

Brownhills Ormiston Academy Parent/Carer Survey December 2023
The Results and Follow up

The Purpose of Parent/Carer Surveys

The primary goal of parent/carers surveys is to provide valuable parent opinions, perspectives and perceptions towards the academy and towards students to improve the learning environment in general or specific ways. Survey feedback also supports the academy to provide parents/carers information and guidance about a range of educational matters and supports academy leaders to focus on improvement items that matter and are important to parents/carers.

At Brownhills Ormiston Academy, we value the input of our parents / carers and research has shown that parental involvement in school has a significant impact on pupil performance. Family engagement in the academy can reduce absenteeism and can lead to better social skills, improved learning behaviours and academic outcomes.

We would like to thank all 66 parents / carers, who completed this year's survey.

Parent / Carer Survey Results (December 2023)

What do the results tell us and the academy's follow up / response work

The parent / carer survey results are positive.

The results (a full set of which can be found on the following pages) show that the school has good standards across a range of areas.

Over 90% of responders agreed or strongly agreed that

- their child is given clear guidance on how to behave.
- the academy promotes the importance of good attendance and encourages my child to attend regularly.
- the academy enables their child to understand the importance of attending school regularly.
- the academy encourages their child to be a good timekeeper and to be punctual.

We received some very positive written comments from parents including:

- My children are happy at Brownhills.
- The academy has outperformed all my expectations as school for my child. They are proud to wear their uniform and have gained so much confidence during their time so far. Every Brownhills child you see is smart and presentable in their uniforms and their behaviour in the community is exemplary when compared to other local schools. This is down to the effective behaviour management and an overall pride in the school and themselves. Brownhills grows people, which is just as important as passing any exam!
- My child enjoys school, appears to be doing well and absolutely loves taking part in the football team. The school coach service is fantastic, and the extras trips offered- I've been very impressed with.
- I love the Sims parent app as I can see the timetable, the calendar and achievements. I love Sparx Maths, so I can watch my child at work and it's great to know they are progressing.

- The Anne Frank exhibit was a great idea to expand the children’s knowledge. World War stories should be extended to include Black, Chinese and other cultures experiences - both positive and negative.
- I love Parentpay and being able to top up lunch money and pay for activities.
- I love the choice of clubs at lunch and after school.
- Thanks for opening the gates to allow for easier parking for late pick-ups.
- I enjoyed the Prepare to Perform event as it echoed what I was telling my child. Ever since my child’s year 7 parents meeting you have had GCSEs and options in the conversations. This has focused my mind as well as my child’s, on their future and what’s expected.
- Well done to the headteacher, teachers and support staff for all you do.
- Overall, I love the school, and have really positive things to say about it. I do feel it's a very strict school, and I get why this is the way it needs to be. Homework is quite excessive, but again, I do understand why you push this for those who can excel to actually achieve their potential.
- Excellent SEN support from Miss Plant she is always extremely helpful.
- Excellent student services staff; Mrs Thompson Giles in particular is always extremely helpful.
- Mr Read Head of year 7 has been amazing with my son and has dealt with any issues promptly.
- I'm happy homework is given as it provides learning opportunities at home as well as school.
- Music is amazing, I would pay to hear the school band and choir.
- I'm so glad my child got a place here and is very lucky to be recognised by the drama/music department for her talents. Certainly, it is an exceptional part of the school!
- Brownhills ensures all pupils are supported to succeed and achieve their potential.

Areas that the academy has been and will action further work on:

- Ensuring that parents/carers know how to access information that is available about events, the academic calendar and other relevant issues.
- Providing information about why homework is necessary and important.
- Providing information about how parents/carers can access information about their child’s academic progress, other than the annual parent consultation evening.
- Ensuring that parents/carers know how the academy teaches students to manage their feelings and emotions.
- Ensuring that parents/carers know how the academy promotes and encourages students to be safe whilst online.
- Ensuring that parents/carers know how the academy promotes safety, including road safety and how we teach students to be safe in the local community.

As with any academy or school, we are always seeking to improve and be better. We gladly receive constructive comments and are paying close attention to any received via this survey. The first table below includes some information in response to the survey.

