



Norfolk County Council
Trowse Primary School

8th September 2017

Response to your questionnaires

I was so grateful for all of your responses to our parental questionnaire. Overall we had 36 strengths listed by you and 8 individual comments to consider for the future. Firstly, the strengths were as follows:

- Family feel to it
- All the children seem to look after each other.
- Community spirit is very strong.
- A lovely family oriented school.
- Strong teaching across all classes.
- It is an especially friendly, warm and nurturing environment that clearly promotes an environment that allows the children to feel confident about learning, friendships, trying out new skills and having fun.
- Loyal staff who are committed to ensuring the children are inspired to reach their potential.
- The teachers have been great in communication with my child's needs to further her progress.
- Support.
- We have been very impressed at how quickly the staff have got to know my child and the focus on the wellbeing and happiness of the children (e.g. circle of friends is really positive).
- Quality of teaching.
- Exceptionally well led. Mr Odell seems to have a supportive, consistent and caring attitude to pupils and teachers whilst maintaining high standards of discipline, resulting in an ideal learning environment.
- Good extra-curricular opportunities.
- Nurturing environment which encourages confidence and independence in the pupils
- Everyone cares and does their best to help the children achieve their very best academically and socially.
- I cannot fault the efforts of the school. My child has made so much progress this year in every area.
- Community spirits are very strong.
- The strong management and leadership skills of the headteacher and the superb teaching staff and their assistants.
- A lovely family oriented school.
- Strong teaching across all classes.
- The school fosters confidence in its pupils and provides an excellent support network.
- Teaching standards are excellent.
- Communication is generally very good
- Extra-curricular activity is varied and enjoyed by children.
- Thank you for being such a lovely school. My children have had a happy and secure start to life thanks to all of your wonderful staff.



Headteacher: Stuart Odell B.Ed(hons) NPQH

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- The Head and teachers have been very helpful and understanding about meeting my child's needs.
- Low turnover of staff.
- Small class sizes.
- Taking an individualised approach with pupils.
- Good balance between curriculum and other activities like school trips.
- Well-structured and well respected in the community.
- Accepting the limitations of the school and its facilities, there's a good selection of sporting activities achieved, giving rise to plenty of future opportunities.
- My child has been challenged, but in such a way that hasn't dented his confidence or made him question his ability.
- Calm atmosphere
- Friendships encouraged
- Balance of work and play

So much considered opinion went in to your questionnaires I thought it warranted a response from me on each of your 'points for the future'.

- *Request more allergen-free choices on the lunch menu.*
I will pass this request on to the kitchens at Edwards and Blake, pointing out that they are losing custom if there is a limited offer for children with intolerances and allergies. Thank you for this comment.
- *Clear guidance and a specific website to support learning through the summer holidays.*
This is a good point and lovely to see that parents continue to want to do the best for their children's learning. All classes were given a 'Summer Activities' sheet with a variety of maths, English and other learning. If you want more home learning- do always speak to the teacher; they will love to hear from you! We will also make sure our website has some good web links on that can be used at home.
- *All the Governing Body need to be involved totally when making crucial decisions.*
A good point. To this end the structure of the Governing body has been reviewed for September. There will be 10 Governors, and all 10 will attend all GB meetings. We will cut out two sub-committees and the Full Board will deal with all matters. The one committee that will remain will be the Finance Committee. The most important function of this committee is to approve the budget each year and it's subsequent revisions. This will be by recommendation to the full Board, so even with budgeting, the full Board will still have the opportunity to challenge and support.
- *I would like to see some days where the children are not offered a sweet pudding.*
This theme has cropped up for couple of years. The menus do have a range of classic desserts on them. I can pass on to you Edwards and Blake's response: 'that the menus are designed to be nutritionally balanced daily and across a week' With regard to desserts specifically, there is the standard dessert option, then there is always a natural yoghurt or a fresh fruit salad available every day.
If you do not wish for your child to have the standard dessert like a fruit crumble and custard, please do make sure they know what option you want them to order in the morning. If you don't wish for them to have a dessert at all, just make sure your child knows to say 'no pudding', or for the younger children, let the office know.
Our catering from Edwards and Blake is a contract. As we work towards having a new school building – and more importantly, our own kitchen- we will be sorting out who has the contract



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to run it. I will want a cross section of the school, including parent representatives, to be part of this process. If Edwards and Blake don't offer what we want, they may not be selected.

- Have a football team.
We do try to engage the pupils in as many sporting opportunities as we can, including football where there is a one-off event or tournament. This is for both boys and girls teams. This is, in part, due to not having any grass ourselves! We are also aware that football is very well catered for in the community and when children want to be part of a football team, they do so outside of school.
- Would like my child to exceed expectation but I'm not sure how to support this.
The best way to deal with this is by speaking to the teacher on a regular basis. We do have our 'Meet the Teacher' early in September and parents' evenings but further to this we have an open door policy. Teachers will welcome the opportunity to engage in conversations about supporting your child further at home. The support from home is often clear to see in the outcomes for children. Essentially, if children spend more time doing something, they will become better at it.
- Make better use of the breakfast club room to do more cooking/ healthy eating.
An interesting point. Knowledge about healthy eating is within the curriculum- science for example. Teachers do look for occasional opportunities for the children to go and cook, but these have to be balanced against the demands of the rest of the curriculum. I will review this point with the staff and I would expect that every year children should have at least one opportunity to prepare food as well as learning in class about healthy lifestyles on other occasions too. On the topic of being healthy in a broader sense, there is a Department for Education consultation out, running until November 7th, on the topic of Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education. This consultation lays out what the guidance is likely to become from 2020 and can be found here:
<https://consult.education.gov.uk/pshe/relationships-education-rse-health-education/>
- Share more about what they are learning in class.
In terms of sharing what children are learning, you will continue to get an overview of topics to be learnt at the start of a topic.

And finally, to close, we had this lovely paragraph...

This school is exemplary and an exceptional example of the best a public primary can be. Actually, it's the best any school for this age range could be. Congratulations to the staff, & thank you. I admire that the school can successfully cover what is now a huge SATS requirement while still finding time for the arts and humanities, for plays and talent shows, pictures and papier mache planets and runs around the common. Also, that the school clearly provides moral and ethical direction and is exceptional at helping the children to live happily as moral citizens. Trowse does well what is often taken for granted, but which is actually rarely done well: it helps the children know how to be in the world around them, in an existential sense. Thanks to Trowse, my child can navigate adult society and talk respectfully to other human beings; children and adults.

Thank you for your comments once again. We do listen to everyone and continue to strive to make this school the best it can possibly be.

Stuart Odell
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