



St Nicolas' CE Combined School Parent Survey March 2023



This document presents the results of our latest survey of parent and carer views, carried out in March 2023.

The questions were taken directly from the Ofsted survey which we will send to parents when the school is inspected.

The survey, along with pupil voice and professional dialogue, will help us to shape the ongoing development of the school.

119 families from EYFS to year 6 completed the survey. Figures indicate the number of responses.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who completed our survey.

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Overall results of the survey (119 responses)






1. My child is happy at this school (0 point)

 strongly agree	62
 agree	53
 neither agree nor disagree	3
 disagree	1
 strongly disagree	0



94% agree that their child is happy at this school.

2. My child feels safe at this school (0 point)

 strongly agree	73
 agree	39
 neither agree nor disagree	4
 disagree	3
 strongly disagree	0



94% agree that their child feels safe at this school.



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3. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved (0 point)

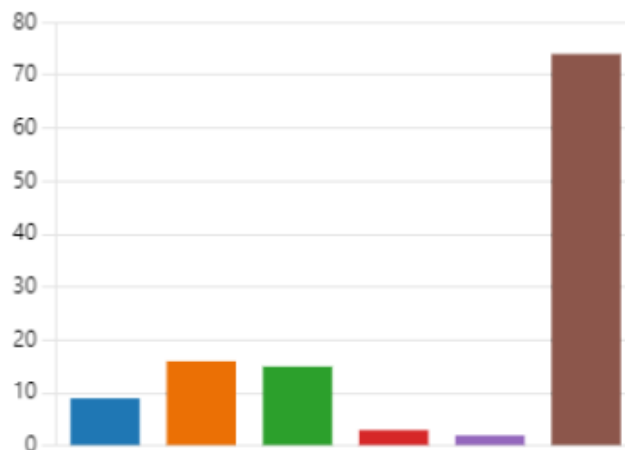
strongly agree	45
agree	58
neither agree nor disagree	13
disagree	3
strongly disagree	0



87% agree that the school makes sure its pupils are well-behaved.

4. My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively (0 point)

strongly agree	9
agree	16
neither agree nor disagree	15
disagree	3
strongly disagree	2
My child has not been bullied	74





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5. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year (e.g. Curriculum area of website, curriculum maps, skills progression documents, class learning overviews and termly curriculum newsletters)

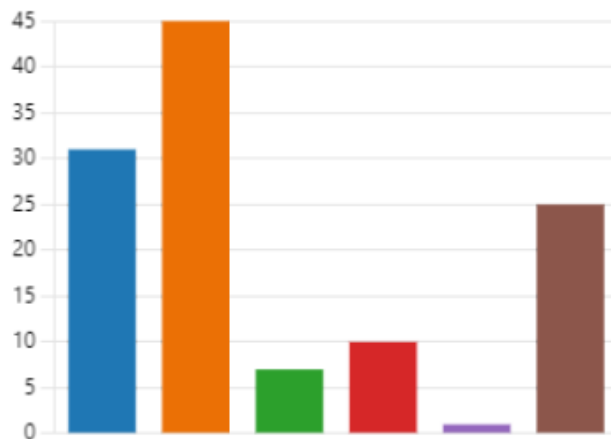
● strongly agree	56
● agree	54
● neither agree nor disagree	6
● disagree	3
● strongly disagree	0








92% agree that the school makes them aware of what their child will learn.

6. When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly (0 point)

● strongly agree	31
● agree	45
● neither agree nor disagree	7
● disagree	10
● strongly disagree	1
● I have not raised any concerns	25








7. My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed (If your child does not have SEND, please leave blank and move to next question.

 strongly agree	5
 agree	9
 neither agree nor disagree	14
 disagree	3
 strongly disagree	1








8. The school has high expectations for my child (0 point)

 strongly agree	34
 agree	62
 neither agree nor disagree	18
 disagree	5
 strongly disagree	0



81% agreed that the school has high expectations for their child.

9. My child does well at this school (0 point)

 strongly agree	45
 agree	57
 neither agree nor disagree	15
 disagree	2
 strongly disagree	0










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86% agreed that their child does well at this school.






10. The school lets me know how my child is doing
(e.g. parents evenings, termly reports, medical tracker notifications, SEN provision maps online, class assemblies, calls to home, informal dialogue)

 strongly agree	44
 agree	60
 neither agree nor disagree	7
 disagree	8
 strongly disagree	0



87% agree that the school lets them know how their child is doing.

11. My child experiences a wide variety of learning opportunities
(e.g. visits, trips, residentials, Big Science Event, Healthy Minds, visitors to school incl PCSOs, outdoor learning, swimming and local visits to Taplow Court, Old Priory Gardens etc)

 strongly agree	41
 agree	66
 neither agree nor disagree	7
 disagree	5
 strongly disagree	0








89% agree that their child experiences a wide variety of learning experiences.



