaching him in all aspects. I cannot fault it, and he loves it. No concerns whatsoever with welfare, safety, education and play”*

## **2.10 Parents Comments**

Many parents took the opportunity to make additional comments in their response to this questionnaire. These have been grouped under the key themes arising. An indicative selection of comments are listed under each identified theme:

### **2.10.1 Praise for the school**

*"I personally have no problems with the running of the school or the service it provides and feel the school should be proud of its efforts especially during last years settling into a new building"*

### **2.10.2 Ofsted Inspection**

*"Would like an update about Ofsted report and the steps taken so far and progress made since the last meeting was held"*

*"None as we have had forms like this before and nothing changes. Ofsted come and everything goes how it should for 1 day then Ofsted go and the school is back to normal which in my opinion is a disgrace and if there was a better, closer school I would move my child"*

*"If my child was not in year 6 I would of moved him by now. I have not got long Thank god"*

### **2.10.3 Information and Communication**

*"A lot of parents would appreciate the children given letters in advance and not the day before ie. If they have a mufti or any other issues, also explaining homework as sometimes there are no notes with it"*

*"Better information about 11 plus and weather your child should go for it or not!!"*

*"I think it would be helpful for parents if at times a refresher of school info was in the bookbags more often. That way more people would visit and give comment to the school"*

*"School comment board would be a good idea if they where at the playground gates or near by. That way more info would to noticed by parents and they wouldn't have any excuse why they missed something"*

*"We only find out how well are children are doing if we ask, or at Parent Evening which I feel is not enough. If they are in trouble we would soon know."*

*"Give more information regarding each class in what they have been doing and what they will be doing hopefully that will prick the parents interest and they might start to get enthusiastic about the school in turn spending more time reading with their children and spending time with home learning"*

#### **2.10.4 Play areas, activities and equipment**

*“More facilities would be welcomed for the children and break times”*

*“I think that children should be able to choose if they want to go out at lunch or play or stay in”*

#### **2.10.5 Mixed Years**

*“I feel very strongly about the year groups being mixed. I think its confusing for the children, and strongly believe they would gain a better education if years were taught separately”*

*“Disagree with mixed year groups they should be separated”*

#### **2.10.6 Shared Spaces**

*“The children should not have to share a hall with such a big campus you would have thought there would be more than one hall. They share too many spaces with the whole campus”*

*“The shared spaces are just not suitable for the whole campus”*

#### **2.10.7 Dining Hall**

*“The dining hall situation needs to be addressed, this has been an on going issue since the new school opened, and doesn’t look set to change soon”.*

*“I do think something needs to be done about dining hall – nothing has changed, children don’t enjoy the hall – they are rushed and seem to be second against Woodlands. I am all for being as one but it should be enjoyable where they can eat and chat with their friends, not shouted at by certain MTAs to just sit down and eat (Not all of them) then children are upset don’t eat lunch and rush out to play”*

#### **2.10.8 After School Activities**

*“More sport and after school clubs, dance, drama, singing”*

*“There’s no variety of after school activities. There’s a brilliant sports hall at S.J.H. and its not used enough for school or outside organisations”*

#### **2.10.9 Homework**

*“I strongly believe a Homework Club would give so many children more of a chance”*

*“I feel they should receive abit more homework”*

### 2.2.10 Parental Involvement

*“The biggest challenge for this school is in getting parents interested and involved. The vast majority of parents at this school do not work yet do very little in supporting their children. I don’t envy the position that the hardworking staff find themselves in but they might want to listen more to the ideas that the interested parents have, after all they also feel like they are ‘swimming against the tide’ when I feel most support is offered to the parents who couldn’t care less”*

### 2.2.11 Miscellaneous

*“A great opportunity has been lost I feel in the building of the new campus with the facilities too small, open areas too much set up for pleasant views out of office windows rather than play areas, sports halls, gymnasiums, for a sports campus its a joke!!”*

*“When school assemblies or plays are on a crèche for younger siblings would be a good idea”*

*“Although I do feel that the school expects a certain standard of behaviour but doesn’t discipline tough enough those that don’t maintain the standards expected”*

*“Why is the bad children always getting praised? What about the children that are always good”*

*“Know there’s no easy solution but small moan about parking for collection at 3.20pm – use Tamerton Road exit so little road for parking but teachers car park is ½ empty and the barrier is often down? Use empty spaces for this time of day”*

*“All other matters are being dealt with by Parent partnership – Thank you. Please can you also consider asking the council to provide swimming lessons to children aged 5 and upwards. Something that will please parents and encourage health issues will also give children more confidence”*

*“I think the children would benefit from learning about food more; like what is good for them and the nutrition different foods can give them, health eating and living because maybe some children can try food in school that maybe they would not get the chance of trying at home. They will be learning new skills for life on how to keep themselves healthy”*

*“It’s the juniors (KS2) that needs help on keeping students safe i.e. hometime, I believe teachers are less approachable to us as they prefer the ‘children to be more independent”*

### **3. Next Steps**

There are some practical steps that might address the five key areas that emerge from this survey. They are:

#### **3.1 Roles, Responsibilities and Aspirations**

Information about the roles, responsibilities and aspirations of the Governing Body and School Leadership Team should be made available to parents. This could be made available with photos (where appropriate) in the reception area and on the school website.

#### **3.2 Providing Information**

Parents would welcome additional information on SATs as fewer than half currently receive sufficient information on them. In addition, information provided to parents could be enhanced by making it more timely, by greater use of electronic communications and via promotion of the school's website. Also, the role of the 'Red Homework' Diary needs clarifying for parents.

