



Alston Lane Catholic Primary School

Parental Questionnaire Summer Term 2018



62 families returned their questionnaire out of 146 which equals a 42% return.

Thank you for all your responses and suggestions. It is clear from the data below that the vast majority of you are very happy with the school. For those who are not happy with the service the school provides, I would welcome the opportunity to hear your thoughts and rectify any issues that may have arisen. It is only through close partnership with you that we can make the school better.

Please see over the page for additional information in regard to some of the issues raised.

Please make an appointment with Mr FitzGibbon if you would like to discuss any school issues.

1 - strongly agree; 2 - agree; 3 - disagree; 4 - strongly disagree; 5 - unable to comment

(Results below show the number of responses received for each answer)

	1	2	3	4	5
1. My child enjoys school.	32	28	1	0	1
2. My child is making good progress in school.	32	26	2	1	1
3. Children behave well in school.	23	34	1	1	3
4. Core and optional homework tasks enable a good school / life balance.	21	35	6	0	0
5. My child has worthwhile trips and visits.	28	29	3	0	2
6. I feel welcome in the school.	41	18	2	0	1
7. My child is always learning new things in school.	32	27	2	0	1
8. I am kept well informed about how my child is getting on.	19	44	7	1	1
9. I would feel comfortable approaching the school with questions / concerns.	36	23	3	0	0
10. My child knows what he/she has to do to improve.	23	29	4	3	3
11. The school expects my child to work hard and achieve his or her best.	39	22	0	0	1
12. The school works in close partnership with parents.	24	30	6	2	0
13. The school is helping my child to become responsible and independent.	33	26	2	0	1
14. The school provides a range of 'extra' curricular activities outside lessons.	20	36	4	0	1
15. My child is safe and well cared for at school.	38	20	1	1	2
16. The school values children's views and opinions.	21	36	0	1	4
17. My child is not bullied or harassed at school.	22	28	6	2	4
18. The school is well led and managed.	31	25	2	1	3
19. I think that teaching at this school is good.	29	30	2	0	1
20. My child is treated fairly.	30	28	1	0	3
21. The school has a good reputation.	27	29	1	0	5
22. There are enough opportunities to discuss my child with the teachers.	18	36	5	1	2
23. I am happy with the religious aspect of school life.	27	32	1	0	2
24. Communication with parents and carers is good.	21	35	4	1	1
25. I am happy with the quality of school meals provided.	25	21	5	1	10

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for taking the time to send your questionnaire response back into school during the summer term.

We are delighted that every question was answered so positively. This response supports our belief that Alston Lane Catholic Primary School is a great place to learn and grow.

I have tried to explore questions that received more 'disagree' and 'strongly disagree' comments below; what we have in place already and what we plan to do. It must be stated however, that no question received more than 8 disagree responses.

If you feel that your opinions on the questionnaire have not been addressed, please make an appointment to see me, so outcomes may be improved.

Yours sincerely

M FitzGibbon

The following questions received 6, 7 or 8 'disagree' and 'strongly disagree' responses.

4. Core and optional homework tasks enable a good school / life balance.

We ask children to complete core homework tasks each week, to support their work in school. This should not really exceed 30 mins per day and includes reading, maths and SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar). Optional tasks are entirely that. There is no expectation to do these. Homework in Year 6 does sometimes exceed our recommended timings when SATs are approaching. If homework ever becomes too much for your child, please contact the class teacher so adjustments can be made. If we were to insist on one thing however, this would be reading to and with your child every day as this has the most impact on their learning and attainment.

8. I am kept well informed about how my child is getting on.

22. There are enough opportunities to discuss my child with the teachers.

These questions have been combined as they often go hand-in-hand.

At Alston Lane, we send home a termly report card that informs parents how their children are getting on. This focuses on behaviour and attitudes to learning as well as the core subjects. At the end of the year, parents receive a much more detailed written report. We also have one face-to-face parents' meeting in February each year, with a 10 minute time slot per child.

