



THE PORTSMOUTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

FEEDBACK TO PARENTS ON SURVEY FINDINGS THE PORTSMOUTH GRAMMAR SENIOR SCHOOL

May 2018

1. BACKGROUND

This is a summary of the main findings from the online survey we undertook in February 2018 on behalf of The Portsmouth Grammar Senior School. We would like to thank all parents and guardians who took the time to respond.

The aim of the survey was to find out what parents particularly value about The Portsmouth Grammar Senior School, where they would like to see the School develop in the future and to gauge their attitudes to a wide range of aspects of school life.

510 families completed the questionnaire which equates to a 58% response rate.

This is an independent summary of the main findings from the survey.

2. IMPRESSIONS OF THE PORTSMOUTH GRAMMAR SENIOR SCHOOL

Parents were asked to select five words which they felt together best described The Portsmouth Grammar Senior School. A list of 22 words was supplied containing both positive and more critical words.

As with the Junior School, the word most frequently chosen to describe the School was 'academic' with 4 out of 5 parents selecting this word. This was followed by 'welcoming', 'sporty', 'rounded' and 'encouraging'. These words were the same as those chosen in the previous survey and appeared in the same order. When taken together, this reinforces the impression which runs throughout the survey, that parents who responded recognise the School as providing academic excellence in a supportive environment with a wide range of co-curricular activities. They feel their children are happy and that the School provides a rounded educational experience.

Of course, not every parent who responded appeared happy with the School, but the majority were. Before we look at the responses in more detail, here are examples of some of the comments respondents made, which demonstrate the high regard in which they hold The Portsmouth Grammar Senior School:

"I am extremely satisfied with every aspect of the school."

"My child's confidence has grown so much since they joined PGS. They are happier, doing better academically and socially."

"Overall it has been a very positive experience for my child; enriching and far reaching."

3. KEY MEASURES OF SUCCESS AT THE SENIOR SCHOOL

The parents who responded are strong advocates for the School with almost all (90%) saying they would 'definitely' or 'probably' recommend it to others. When looking at the percentage of parents who would 'definitely recommend' the School (66%), The Portsmouth Grammar Senior School was in line with the average of all other senior day schools which have undertaken the survey.

The majority of respondents are satisfied with the School, with 75% saying they are 'completely' or 'very' satisfied. Impressively, the percentage of parents who said they are 'completely satisfied' (22%) is above our national benchmark and also shows a continuing trend of improvement compared with the previous two surveys conducted by the School.

A third indicator, the extent to which the School has met parental expectations, is in line with other schools in the sector, with nearly a quarter of parents saying the School has exceeded their expectations and a further 63% saying it has met them.

4. RATING THE DIFFERENT SCHOOL FEATURES

We asked parents to consider a list of 40 different school features covering many aspects of school life and to rate each one as 'very good', 'good', 'average', 'poor' or 'very poor'.

The School's results were extremely positive and The Portsmouth Grammar Senior School was rated particularly highly for academic elements, co-curricular provision and for the management of the School. The School significantly outperforms the SchoolPulse benchmark scores on 24 of these features and is in the top 3 of 27 senior day schools, we have recently tested, for 8 of these features:

- The leadership of the school
- Security of the school site
- Provision of other co-curricular activities and clubs
- Communication with your child's Form Tutor
- The way parents' evenings are run

- Advising pupils on university choice and application
- Careers advice
- Support for specific learning difficulties.

The following features were rated particularly highly by parents and several of these also showed continuing improvement from the previous survey:

- **Management** - The leadership of the school, the administration and day to day running of the school and security of the school site were all rated as 'very good' or 'good' by over 90% of parents.
- **Academic provision** - The school's results in public exams are regarded as 'very good' by nearly 70% of parents, whilst academic facilities and equipment and the range of academic subjects on offer were rated as 'very good' or 'good' by over 90% of parents.
- **Co-curricular provision** - Provision of musical opportunities, provision of sports opportunities, provision of other co-curricular activities and clubs and provision of creative and performing arts were also very highly rated, with nearly 60% considering them as 'very good'.
- **Communication & Relationships** - Over 50% of respondents rated the following features as 'very good' - Communication with your child's Form Tutor, general communication of news and events, approachability of staff to parents.

5. AREAS WHERE PARENTS WOULD LIKE TO SEE IMPROVEMENT

Any feedback is valuable, and we do not intend to brush over the negatives within this summary. There are always areas which, in the parents' view, need to improve and it is important that these are given consideration. However, what follows should be read remembering that the overall results are very positive. We asked all parents who responded to identify up to five areas in which the School should invest more time, effort or money. The following areas were highlighted:

	% of respondents selecting as a priority
Teachers' ability to inspire your child	31%
Quality of teaching	19%
Value for money	16%
The provision of food	15%
Feedback on your child's progress	15%
Academic stretch and challenge	15%

Teachers' ability to inspire your child and quality of teaching

Overall, the 'teachers' ability to inspire your child' was rated as 'very good' or 'good' by over three-quarters of parents with the quality of teaching given the same ratings by nearly 90% of parents and also exceeding the benchmark.