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12. My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school (0 point)






 strongly agree	37
 agree	66
 neither agree nor disagree	6
 disagree	6
 strongly disagree	4



86% agree that their child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.

13. The school supports my child's wider personal development

(e.g. social, moral, spiritual, cultural, values and beliefs, confidence, performance, music, assemblies, sports, charity events, mental health week, anti-bullying week, odd socks day, children in need, visits to the church and local area, links with beautiful gate Lesotho, school linking project etc)

 strongly agree	42
 agree	58
 neither agree nor disagree	13
 disagree	6
 strongly disagree	0








84% agree that the school supports their child's wider development.



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14. I would recommend this school to another parent (0 point)

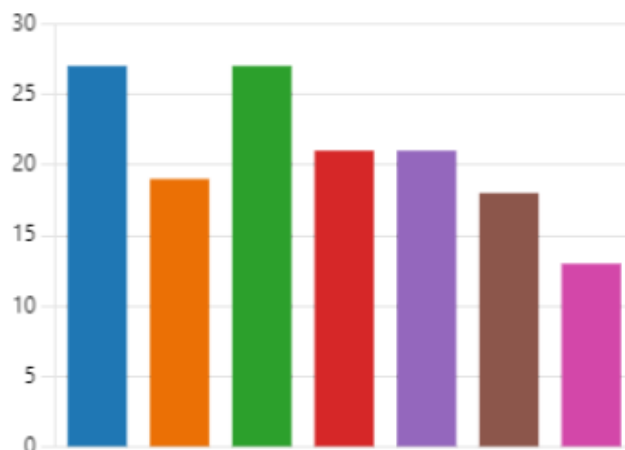
 strongly agree	70
 agree	35
 neither agree nor disagree	10
 disagree	3
 strongly disagree	1



88% would recommend this school to another parent.

18. Child/children's year groups (0 point)

 EYFS	27
 Y1	19
 Y2	27
 Y3	21
 Y4	21
 Y5	18
 Y6	13





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Parent and carers' responses to the question: "What do we do well?"

The children are happy. My child is happy to go to school and feels happy to be there.

As a school you are very nurturing, but also deal swiftly with any issues, preventing their escalation. I cannot speak more highly of St Nics, my child has flourished here..thank you!

Nurturing environment with personal touches. Regular communication through emails/newsletters. Excellent trips to relate to subjects being taught during year. Engaging teachers and proactive approach when issues have been raised.

Lovely support staff and TA's . Excellent teaching staff in most year groups .

The staff are amazing, and my daughter loves her teacher, but the wider school leaves me a bit dismayed.

You have created a wonderful sense of community and show great care for the children. Communication is fantastic!

Communication, openness, willingness to listen

Creating a welcoming family environment

Good Values. SEND support has improved.

I love how organised the school is about engaging with parents. We are kept informed about the topics they are working on, we have the weekly newsletter, tapestry updates and materials on the web site. They've also invited parents into class eg a vet to talk about caring for animals and another about Diwali- the kids loved it!

I adore St Nics and so do my children. You create such a welcoming and nurturing environment and as a family we are very happy with the school. I love that all pupils and their personality traits are well known by staff members. It creates a real family feel and helps the kids to flourish and develop. It's a lovely community to be a part of. In terms of learning/syllabus, I think St Nics does the fundamentals well (English and Maths).

Feeling of a safe community school. Children all seem happy and feel like they have varied and engaging learning.

The class teacher is fantastic and has really improved the progress of my child. She has also given her a passion for science.

Teachers are always kind and nurturing to all pupils, headteacher is always accessible and open to contact, support staff always friendly and helpful



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Friendly teacher. Weekly newsletter. Create a nice environment for the children to learn and play.

Very warm setting where children feel safe and can learn to the best of their ability.

St Nics is an aspirational local school. I like the deeply rooted traditions the school continues to uphold and I like the sense of calm, structure and high expectations that resonates for all.

The headteacher always gives the children a lovely welcome in the morning. I asked my child this question and she says the teachers help as much as they possibly can and there are no bullies.

Positive relationships with all stakeholders - Strong transition - Really friendly and supportive non teaching team. -Community/team ethos - Well informed of all aspects of school life - Busy Bunch and staff are fantastic - please ignore the response to Q7 as we accidentally selected it.

I know that my son is very well looked after, and I know that if there was a problem, I would be told straight away.

You create a safe and happy place for children to grow, explore and learn.

Teaching in an engaging way, listening to parents and students feedback, in person parents evenings, treating children learning holistically- academic and social development, wide range of activities offered after school and in school, music lessons and having a dedicated music teacher is fantastic! Enrichment activities such as catch up swimming, residential and healthy minds, harvest festival have been great.