Responses to Survey Comments

You said/enquired about	We have done or are doing
Homework Find out	Homework is an important part of a child’s learning. If any child is worried about homework, please contact the school via postbox@brownhills.walsall.sch.uk . It would be helpful if you can

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why it is important • How it is recorded/instructed • How to access support 	<p>provide a subject, a teacher's name and a brief overview of the enquiry. Your communication will be passed on to the relevant member of staff. Teachers want students to complete homework and to develop good study habits and are always on hand to support students to access the work. Please always allow 48 hours for non-urgent emails to be acknowledged.</p> <p>Our Home Learning Guide is on our website, in the Policies section- see below for the link.</p> <p>Students have a minimum of one week to complete their home learning. Students record their home learning in their student planner and should record the due date so that they can organise their time effectively.</p> <p>We have now introduced Class Charts platform in September 2023 and parents have been massaged on how they can access the account- please see text messages sent by the academy. Homework is also recorded on this platform by a large number of subject teachers, so you will be able to see what has been set, and in many cases, also access the materials and resources for the tasks set.</p> <p>Some parents have said that their child receives a lot of homework this academic year and have asked why it is necessary. We have held a big push on homework this year because we want our students to achieve. The academy also wants students to be ready for the step into GCSE course requirements. The course requirements under our current GCSE system demand a lot in terms of content and exam requirements. No matter how hard it is for a child, we encourage every student to get into good home study and homework habits, so they can cope with the workload from year 10. Homework set in years 7-9 is very important.</p> <p>Please contact your child's teacher, if you have any concerns or questions.</p> <p>This link will provide further information and guidance on home learning at BOA: https://brownhills.rivoagency.com/admin/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2022/05/Home-Learning-Parent-Guide.pdf</p>
<p>Emotional wellbeing work in school</p> <p>Find out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How we raise awareness, inform and teach about emotional wellbeing • The free external services available to students and families that we promote 	<p>Emotional wellbeing is taught through PSHE lessons, assemblies and in cross-curricular lessons where appropriate, e.g., how eating healthily and exercise impact your emotional wellbeing in Food Technology and Physical Education.</p> <p>The academy has a qualified Mental Health Lead, Mrs Chaplin, Senior Vice Principal, and a mental health development plan.</p> <p>Every member of staff has completed training on how to support students' emotional health. Every child has created a student profile with their form tutors to help identify some of the challenges they may face to their emotional health and build resilience in how to overcome them.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> About our counselling services 	<p>Students are regularly reminded in PSHE, during the end of half term assemblies, and during the start of term assemblies where they can get help for their emotional health, and they have free access to KOOTH, School Nursing Chat and all parents and children are encouraged to download the SaferSchools APP which has access to support for emotional health.</p> <p>The academy's Reflexions (mental health practitioners) team are present at every parents' evening and on-hand to give advice to students and parents. APPs that are available to support mental and emotional health are advertised throughout the school day on televisions and on posters and business cards for all students and visitors to the school. The staff work closely with students and parents, with external agencies if additional support is required.</p> <p>The academy subscribes to 3 different counselling services, which come on site. The pastoral team liaise with students and families if these services might be appropriate for a child to access. Students have reported that they find counselling helpful.</p>
<p>Our parent web applications</p> <p>Find out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> more about your child's academic achievement, attendance and behaviour <p>via</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SIMs parent app Class Charts app 	<p>Parents and carers can access a range of information on their child 24/7 without having to wait for the annual parent consultation evenings or reports.</p> <p>If you have not yet downloaded these apps, please do</p>
<p>Students being aware of road safety</p>	<p>Road safety is of vital importance, especially as many of our students walk down main roads, including the busy A5, to get to school. We remind students about road safety in PSHE and during form time.</p> <p>Every year, we welcome a theatre company to BOA to perform a high impact play about road safety for our Year 7 students. We do this in September, so that they receive messages about staying safe as they travel to their new school.</p> <p>We encourage parents and carers to reinforce these messages about road safety.</p> <p>Here is a link to the BOA road safety tutorial that is on our academy website:</p> <p>BOA-Road-Safety-Tutorial-.pdf (brownhillsoa.co.uk)</p>

