

**SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL
PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2015-16
YEARS 7 – 13 / 372 Responses**



OVERALL RESPONSE FROM WHOLE SCHOOL PARENTS (372)	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
1. My daughter/son enjoys school. 94% agree/strongly agree	58%	36%	3%	2%	1%
2. My daughter/son is making good progress. 97% agree/strongly agree	67%	30%	1%	1%	1%
3. The school helps me to support my daughter's/son's learning. 88% agree/strongly agree	47%	41%	5%	2%	5%
4. Staff expect my daughter/son to work hard and to do her/his best. 100% agree/strongly agree	86%	14%			
5. I feel that my daughter/son is given an appropriate amount of homework for her/his age. 92% agree/strongly agree	44%	48%	5%	1%	2%
6. I feel that my daughter/son is safe and well cared for at school. 99% agree/strongly agree	79%	20%	1%		
7. The school takes a firm line on issues such as bullying and anti-social behaviour. 78% agree/strongly agree	48%	30%	3%	1%	18%
8. Staff have encouraging my daughter/son to become mature and independent. 97% agree/strongly agree	66%	31%	2%		1%
9. The school helps my daughter/son to have a healthy lifestyle. 83% agree/strongly agree	34%	49%	8%	1%	8%
10. The school makes sure that my daughter/son is well prepared for the future (for example, changing year group, changing school, and for children finishing school, entering further or higher education, or entering employment). 89% agree/strongly agree	52%	37%	2%	0.5%	8.5%
11. I would feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions or a problem. 95% agree/strongly agree	66%	29%	3%	1%	1%
12. The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns. 69% agree/strongly agree	32%	37%	4.5%	1.5%	25%
13. The school is well led and managed. 95% agree/strongly agree	53%	42%	1.5%		3.5%
14. Overall, I am happy with my daughter's/son's experience at this school. 97% agree/strongly agree	71%	26%	1.5%	0.5%	1%

Questions new to the survey in 2015/16 are noted in red.

Executive Summary:

Firstly, thank you to all of the parents who took the time to complete one of our evaluation questionnaires at our Parents' Evenings last year. We appreciate that this takes a few minutes but your feedback and comments are very important to us and your comments and the results have been analysed and discussed.

Secondly, we are thrilled with such a positive response in all of the areas surveyed but are always seeking to improve provision further. When one studies the figures and combines the “strongly agree” and “agree columns” we are pleased that parents and pupils are so happy with the High School and there is very little difference between this year’s results and the results for 2014/15. We also introduced five new questions so comparisons with previous years are not possible yet.

As parents and pupils are aware we extended our pastoral provision last year by introducing Pupil Support Coordinators who are now fully integrated members of the pastoral teams across each of the Key Stages. We also implemented the role of Year Head rather than heads of each key stage. These new posts took effect from September 2016 with the aim of creating stronger relationships between home and school in support of pupils so that they have one person who moves up the school with them. We would hope that as parents become more familiar with Year Heads they feel more able to speak to staff if they feel there is a concern or worry. The result for Q1 is slightly down on the previous year (by 2%). Of this, we saw an increase in 1% answering “don’t know” and a 1% increase in “strongly disagree”. Numerically this accounted for 6/372 responses. We would, of course, like every pupil to enjoy school, we realise that issues and problems do arise and would continue to encourage pupils and parents to talk to us if there is a problem so that we can work towards resolving it. 95% of parents said that they would feel comfortable approaching the school if they had questions or a problem which is very positive and 69% responded positively to the new Q12, that the school would take on board parental suggestions and concerns. To those who feel that they disagree or strongly disagree with these statements we would say – “please, talk to us and let us work together to help resolve any issues that you feel exist”. It is always possible to meet with the Head or members of staff, and Governors are available at each Parent Evening.