This school brings so much support to both children and parents. Supporting by motivating my son to do more and more and not giving up. By creating a reward chart every day to give him the motivation he needs at this vital moment! So thank you.

B loves the school and I feel like he is thriving there. I think the school is a good mix of nurturing but also I am so impressed with how much he has learned academically in the six months he has been there.

Friendly and warm

All areas

Every teacher knows all the children so well and treats them as an individual. A very untiring environment for my child

Learning and development are well supported. It's a very friendly school. The teachers make my daughter feel safe. There is a lovely sense of community.

I cant doubt St Nicolas in anyway, it's a fantastic school all round.

Nice community feel. Engagement with children and parents at the gates is nice.



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We were having behavioural problems at home. We spoke to the class teacher about them and she was supportive understanding and offered great advice. She also reached out to our child and made them aware that school was a safe space and they could talk about their feeling with their teacher. This was a massive help and our child's behaviour improved massively as direct result of feeling like they were being heard.

School assemblies and music productions are always a pleasure to watch. The children get so much out of these.

Everyone at the school clearly puts the childrens needs first and my son loves coming to school!! He has had good support and we can see the progress in reading and his confidence.

The school does well at teaching the children how to treat their peers with respect, kindness and understanding.

Always approachable and apply appropriate interventions when needed to stop the child from falling behind in there learning

The class teacher we have currently is lovely and caring, but firm and my child is very happy.

My child is very happy at school. The learning quality is very good and the children seem happy to learn in this kind nurturing environment with clear boundaries and expectations from the very start.

Nurturing environment and good communication.

The children are well behaved and have great routines embedded. Music is such a strength of the school and my daughter loves taking part in uke, recorders and choir. School competitions like singing and poetry have been popular with my child. Thank you for all your hard work at such a tough time in education!

Know children well. Nurturing and friendly. High aspirations for students. Sessions for parents on SATs and exam prep are helpful. Appropriate amount of homework.

Following the curriculum, informing of issues, variety within the classroom

It's a wonderful school with a terrific culture- both the staff and the pupils seem happy to be there and both of our children enjoy the work and seem inspired by their teachers. I couldn't speak more highly of St Nic's and I am grateful every day that our children have such a pleasant environment to spend their formative years.

In additional to a well developed curriculum delivery, I really appreciate flexibility and reasonable cost the wrap-around care offering to support family schedules.

Communication, support for the majority of learners

I find that the school does everything well and have never had any problems. Communication from the school is particularly good.



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Great visibility provided by Tapestry for Reception but after this, that visibility of learning and progress is somewhat lost. Parents Evening is very brief and in-between this, there's no real communication channel for progress. Good variety of school trips Good provision of outdoor learning opportunities Strong focus on a child's sense of wellbeing and happiness. The Busy Bunch is a great pre/after school provider. It would be even better if there was a supervised and focused opportunity for children to get through their homework so they're not having to do it at gone 6.30pm.

Any concerns are dealt with very quickly, the teachers are amazing at picking up when my child is behind and needs extra help, very good at giving extra tutoring and help to my child who is behind her peers, overall st nics is an excellent school.

School does most things well and creates a homely feel for learning

I feel the school knows my children well - they're characters and ways of motivating them. I feel they're really nurtured and cared about. I do feel the school keep a close eye on behaviour and I appreciate that information so that we can support at home. The children are enjoying the extra curricular activities such as football, ukelele, recorder and piano. The dedicated music provision is brilliant and something O particularly has particularly enjoyed. The wrap around care with busy bunch is a fantastic resource and one we use regularly.

Foster close whole school relationships

Friendly supportive community. You take time and care with pupils and engage with parents. I like learning with parents and tapestry and the newsletter. The flexibility you offer with wrap around provision is hugely beneficial. Your outdoor space is really good. I appreciate the library books and weekly taking home of a book.

Providing a safe caring environment to learn

Giving tailored support to my child and assessing what areas of her work require improving. Lovely cheery welcomes in the morning to start the day. Amazing reception staff to help with enquiries.

Professional, nurturing, reasonable, friendly and strive for best. Support whole child well, not just education.

The pastoral support is exemplary. The school recognises children as individuals and shows such kindness. The headteacher shows great leadership and is courageous when needed. I feel very lucky that my children attend St Nicolas school. They go above and beyond. The TAs are incredible too. Such as asset- as are the office staff. It's time the government recognised the importance of state schools and good teaching and support staff and valued them and paid them appropriately. You all deserve it. St Nics definitely feels like a family and that is very rare. Thank you to everyone at st nics.

The children are well looked after and educated

Very nurturing environment, I feel every member of staff knows my child well



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Getting the best out of the children and making them feel safe.