Parents who attend the annual 'meet the teacher' evening (19th September) will know that the teachers are always happy to meet with you throughout the year for additional meetings regarding your child's attainment and progress. If you wish to take advantage of this, you can contact the school through the office, catch the teacher at the end of the day or contact them by email. We have introduced this latter form of communication just this year.

10. My child knows what he/she has to do to improve.

In days gone by, we regularly generated individual targets for children that they stuck in their books and could refer to each day. As our teaching strategies have improved however, this is no longer necessary. Daily marking of books enables children to edit and fix their work or be directed to work with the teacher to boost their knowledge of the work being done. Fix-it time each morning from 8.45am is where a lot of this takes place.

Every child in school will also receive 'intervention' with a teaching assistant or teacher during the year, to work on misconceptions or to promote further challenge.

Finally, our school's mantra is 'Keep up, not catch up!' This means that children do not have ongoing targets that hang over them. We use intervention to quickly close the gap so year group expectations are met by everyone. If you ask children, 'What intervention groups are you in?' this may be more enlightening than asking, 'What do you need to do to improve?' If they do not know, then they are probably meeting year group expectations.

12. The school works in close partnership with parents.

It saddens me and the teaching staff that 8 families believe we do not work closely with them when this is necessary.

This question is about how we work with parents when outcomes for children are not where they should be. For example, if a child has additional needs or behavioural difficulties. We believe we have robust systems for dealing with these issues and would dearly love to hear from those who disagree. If you feel that school is not doing enough for your child or including you sufficiently in this process, please contact Mr FitzGibbon directly and I will personally deal with your enquiry.

17. My child is not bullied or harassed at school.

It is thankfully rare that we have substantiated incidents of bullying or harassment at Alston Lane, but when they do happen, they are dealt with in the most serious manner and in-line with the schools' policy. Mr FitzGibbon, as Headteacher, is always involved and the parents of both children involved. If you feel that your child is being bullied, please contact the class teacher of Mr FitzGibbon directly at the earliest opportunity. Please also encourage your child to speak to an adult whenever they feel unhappy or when something happens that they do not like. It is only in this way that we can stop any escalation of this poor and unwanted behaviour.

24. Communication with parents and carers is good.

Only 5 parents believe that communication is still below par. Currently, we communicate with parents in the following ways:

- Weekly newsletter and other letters sent by email or as hard copies
- Regular text messages to the main contact in each family
- Text messages and emails from the class teacher regarding your child's class or things they should be rewarded for.
- Termly report cards and the end of year report.
- Parents' meetings in February.
- Meet the teacher evening in early September (19th Sept this year)

Further to these methods, we would also like to invite parents to contact the class teacher via email too. We know that writing messages in reading diaries is not the best method of communication, as they can easily be missed.

Please note that teachers are busy with the class during the school day and will not be able to reply instantly. Emails sent after 4.30pm may also not be answered until the next working day.

Nursery	h.lonsdale@alstonlane.lancs.sch.uk / c.mcallister@alstonlane.lancs.sch.uk
Year 1	r.kettings@alstonlane.lancs.sch.uk
Year 2	r.woodrow@alstonlane.lancs.sch.uk
Year 3	r.middlemiss@alstonlane.lancs.sch.uk (also for SEND queries)
Year 4	k.maher@alstonlane.lancs.sch.uk
Year 5	g.watkins@alstonlane.lancs.sch.uk
Year 6	m.parker@alstonlane.lancs.sch.uk
Office	bursar@alstonlane.lancs.sch.uk
HT	head@alstonlane.lancs.sch.uk

25. I am happy with the quality of school meals provided.

School meals are produced by Lancashire County Council and as such we have no direct influence on the menus or the quality of the food. We know that some children do not always get their first choice of meal but we endeavour to ensure that children are not always at the back of the queue.

School meals are still very popular in school and Kerry, the cook, often tweaks the meals to give the children what they enjoy.