Last academic year we had a significant focus on marking, assessment and reporting to parents. Whilst this was driven by changes at national level such as the withdrawal of National Curriculum levels and changes to subjects and grades at both GCSE and A level it also provided us with the opportunity to review our structures and invite parents in to find out more. We introduced our new Curriculum Evenings and attendance has been very good. Each Curriculum Evening focuses on the issues that are specific to each year group with presentations from key pastoral and academic staff. We also include a “careers” element and are often joined by the Independent Careers Advisor at these evenings. Presentations are always made available on the school website the following morning for parents to download and discuss at home. We also have a “community theme” to each evening such as careers stereotyping, careers aspirations, safe internet use or social media etiquette. We hope that our curriculum evenings have led to parents feeling more informed about their child’s progress and learning. Q3 and Q10 were new questions to our survey last year and whilst we are pleased that 88% and 89% respectively feel positive in these areas we would still like to ensure that parents have every opportunity to find out more about school life. We would encourage parents to attend Curriculum Evenings and Parents’ Evenings and contact the school if there is specific information they would like included in the Curriculum Evenings (this is also a question on the feedback sheet at the actual curriculum evenings).

We are encouraged that all of the parents who responded to the questionnaire feel that the staff at the High School expect pupils to work hard and do their best (Q4). Large numbers of parents include comments on the questionnaires praising the high standards and ethos of the school. We greatly appreciate the comments parents make thanking the school and our staff for all that we do.

In line with national changes, our data reporting methods were adjusted last year and we are pleased that 97% of parents feel that their daughter/son is making good progress (Q2) and 88% feel that school helps parents to support learning (Q3). We have taken on board suggestions that the colour coded system for our top grade students may not always turn “green” and are reviewing this. In addition we recognise that we have a growing number of parents with English as an additional language and are investigating ways of translating our documents into increased numbers of community languages.

The number of parents who feel that as a school we set an appropriate amount of homework has increased by 5% from 87% to 92% which is pleasing. Homework has been, and continues to be, an important focus for the school. Every homework task should be relevant and extend learning or understanding. Whilst the number of parents who disagree with the amount of homework set has broadly halved since the previous year, it is important to point out that comments written by parents in support of their disagreement vary almost equally between the opinion that the school

either sets too much or too little. In response to the comments made the previous year about homework tasks conflicting with periods of revision, we introduced periods of revision homework in the 2-3 weeks before internal examinations during 2015/16 in which no new homework other than revision should be set. This seems to have worked as no comment was made about this conflict in the 2015/16 questionnaires.

99% of parents responded positively to Q6 and believe that their child is safe and well cared for at the High School. During 2015/16 we increased our focus on anti-bullying and the whole school participated in the Lincolnshire Anti-bullying survey either through the LCC website or through our own internal systems. The answers yielded very positive responses both for the school and against national comparators. However, this is an area in which we wish to increase our attention and awareness and as such it is part of our whole school development plan for 2016/17. Initially it may look that the “strongly agree/agree” responses to Q7 (that the school takes a firm line on issues such as bullying or anti-social behaviour) have dropped by 10%, however, the “don’t know” has increased by 8%. 4% of parents (17 respondents) disagreed with this statement. We are not content that any parent or pupil felt that they disagreed with this statement and would like to reassure pupils and parents that we will not tolerate bullying or anti-social behaviour and will work hard to address any issue that is raised. Please ensure that you raise any concerns with the Pastoral Team promptly. If you feel the matter is not being addressed at this point then we would encourage parents to liaise with the Senior Staff with oversight for each Key Stage or the Headmistress.

Question 9 is a new questions and one that yielded an interesting result. Healthy lifestyle choices is reflected within so many schemes of work, across a broad range of subjects and within each key stage alongside all that we do within our extra-curricular provision. Healthy lifestyle choices are not just things covered within PSHCE. We feel that we can increase awareness of what we do still further through the Curriculum Evenings and the school website so that parents have grater information about what we cover.

The incredibly high percentage totals for all of the questions, but Q14 in particular are a testament to the highly committed and professional staff that we have at the High School. Colleagues are well qualified and skilled practitioners who are enthusiastic and devoted to ensuring that each pupil progresses and achieves a fully rounded education.

Thank you again for your feedback. We will continue to share the results, feedback and executive summary with parents and pupils on an annual basis. The issues raised are now discussed fully by the staff and the Governing Body of the School.