Foster a welcoming environment

The staff at this school are amazing, I feel that my child is doing really well here and is happy overall

St. Nics concerts are fantastic, in particular the Xmas concert. The music teacher is a credit to the school. The weekly comms is good. The headteacher standing on the gate each day.

Educate and nurture the children, build a community including parents and communicate really well.

St Nics is a very caring school.

It's a supportive and happy environment and my daughter is thriving at St Nics. I think the staff really care about our children and this comes across well

Teachers are great, my son does very well in school with his reading and learning to speak politely and is very well mannered. The school has taught him how to behave well, how to teach others with respect and great learning topics which he talks about every day after school

The school really cares about my child. On many occasions, my son received the support that he needed. The headteacher always finds time to discuss any concerns and will act in a child's best interests. I like that children are being greeted at the gates, and that the school has special parking restrictions to make sure that children can safely enter and leave the school. There is a lot of positive feedback, instead of concentrating on negatives only. Also, the non-teaching staff are all very helpful and lovely, special mention goes to the receptionist.

the staff are very kind. also is always there to support my child if there is an issue.

Informing me of my children's learning strengths and what to expect next steps to be. - liaising about parents evenings, school trips, extra curricular activities, church services is always excellent -Compassion and understanding when we most needed it.

Sharing news on what the school is doing, clubs etc.

Teachers/staff are approachable and easy to talk to. Having a number of staff at the school gate each morning is great and very welcoming and helpful when my child is occasionally hesitant to go in to school. Notes in planner are useful, particularly around poor behaviour/choices allowing us to pick up on the issue at home.

Always approachable and listen to the children's voice

Putting the children, their well-being and education first. Good use of external websites to aid learning (learning with parents, times tables rockstars) good variety



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of learning (residential stay, school trips, visits to the gardens and church. The receptionist is an asset to the school - always on the ball with the children, their medicines and their appointments.

Creating a safe and happy environment for children to learn and enjoy school life.

St Nics is a small and nurturing school with staff who care deeply about the children they support. It knows every child and family well and seeks to support them to the best of their ability. - The use of Maidenhead Magpies gives the students sporting opportunities that they may not otherwise be able to access in other, similar sized settings - The communication with parents is good and they keep parents updated with emails and weekly newsletters. - Teachers and Headteacher are available to speak with parents on request - Teachers care about the well being of the students and any parent concerns have been followed up appropriately - Mile a day gives students the opportunity to move daily! - exciting learning opportunities eg. Poetry competition, science experiments, practical trips - High standards of learning > in-depth homework set, reader of the week. Nb- we are pleased that staff listened to parent feedback re: learning with parents website as this, at times seemed to dominate the weekend

St Nicolas is a lovely school where my son feels safe and is happy to go to. He says he loves school! He's had great teachers since he started in reception and as parents we are happy about the variety and quality of education he receives. The staff is very friendly and approachable which makes communication more easy.

As a parent, the most important thing I feel the school does well to support my child is the provision of a caring and nurturing environment that ensures my child feels happy and excited to come to school every day. I feel the excellent teachers and staff know and care about my child as an individual and are genuinely invested in making sure my child has a great primary school experience and outcome.

My child feels safe and secure going to school and is helped in areas where they are not doing so well which we appreciate.

Building strong relationships with the children and giving them opportunities to be independent and confident with their learning

I like the methods school uses to deliver information and knowledge when was absorbed well by our son.

Every staff member I've come across has always been so friendly.

Both my children look forward to going to school every single day. Thank you, The headteacher and all the staff, at St Nicolas School for making the school such a happy school full of brilliant learning opportunities. My son has just come back from the Ufton Court residential trip and he had the absolute best time, and that is all down to the staff making the experience so enjoyable and making them feel secure and confident. He experienced so many things on the trip, and it's helped him in so many ways. Thank you. My daughter in Year 1 adores school. She loves all the



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teachers at the school and enjoys every moment of the day. I can't thank the school enough for all the hard work and effort they put into the children's education and well being.

Special days like world book day aren't made into a competition between children or parents. It is a more inclusive approach and affordable. An alternative is always offered. Even red nose days was a gentler approach something red which could be anything. Rather than parents rushing out in a mad rush to get things.

Good all round school

Make my child feel safe

I personally love this school - It has been an amazing learning space for my children, The care, individual knowledge of each pupils needs is exquisite. I would 100% sing the praises of the school and most of the staff! The school and staff create a welcoming environment for both children & the parents/carers! I still love the fact that the staff welcome each child by name on the gate! The office staff are great in their responses to correspondence along with also knowing the needs of the children and sometimes the parents! I think the external use of music & sports teachers works - Maybe with not enough variance - See below The focus on events sometimes outside of the curriculum is good I am glad that children now run the daily mile.. I strongly this is such an important part of their development and mind growth set! The introduction of Times tables rock stars has been a life changer in learning times tables which we all know is an essential maths skill going forward No longer using learning with parent is great!! :) There is definitely a better balance now - Some homework I can leave my child to do alone and some that we work on together - The use of Spag is good for both my children as they love to see their score immediately - No patience these kids now-days!!