<p>Supporting communication with teachers and form tutors</p> <p>Find out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to access to form tutor emails 	<p>Form tutor emails are now available on the school website using the following link</p> <p>https://brownhillsoa.co.uk/our-academy/meet-the-team</p>
<p>Safeguarding work including anti-bullying work</p> <p>Find out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How students are taught about it, including protecting themselves online • How students can report any bullying issues 	<p>All staff complete mandatory safeguarding and safety training, which includes informing staff how to support a child in need.</p> <p>Bi-monthly staff briefings are dedicated to safeguarding issues, and staff are kept up to date with information and training.</p> <p>Students are taught to identify what bullying is, how to report bullying, and how bullying can happen (face-to-face, online) through PSHE, form time and assemblies. They are also taught how to protect themselves from bullying online.</p> <p>Students are explicitly taught about protected characteristics, the law and groups of people who are more likely to be bullied.</p> <p>The academy celebrates anti-bullying week each year, and the culture of celebrating what makes us different and the values of respecting each other are embedded in every lesson in the curriculum.</p> <p>Students are regularly reminded that they can report any friendship and bullying issues to any adult in the academy, to include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form tutors • Teachers • Pastoral Support Leaders (PSLs) • Senior Teachers • Support staff: receptionists, admin staff, site staff and teaching assistants <p>Students can report any issues anonymously and can access support 24/7 from the SaferSchool App.</p> <p>If the academy knows about a situation, it can be resolution focussed.</p>
<p>School trips/visits</p> <p>Find out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of trips have taken place and will take place 2023-24 • How trips are planned 	<p>Many trips and visits take place each year, and very large number of students participate throughout their time at Brownhills.</p> <p>Lisa Best, Assistant Principal works closely with departments to put together a comprehensive 'curriculum enrichment calendar' to support experiences outside the classroom:</p> <p>In the autumn term 2023 alone, the academy had a wide ranges of trips and activities</p>

	<p>Please see school website for wider opportunities that have taken place and are scheduled.</p> <p>Brownhills Ormiston Academy - Calendar 2023-2024 (brownhillsoa.co.uk)</p> <p>Lunch time clubs' timetable: Brownhills Ormiston Academy - Enrichment Spring Term 1 (brownhillsoa.co.uk)</p> <p>Further information can be found here; Brownhills Ormiston Academy (brownhillsoa.co.uk)</p> <p>Many trips gather a lot of interest, which is great and limited spaces can fill up fast. We know that sometimes students can be disappointed about spaces not being available; however, with the variety and number that we run, all students will get an opportunity (subject to fulfilling any behaviour and attendance requirements).</p> <p>In terms of staffing, we can only allow a certain number of staff to be out of the academy at any one time on a trip as their lessons must be covered by supply teachers, so we must plan student numbers appropriately to meet the required trip ratios and to ensure that teaching still takes place whilst staff are leading trips.</p>
<p>How a child is progressing and how they can improve</p> <p>Find out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The different ways that we communicate information about your child 	<p>We hold face-to-face parent consultation evenings for every year group during academic year 2023-24.</p> <p>Parents receive 2 sets of data per academic year to include information about academic achievement/ progress, attendance, behaviour and effort.</p> <p>The parent SIMs app and the Class Charts app also provides immediate anytime access 24/7 information to parents about academic progress, behaviour and attendance.</p> <p>We welcome parents/carers to contact subject staff, if they have any queries. please contact the school via postbox@brownhills.walsall.sch.uk. It would be helpful if you can provide a subject, a teacher's name and a brief overview of the enquiry. Your communication will be passed on to the relevant member of staff. Teachers want students to progress and achieve their potential and are always on hand to support students. Please always allow 48 hours for non-urgent emails to be acknowledged.</p>
<p>Raising awareness of SEND needs</p> <p>Find out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How we raise awareness and train staff 	<p>All staff have completed SEND training and Equality Act training in September in every academic year and have regular CPD on a variety of SEND needs. Some of the CPD this year has been around supporting neurodiversity; supporting reading; identifying and strategies to support dyscalculia, and supporting SEMH needs. All students with SEND have pupil profiles with identified barriers and strategies to support dyscalculia.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How we raise awareness to children 	<p>Students are taught about SEN needs and awareness of diversity through assemblies celebrating diversity, and the PSHE curriculum, as well as explicit teaching around protected characteristics, Equal Opportunities and laws protecting people with additional needs.</p> <p>Each child has a key worker within the SEND team that is in regular contact with parents, to encourage parents to share any concerns they may have, so that they can be resolved quickly.</p>
<p>Communication and updates about the academy</p> <p>Find out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How our website is a 'one-stop' source of information about academy life, including events and the curriculum (what students are taught) • About our half termly newsletter 	<p>We now communicate about events more than ever, especially with the addition of our half termly newsletter and on our social media accounts (Facebook, X and instagram)</p> <p>We share news via the school twitter and email accounts. Updates of events and what has been happening in the Academy can be found of the school website using the following links</p> <p>News (including our newsletters):</p> <p>Brownhills Ormiston Academy (brownhillsoa.co.uk)</p> <p>Events:</p> <p>Brownhills Ormiston Academy (brownhillsoa.co.uk)</p>

The possible responses to the survey were

- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

The % of 'I don't know' answers varied from question to question and inform the academy about any information and guidance that we can signpost to and remind of, which may be already available via the SIMs app or our website.