Nevertheless, these are important areas on which parents would like to see a continued focus, particularly where they may be some less interactive and inspirational teaching methods. Inspirational teaching was particularly highlighted by parents of Year 8 pupils.

Value for money

Although nearly three-quarters of parents rate value for money as 'good' or 'very good', 16% would like the School to focus on this as an area for improvement. As with the Junior School, concerns are based on the level of annual fee increases and requests for sibling discounts. This topic was raised by fewer parents than in the previous two surveys in 2015 and 2012.

Food

The provision of food is seen as a priority for improvement by 15% of parents who responded. Parents who commented would like the School to improve the quality and quantity of the food; this was of most importance to parents with pupils in the Sixth Form. Some of the key concerns reported were around the perception that the food is expensive, with popular menu choices running out and a limited choice of healthy options.

Feedback on progress

Some parents (15%) would like more feedback on their child's progress with concerns expressed around having longer appointment times at parents' evenings and more teachers available at these events such as those who teach sport. They would also like to receive more detailed feedback within the reports which include a narrative as well as grades. This was of particular importance to parents with children in Years 10 and 11.

Other themes of interest expressed by parents included pupils' appearance, which was sometimes felt to be scruffy and uniform rules not being enforced. Arrangements and policies for homework could be difficult for parents to track and, in addition, schedules are not always adhered to by teachers.

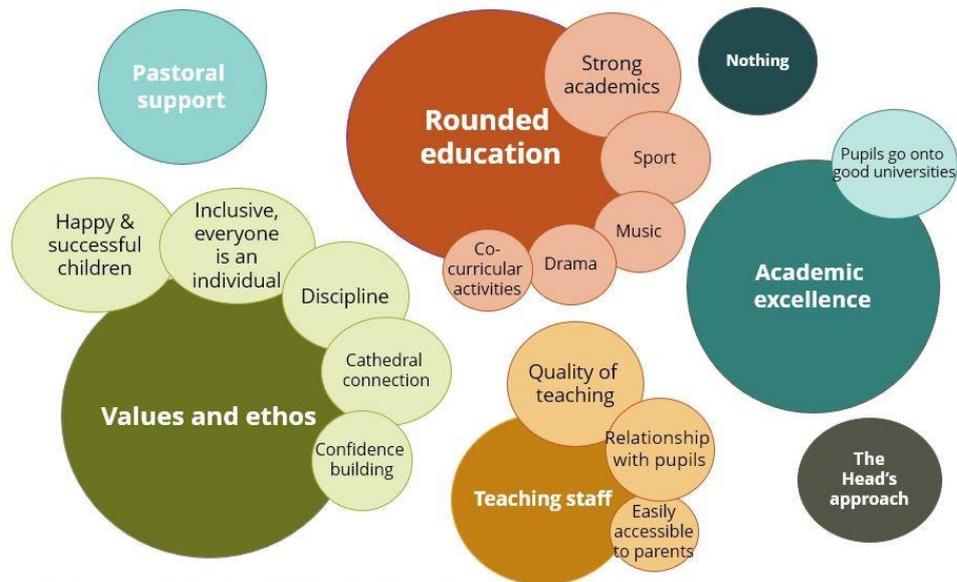
6. PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Looking to the future, parents were asked about what the School should be careful not to change.

Parents who responded are keen to retain the values and ethos of the School from which they feel their children will benefit, both now and in the future. They do not want to lose the focus on academics, but they also appreciate the wide range of alternative activities the School offers to provide a rounded approach to education.

The overall theme of what the parents do not want to change is shown in the graphic on the next page:

Q. "What should the school be careful NOT to change in the future?"



In this chart, the larger the circle, the more parents mentioned it as a priority.

7. SUMMARY

The Portsmouth Grammar Senior School is renowned amongst parents for its excellent academic credentials as well as for being welcoming, sporty and rounded. Parents feel their children are happy and successful and value the inclusive approach of the School.

Some parents who responded would like some of the teaching to be more inspiring and for there to be improvements to feedback on progress, the quality of food, and value for money.

However, the vast majority of parents who responded report that their children are happy at The Portsmouth Grammar Senior School, would recommend the School to others and have high levels of satisfaction. The School is in line with national benchmarks for these overall measures and significantly exceeds them for many of the other individual features of the school's provision. The overall picture of The Portsmouth Grammar Senior School is one of a welcoming and encouraging school with many academic strengths on which the next Head will be able to build.

"We couldn't be happier with the school."

"Teachers should continue with their good teaching and well done to the Headteacher for the great job at PGS."

"My family and I are extremely grateful to the great, inspiring teachers and the staff that are deeply appreciated by our child."

8. THE HEAD

Throughout the survey, parents made reference to the Head as he prepares to take up his new post. They would like to wish him well in his new role. Below is a typical comment.

"I would just like to acknowledge, with gratitude, the enormous contribution and leadership shown by Mr Priory during his tenure."

Please note that all responses remain totally confidential and anonymous. Although quotations have been used as part of this feedback, they are representative and cannot be attributed to an individual.

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