The class teacher provides good structure & support for learning .. she is a wonderful teacher & the music teacher offers amazing musical development opportunities and inspires the children.

Thank you very much for your encouraging responses. We will keep trying!



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Parent and carers' responses to the question: "What do we need to develop?"

Communication when there are issues. Being emailed about how gossip can be damaging is the result of poor communication from the school. It is gossip if we are hearing that incidents have happened from children and other parents, I agree, if we were informed maybe this would stop the 'gossip'. Especially when this is a safeguarding issue.

Perhaps a wider range of clubs, though I also appreciate this can be tricky in a small school.

Acknowledging teachers have limited time, but allowing more than 10mins for each parent consultation on parents evenings and providing more personalised commentary about the child's development and learning would be appreciated to acknowledge each child's individuality. With children having gone through Covid, mindfulness and wellbeing is high priority and the sessions introduced in some year groups has been hugely beneficial. A focus on children's wellbeing in this way to acknowledge and help them navigate social challenges would be good. Ongoing links to outdoor learning and building of resilience in day to day learning could be enhanced in areas.

Better quality in communications.

I feel the school does not listen to the parents for example I am fully aware that alot of the parents do not like the new homework platform, I feel my daughter has regressed, I often write comments in the platform and these are never acknowledged , I very much doubt homework is even being checked. When raising concerns the answers are very much a decision has been made and that's it, there is no room for discussion. There is no consideration for working parents, all events and the teachers meetings are held during the day , the teachers meetings are a 10 minute catch up in a loud busy hall where you are hurried along - I have no idea idea how my daughter is really doing. No hot lunches yet for KS2 - St Nics is the only school in the area that seems to have not coped well coming out of lockdown. I feel sadly the school has lost it's "Fun" and is like a military camp, no world book day, paint 1 nail red for red nose day - I mean really?!?!?

Fully understand how busy staff are, but it would be lovely to see when my daughter has read with an adult in her reading record.

Be good to have an option for kids to buy hot meals outside of early years

I think the kids may benefit from some additional interactive learning i.e. fun science experiments or getting out of the classroom and exploring more, just to keep things interesting. I'd also like to see a wider variety of after school clubs than what Maidenhead Magpies offer I.e. dance classes, martial arts etc. although I do understand space is an issue. And finally, where possible I'd love it if at least one



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performance of the Christmas nativity was in the evening to accommodate those of us that can't leave work easily.

Some more specific feedback on progress. The report card is quite generic (appreciate this is EYFS so maybe that's as it should be)

I feel that Busy Bunch is very expensive in comparison to other primary schools. - I would like to know if hot dinners will be provided for years 4-6. My child is fussy and she needs variety and I can't provide that on pack lunches as she doesn't like sandwiches, which then means I have limited options and fear she will not eat well.

Being able to offer Key Stage 2 hot meals would make a massive difference to parents busy lifestyles and would help support parents by giving children a hot meal in winter months and varying their ever picky diet. Whilst I appreciate the school has no kitchen facilities, nutrition is such a huge part of children's development and well being that it is never too early to help children learn about healthy choices.

This school was the only primary school I've heard of that did not allow children to dress up and properly participate in world book day. It was very upsetting for the children to see their friends and family members who attend other schools dressing up and having fun while they were not allowed to. In previous years this is normally a highlight of the year for my children and it was taken away from them. Last year there were also fun activities such as the Mother's Day shop and the Easter bonnet parade, this year nothing. It feels like the fun has stopped. These activities engage the children in a different way to day to day learning and they benefit greatly from them. Before covid you used to offer teacher led clubs, now it is just very expensive Maidenhead magpies clubs. Other schools offer free or very low priced clubs like yoga, art, sewing, computing, gardening just to name a few, we don't get anything like that which makes me feel like my children are missing out on opportunities to learn new skills. It would be nice if the eco council and other roles like that were picked fairly so every child got a chance to have a go and participate in what they do.

Further extra curricular clubs. Yes you have added but also taken away. So many are now paid for, the variety is restricted and this limits children's opportunities across the school.

I asked my child this question and she says she'd like more consequences for bad behaviour and more play things on the playground. More learning life and safety skills. In key stage 1 we got golden time please can we have it in key stage 2. Some good affordable after school clubs that aren't sports related. More fun activities at school. It was such a shame the children couldn't dress up for world book day this year, the children always love this and won't get to do it in secondary school so really sad that they missed out this year. Also it didn't make sense that we were told the children couldn't dress up for world book day but were asked the next day to bring in an outfit that was harder to get, for the class assembly. It would be great if key stage 2 could all have school dinners as well. More rewards for children that are



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consistently well behaved. Be stricter on chatting and constant disruptions in the classroom.

