

**SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL
PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2016-17**



OVERALL RESPONSE FROM Y7-13 PARENTS: 286	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
1. My daughter/son enjoys school. 95.5% agree/strongly agree	60%	35.5%	3%	1%	0.5%
2. My daughter/son is making good progress. 99% agree/strongly agree	75%	24%	0.3%		1%
3. The school helps me to support my daughter's/son's learning. 90% agree/strongly agree	51%	39%	6%	0.3%	4%
4. Staff expect my daughter/son to work hard and to do her/his best. 100% agree/strongly agree	89%	11%			
5. I feel that my daughter/son is given an appropriate amount of homework for her/his age. 90% agree/strongly agree	51%	39%	9%	0.3%	0.5%
6. I feel that my daughter/son is safe and well cared for at school. 99% agree/strongly agree	80%	19%	0.3%		0.3%
7. The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour and bullying. 78% agree/strongly agree	49.5%	28.5%	5%	1%	16%
8. Staff encourage my daughter/son to become mature and independent. 96.5% agree/strongly agree	68.5%	28%	0.5%		3%
9. The school helps my daughter/son to have a healthy lifestyle. 86.5% agree/strongly agree	42.5%	44%	9%	0.5%	4%
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). 88% agree/strongly agree	53%	35%	3%		9%
11. I would feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions or a problem. 95.5% agree/strongly agree	70%	25.5%	2.5%	1%	1%
12. The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns. 75% agree/strongly agree	42%	33%	2%	1%	22%
13. The school is well led and managed. 94% agree/strongly agree	60%	34%	1%		5%
14. Overall, I am happy with my daughter's/son's experience at this school. 98.5% agree/strongly agree	74.5%	24%	1%	0.3%	

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 & 2015/16. However, there have been further improvements and these will be discussed in this executive summary.

As parents and pupils are aware our extended pastoral provision is now in its second year. Pupil Support Coordinators and Year Heads are now well established within school structures and this September saw the first academic year that pastoral leaders "moved up" with their year groups. The aim of this is to create stronger relationships between home and school in support of pupils. We also hope that as pupils and parents become more familiar with Year Heads they will also feel more able to speak to staff if they have a worry. The results for Q1, Q11, Q12 and Q14 have all seen increases in the percentage of parents who strongly agree/agree. We hope that these increases reflect the open relationships we try to foster with all parents and pupils.

We have seen a 2% increase in the percentage of parents who strongly agree that their daughter/son enjoys school along with a reduction of those who feel that they disagree with this statement. We are very pleased with this increase. We would, of course, like every pupil to enjoy school and we realise that issues and problems do arise so continue to encourage pupils and parents to talk to us if there is a problem so that we can work towards resolving it. 95.5% of parents said that they would feel comfortable approaching the school if they had questions or a problem which is very positive and an increase on the previous year. Similarly, we saw an increase (by 6%) in the percentage of parents who responded positively to Q12, that the school would take on board parental suggestions and concerns. To the very small number of parents who feel that they disagree with this statement we would continue to 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 Parents' Evening.

For two years now we have had a significant focus on marking, assessment and reporting to parents. To ensure parents were well informed about national changes and how best to support their daughters/sons we introduced Curriculum Evenings. Attendance at these evenings continues to be very good and we have found them to be a very useful opportunity for parents and staff to meet and talk less formally than traditional parents' evenings. Each Curriculum Evening focuses on the issues that are specific to each year group with presentations from key pastoral and academic staff. 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 has seen an increase (by 2%) of parents who feel that the School helps them to support their child's learning, whilst Q10 remains largely the same. 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 and our own curriculum changes we are pleased to see that 99% of all parents feel that their daughter/son is making good progress; this is a 2% increase on the previous year's results. In recent years we have reviewed the curriculum offer at both KS5 and KS4 and introduced an element of subject choice for Year 9. National curriculum changes have been both a challenge and an opportunity at all levels and we continue to work towards shaping a curriculum offer that meets the needs of our highly motivated, engaging and hard-working pupils.

The percentage of parents who strongly agree that we set an appropriate amount of homework has increased by 7%, which we hope reflects the work we have been doing on ensuring that every homework task is relevant and extends learning and understanding. Last year, we also introduced periods of "revision only homework" in the weeks leading up to internal and external examinations. Pupils tell us this helped with their workload and time management. Changes to the new Year 9 curriculum seem to have helped enormously and in the recent Year 9 interviews students were all very positive about their subject choices and levels of homework. Homework continues to be an area of focus for the School and teaching staff have been debating the "point" of homework and what makes for a "good"

homework task. The School Council have already been briefed that this is an important area for them to discuss over the course of this year as we review our practice and update our policy.

99% of parents responded positively to Q6 and believe that their child is safe and well cared for at the High School. There was a 2% increase in those who strongly agree with this statement and numerically only 1 of the 286 respondents disagreed. We are not content that any parent or pupil felt this and would like to reassure pupils and parents that we will not tolerate bullying or anti-social behaviour of any kind and will work hard to address any issue that is raised. During 2016/17 we continued our work on anti-bullying and focused in particular on building positive friendships and the use of social media. These were also a community theme in a number of the Curriculum Evenings and parental feedback sheets for these events indicated that the information and support given was very helpful.

Healthy lifestyle choices are 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 are pleased to see an increase in the percentage of parents who agree with Q9 (an increase of 3.5%) and feel that the work we have done to increase awareness of healthy lifestyle choices is having a positive impact. We will continue to focus on this area via Curriculum Evenings and the school website.

On the parental questionnaire there is a section for “free comments”. For the question asking for changes or improvements parents would like to see, there were 52 comments. Two areas were mentioned more than once. Firstly, an increase in the number of extra-curricular clubs, activities and sports (mentioned by 4 individuals and 2 were specifically related to introducing swimming lessons) and secondly, the use of colour on Year 10 grade cards (2 individuals). We feel that we have a broad, diverse and wide ranging extra-curricular programme. Sadly, the logistics of walking year groups to the swimming pool would mean that we would need to either impact upon curriculum time in other lessons or be restrictive in the time that could then be spent at the pool. We removed the colour coding used on Y10 grade cards last year.

There were 110 comments made by individuals in response to the question regarding the schools most positive qualities. Below are those most commonly repeated:

Good communication	4
Schools leaders	6
Excellent behaviour and well-disciplined	8
Excellent teaching	10
Everything! Community, ethos, values	14
Academic progress and reaching potential	19
High expectations / strong work ethic	21
Excellent staff, supportive, positive, caring, encouraging	29
Kind and caring environment	30

“My daughter loves attending the High School and enjoying new challenges”.

“We are very proud of our daughter’s progress and achievements”.

“Thank you for teaching my daughter to be a mature, creative and organised young lady.”

“The time spent at SHS has turned our daughter into a mature and hardworking adult.”

“We are always impressed with every aspect of SHS.”

“We appreciate the hard work and effort of the staff at the High School.”

“Great school. Well done!”

The incredibly high percentage totals for all of the questions, but Q14 (which saw an increase of 1.5% of those in agreement) 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.