#### **3.3 Supporting children to learn**

If the following resources were developed, they could help parents to support their children's learning:

- Homework guidelines for parents, Parents pages on the website and homework clubs for children.
- Information sessions/workshops for parents on literacy and numeracy areas being taught at KS1 and KS2.
- Glossary of frequently used educational terms, standards and targets – hardcopy and website.
- Internet awareness sessions.

#### **3.4 School resources and arrangements**

It would be worth closer examination of the following school resources and Arrangements, since fewer than half of the parents were satisfied with them:

- Mixed year groups
- Dining Hall/arrangements

### **3.5 Parent and Carer involvement in the school**

It would appear that in order to maximise parental involvement in the school, a variety of different opportunities should be made available. There is scope for more parents to become involved via traditional routes such as supporting school trips/sports teams, helping in the classroom, learning alongside their child and via the Parent Forum. In addition however, it may be useful to explore offering some more innovative opportunities. These might include an on-line parents forum (which was favoured by 1 in 3 parents not currently involved) and the PSA Comments Box (favoured by 1 in 4).

## Appendix 1



February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010

Dear Parent or Carer

### Survey of Whitleigh Community Primary School Parents and Carers

This survey is designed to find out what parents and carers feel about the school. Your views are really important and will help to improve the way the school runs and your children learn.

This set of questions is being sent to each family with children at the school. I cannot stress how important it is that as many of you as possible participate, because the more of you that do, the better quality the results are.

I would be very grateful if you would answer the questions and return it to me, PSA Whitleigh Primary School in the enclosed envelope by Monday March 8<sup>th</sup>. If you would like help in completing it please ring me on 07766367370 or email me [maggiagraham@whitleigh-pri.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:maggiagraham@whitleigh-pri.plymouth.sch.uk) so this can be arranged.

I can assure you that all replies will be treated in the strictest confidence and results will be fed back anonymously to the School Review Group and the School Leadership Team. I will also share the key findings with parents through a future edition of my 'Parents Newsletter' and the full results will be available to download from the Parent Partnership Website [www.plymouthparentpartnership.org.uk](http://www.plymouthparentpartnership.org.uk)

Thank you in advance for taking the time to give your answers. The more returns we receive the better and more representative the view is and the greater say you have in how the school can improve.

Thank you for your help.

Maggie

1. Do you consider that each of the following have high enough aspirations for the performance of pupils at Whiteleigh Community Primary School:  
**(Please tick)**

	Yes	No	Please comment
Governing Body			
School Leadership Team			
Teaching Staff			
Support Staff			

2. Do you feel you receive sufficient information from the school on the following? **(Please tick)**

	Yes	No
What your child is taught		
SATs		
How well your child is doing		
Your child's targets		
What kind of behaviour the school expects of your child		
School policies (e.g. bullying, holidays in term time etc.)		
Transition (e.g. from Infants/junior/secondary school)		

3. Do you currently receive information from the school via any of the following? **(Please tick)**

	Currently Receive Information		If you have any comments or suggestions for improvement please note them here
	Yes	No	
Newsletter			
Parent evenings			
Electronically (e.g. email, text)			
Website			
Letters from school via my child (e.g. Book Bags)			
Notes in Child's Yellow Reading Record Books			
Notes in Child's Red Homework Diary			
School Assembly			
PSA Notice Board			
PSA Coffee Morning			
Other method (Please specify)			

4. Do you (a) feel your child gets the right amount of work to do at home? and (b) do you support your children's learning at home? **(Please tick)**

	Yes	No	Please comment
a) Feel your child gets the right amount of work to do at home			
b) Support your children's learning at home			

5. Would you use or attend any of the following to help you support your children with their learning? **(Please tick all that apply)**

	Yes	No	Please comment
Internet Awareness session			
Glossary of frequently used educational terms, standards and targets (hardcopy)			
Glossary of frequently used educational terms, standards and targets (website)			
Termly information sheets about what your child will be learning (Bubble Sheets)			
Information sessions/workshops for parents on literacy and numeracy areas being taught at KS1 and KS2 e.g. Helping Your Child with Maths			
Homework guidelines for parents			
Homework clubs for children			
Campus Library			
Parents pages on the school website			
Other (please specify)			

6. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with any of the following School resources or arrangements for: **(Please tick)**

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Please comment
Staffing arrangements			
Mixed year groups			
Merit/Reward systems			
Learning materials e.g. Reading Books			
Play areas, activities and equipment			
Dining Hall/arrangements			
Shared spaces			
Security, Health and Safety			
Other (Please specify)			

7. Which ways are you (a) currently involved in the school and (b) would like to be involved? **(Please tick)**

	(a) Currently Involved		(b) Would like to be Involved	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
PTFA				
Helping in the classroom				
School trips/supporting sport teams				
Learning alongside my child in school				
Parent forum				
On-line parents forum				
PSA Comments Box in Reception				
Other (please specify)				

***If you would like to be involved in the school, please let me know by either ringing me on 07766 367370 or email me: [maggiegraham@whitleigh-pri.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:maggiegraham@whitleigh-pri.plymouth.sch.uk)***

8. Do you agree or disagree that: **(Please tick)**

	Agree	Disagree	Please Comment
The school is a welcoming and a pleasant place to visit?			
The school is well led and managed?			
It is easy to approach the school with questions or concerns?			
The school addresses my concerns?			
The school has a caring environment			
The school helps my child to enjoy and achieve?			
The school helps my child to be healthy and safe?			

9. What do you see as the main qualities of Whiteleigh Community Primary School which you would not like to lose? **(Please comment)**

.....  
...  
.....  
...  
.....  
...  
.....  
...  
.....  
...  
.....  
...  
.....  
...  
.....  
...

10. If you have any other comments or suggestions please note them here:

Many thanks for completing this survey  
Maggie Graham PSA Whiteleigh Community Primary School