Opportunities to give specific/personalised feedback to support rapid progress

Sometimes would be nice to know how well they are doing and more about friendships in between the parents evening and not just the parents evening to find this out

FYI- I am only able to enter 1 year group below vs the required 2 [Thanks for pointing this out, we fixed it straight away.](#)

Can't think of anything else

it would be good to get a bit more feedback but I appreciate with so many children in the class that is difficult

Recognise the diversity of children, they are not all the same. All ways to be individual are stifled - from having to all have the same coats (ridiculous) to exclusion from trips if people cannot afford or worse the children need additional handholding to benefit the experience.

School dinners for all years. Talk to children about not excluding anyone, my child has been told he can't play and he's not a "best friend" a few more times than I'm comfortable with.

None

Parents back in to help read stories etc. older child had that in younger years and loved it

I'd love to see more trip opportunities. Maybe this comes in later years.

At the moment I can't think of anything that St Nicolas needs to develop

They could communicate more with parents on how our children are developing. It would be nice to get all class information in one place - there are a lot of places to check. More focus on 11+ exam prep.

N/a

We feel that the school should have a full time SEND person due to the amount of SEN children, consistency in teaching staff. A good reward system for children at ALL levels. The same opportunities for all & kindness at the forefront of every day school life.

More extra curricular activities which are not provided by the same external company charging ridiculous prices in such difficult times

Streamline communication methods. SEND training, experience and budgets to be more transparent. 2.5 days a week does not seem to be adequate for the number of Send children. Proactive and collaborative relationship with local offer to ensure



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methods and information used is national standard and most up to date. RBWM have some really good initiatives with local school input driving change/improvements for the better. I don't ever see st Nics represented as a school that models what good looks like outside of the village. More investment in SEND tech and training. Teachers to Model the growth mindset and open mind set that children are encouraged to develop. Personal experience is that feedback and suggestions can be met with defensiveness and dismissed as 'the way it is' or staff/budget shortages which does not encourage open communication. PTA - is this purely fund raising as parents don't seem to have any representation in terms of working groups or forums to give feedback/requests on changes/improvements or input in proposed changes or general concerns. School meetings are always in school time, this does not work well for working families who only get 25 days holiday a year and work a full working day. Lack of school lunch offering for Key stage 2 upwards is not ideal for busy working parents. More inclusive encouragement to move away purely from academic reward where children struggle such as awards or celebrations of kindness, thinking differently, reaching out of comfort zones, collaboration, inclusion. Challenges around this could be set for people to put themselves forward with support/ buddies? Awareness that high achievers and governors children are seen to be given preferential treatment/ awards/ ambassador status. Our class has had the same person chosen 3 years running which does not seem to encourage people to step up and put themselves forward next year. More creative after school options all currently sports based. A weekly round up of what the kids have been up to from the class or teacher and what's planned for next week would be nice.

I've heard some schools send notifications to parents when they get a house point or dojo. It would be great to know this as understandably we are only called by the teacher when behaviour has not been so good

This is a great idea. We already use dojos to reward growth mindset behaviours and we are hoping to extend it so parents receive notifications when their child earns a dojo.

Hot lunches for Y4-6 pupils

Better wrap around school care. Breakfast club has a limited array of food options. After school care is okay for younger children but nothing for older children, also overpriced.

A wider range of extra curricular activities which are not run by an external company charging ridiculous amounts especially in the current financial crisis. I feel the children are missing out on all the lovely activities and experiences children gain in primary school such as world book day and Christmas nativities for all year groups.

I am sure there are cost implications but to have one central app that handles everything from comms, to school meals, authorizations, payments etc. would be brilliant.



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Discuss possibility of more varied lunch options with provider

Is there any chance of hot dinner options for year 4 and beyond? I find being able to order a dinner as and when needed to be very helpful (especially for those of us who are full time working parents). Could parents evening run a little later (30 mins or so) like it used to pre Covid? Can be tough to get home from work in time for an appointment slot. Could learning in some areas be a bit more practical? Eg setting fire to models of London homes to see how the great fire of London spread, food tech units, design and technology units etc.

Improve timely communication when there are problems with children's learning. Sharing with parents the documentation on specifics the school are supporting children with so that parents can also support at home (support plans). Provide longer than 5 min discussions with teachers on parents evening, it always feels rushed, pressured and not long enough. Finding ways in class to make allowances for children who might need more movement breaks than their peers. Providing clubs that are managed by the school and not outsourced/paid for by parents so as not to disadvantage families that cannot afford it. More lunchtime club options. School mini bus - school cannot reasonably rely on working families to always pick up and drop off to off-site school managed competitions/events. Not charge parents to pay to sit in a school hall to watch the Xmas show of their child.

