

Our response to the parent/carers questionnaires completed summer 2017.

A questionnaire was issued in the Summer Term of 2017. Following your responses, we will be issuing further questionnaires during the school year to identify more specific areas for on-going development. We are grateful to those parents/carers who responded to these questions so that we can continue to provide the best possible education for your children.

- 1) Overwhelmingly, the vast majority of you feel that your children are happy, safe and well looked after at Alderbrook.
- 2) You feel that your child is making good progress at school, and that they are taught well.
- 3) There is still a feeling that homework needs to be more challenging for your child. We have been focusing on this, and will continue to make improvements in this area. If you look at the website, under the parent's tab: 'Helping you child at home' – you will find subject by subject guidance, and specifically who to contact in each area. During this year your child will have their homework set on line through our Class Charts software, so you will be able to see the work that is being set for them. We are doing more work on the importance of homework to embed learning, practice skills, develop research capabilities and encourage independence. Later in the year we will ask you again if you feel this area has developed.
- 4) The majority of you feel that we deal with behaviour and bullying well in school. A significant number of you 'don't know'. Whilst this might indicate that you are not aware of any issues in these areas, and therefore this could be a positive, I want to share with you some information that supports our work in this area. Please see our Behaviour Policy on the school website, which includes our Anti-Bullying Policy and outlines our approaches. Anti-bullying is a key focus of our Life Ready Programme, our assembly programme and the personal and social lessons that are delivered in Year 7 and 9. All teachers will adopt our 'behaviour' steps within a classroom, to protect the learning climate for all students. Incidences of bullying are dealt with by our Pastoral Team, and logged so that patterns of behaviour can be detected and appropriate intervention can take place.
- 5) The large majority of you feel that the school is well led and managed. There are around 20% of you who feel you 'don't know'. Please take a look at the website to identify the Senior Leadership Team and their roles. Often your correspondence with the school will not reach the Senior Team, as our Pastoral Managers and Subject Leaders will liaise with you on most day to day matters. The Subject Leaders are a vital part of the Leadership Team.
- 6) The majority of you feel that we share useful information with you about progress, though this is an area we want to continue to improve through communication with you. Since the removal of National Curriculum levels and the changes to GCSE grades 9-1, how we report to parents/carers has changed. Explanations as to how we assess can be found on our website under the parent's tab: KS3 and KS4 assessments. An evening for Key Stage 3 parents on 25th January 2018, provides an opportunity to understand our 'growth mind-set' approach to assessment, focusing on a child's progress from their starting point. It is important that this area works well for all stakeholders and so we will come back to you and ask for more feedback later in the year.
- 7) The large majority of you would recommend us to another parent.