Could have more variety of after school clubs and sports. Was a shame not to dress up for world book day as a favourite character. Uniform supplier is outdated - they don't provide eco uniforms and uniform is poor quality (sleeves fray easily).

I'm very disappointed that hot dinners were removed for Yrs 4-6 after Covid. I'm not sure if it is a cost issue, but the reason given in the past that it isn't possible to fit into the school day schedule doesn't make sense to me as it always did pre-pandemic. As a parent of one child who really values a hot dinner during the school day and now has no access to it, and the parent of another very fussy eater who benefits from a variety of school dinner offerings and will soon lose access to it, I find this the most disappointing aspect of having children at St Nics and is the biggest reason I would advise prospective parents to consider when making a decision about placing their student here.

Meaningful homework that is not excessive

1) Timeliness is great discipline to instill in the children, and this is reinforced by the school in the morning, with 'Lates' being captured and monitored. However, this behaviour should also be role modelled by the school itself. Often the gates are opened late in the morning - only by 2-3 minutes but it's the inconsistent message that sends to parents and children that should be considered. This also applies at the end of the day when classes are late out. 2) Events like the Christmas concert are super. It's clear the hard work that goes into this from a staff and pupil perspective - especially the choir and music clubs. However there is often a lot of staff involvement in terms of readings etc. Whilst this may be because these readings are more complex, these events are really about the children and a chance for parents



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to watch them. As such, ideally they should be front and centre across all aspects of the event. 3) The children often come home with mostly full water bottles. Proper hydration is so important for concentration. It would benefit the children if there was more of a focus placed on continual hydration throughout the school day. 4) Hot lunches for years 4, 5 and 6. This was a provision before Covid so please can this be re-instated? As far as we're aware, the school were able to accommodate this before Covid with the same facilities as they have now. 5) The provision of school clubs has certainly increased and this is welcomed however the options for Reception are still lacking

Nothing

Feedback on where pupils improvement required

I would like to see the option of school lunch for Y4 and above as our child moves up next year.

More sporting opportunities. Stop always choosing the same children to lead assemblies/church services/science visits etc; quite often comes across as favouritism. Whilst I appreciate you would chose the naturally confident children try giving the others a turn as well!

Engagement with parents could improve. When I have asked for further information / explanation on something, it hasn't been forthcoming; and learning with parents doesn't cover everything. The national curriculum can also be problematic and limiting, I hate the way my son is being taught to write and I think that is a curriculum issue (rather than school) but strongly feel it will set him up for problems further down the line. He cannot write without lead-ins; given his need to write in cursive script will be minimal, this is not a helpful approach to developing skills he will actually need. I would prefer the school perhaps to be more open around the challenges it faces rather than 'everything is fine' which can be insincere and also discourage real parent school engagement. What was the impact of utility bill prices? Or the cost of living crisis? Do our teachers feel appreciated? why didn't they strike? Are you (collectively) okay? A smaller bugbear in my son's class is the significance gender imbalance, which is around 75% boys. It exists, and there isn't much you can do about that, but it is the sense in which it is appears to be ignored that's problematic. Rightly or wrongly, my son feels that girls are given preferential treatment; favoured by the teacher and over-represented in class opportunities; that is divisive and ultimately damaging as it intensifies the (perceived) division between girls and boys. Engraining that mentality from such a young age feels problematic. I feel at the moment there is a strong sense of an impending ofsted inspection. And whilst I appreciate where that is coming from, it also shouldn't be the case.

I think the school need to focus on advancing their STEM offering and learning program. For example you have a Lego club but it seems to be very basic building. Why isnt Lego robots which combines building and coding to introduce the concept of more advanced robotics into the learning, being offered? If you look on the education.theiet.org website being the institute of engineering and technology



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there's a tonne of information of STEM teaching ideas including Lego competitions the school can enter. Also there's loads of information about 3D printing and 3D printing design with use of CAD/CAM which I don't believe the school has any offering on... why not use PTA funded money to invest in this area and buy a 3D printer. At least for key stage 2 these opportunities should be available... technology is advancing incredibly quickly and if the school don't up their game providing learning in this area these children will get left behind.

Improvement around end of day. Multiple children let out to no parents on days when regular teachers are not in. Are school able to speak to local council about installation of bollards to stop parents parking on corner leading up to school. [We have asked repeatedly and been refused.](#)

Sports

Training around early signs of SEN and responding accordingly early on. Looking at why children misbehave and not just the action, there's always a reason.

The after school clubs that my daughter takes part it are ran by an external provider and it becomes costly. I would like more variety of free after school clubs.

Where there are fast learners or children more adept at certain subjects - more of a push can be given to help them flourish further. The fact that almost every extra curricular/ sports activity is a paid for function.

More opportunities for parents to come into the school for story telling etc

Busy Bunch after school club could do with being a bit more structured. I would like homework to worked on and some reading. Also the food is not good, plain bread rolls with butter is not good considering the cost of the club.

More extra curricular activities which are not from an overpriced outsourced company especially in the current climate. The breakfast club is not value for money and children are only allowed either toast or cereal and can't have both like other breakfast clubs. Also limited options

Distilling class info into one single platform

Sometimes hard to keep track of things happening as they are communicated out in different ways. There should be an area somewhere perhaps in teams which is like a noticeboard with all upcoming activities/changes/communication

I think we need more access to the governors to be able to provide feedback that might not be so easy to give to the school directly. I think you need to bring back hot school dinners for ks2 Allow them to play again before school starts on the playground. The absence letter that we received was appalling and purely a tick box exercise. It created untold amounts of dislike and anger. Historic data on attendance should have been looked at as well as the fact that the majority of the class had Covid at the same time. I hope that you now have measures in place to prevent a letter like that ever going out again.



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More free after school clubs

Home learning - more time could be spent consolidating the learning in class - worksheets, BBC bitesize etc. Learning with Parents is not very effective. Extra curricular activities - in the past there was more variety of activities e.g. French lessons, sewing etc. It would be good to provide these options again. School lunches - hot lunches for KS2!

I would like more information about my child's progress and more streamlined information. It's currently pulled from multiple sources and it's very easy to lose track of what the focus is for that term

I think more challenging homework and reading is required. Homework can be very basic, very little spelling tests are done and very little maths homework provided. I am having to teach a lot of this to my son myself in order to push him out of the box

I think it could be useful if the teachers had their own school email addresses, I'm not sure if that has been done before in this school, but it was done at my other child's school and worked really well.

Communication is very good overall.

Whilst I am not necessarily as close as other parents there appear to be some challenges around consistency of discipline

I would like a few more updates on how my child is performing academically and what area we need to focus on.. The parent's evening/school reports are useful but these are once a term. For instance, F is reading a level 10 book i have no idea if that is satisfactory, excellent or below where he should be. If I know he is doing well at reading(or not) perhaps we spend a bit more time at home focusing on numbers for a few weeks. Perhaps the teachers could add a note to the planner once a fortnight saying something like "please focus on subtraction and formation of letters for the next 2 weeks on top of the homework I set"

Access to Hot food for Y4 and above

Clear communication for home learning - as sometimes it's not the same every week.

Stronger individual academic growth advice

For a small school, I think St Nics do brilliantly in catering for a wide range of students with a wide variety of needs. In our opinion, we would just hope to see more of things already in place, but understand that it's likely as a result of funding and/or staffing that they do not currently exist. For example: - access to a wider variety of clubs e.g. dance - more staff available at play time to oversee any disputes so these times can become learning opportunities as well as free time - this seems to be the time of day that causes our daughter the most stress. - more trips and learning through doing as with the poetry performance and science poster project - whilst we value the importance of home learning, homework expectations can at times be



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times feel 'intense' and we have to allocate chunks of the weekend to complete it properly. This is quite challenging to maintain week in, week out.

I have been a St Nicolas parent for some years and during that time I have provided constructive feedback and improvement ideas. I have been impressed, that where possible, I have seen changes and improvements come to fruition. At this time I am very happy with the leadership and direction of the school so I do not have any areas for improvements that I feel need to be addressed. Thank you for ensuring parent views are listened to and where possible or appropriate acted upon.

Lunchtime and after school activities are not very varied or inclusive for everyone and every ability or interest – you have to be sporty to take part. The clubs don't have anything for the children to work towards – a certificate, qualification or a competition. They are more like after school care. Why are we so tied to Maidenhead magpies? Some other avenues to explore with other external suppliers below Language – Spanish, Italian or French – let the children gain a qualification during after school club or lunchtime club and a sense of pride and achievement. Coding class Chess club Art / drawing club – get taught how to draw Gardening lunch time club Athletics Singing club – can pupils enter competitions to work towards? Gymnastics Street dance Basketball Photography Judo String instruments Piano - <https://berkshiremaestros.org.uk> Drama - <https://www.littletanks.co.uk> Yoga Maths club Extra tuition for different years at lunch or after school Math, English etc... Appreciate it's a lot to organise – but parents would pay for a lot of these activities – especially if children were learning and furthering their education. I think foreign languages would go down very well for example. I know Oldfield school offers this and it works well. There extra curricular timetable is very impressive. What do the school council do? For example the eco council? Recognising when a child can be pushed further - I always have to write in planner when reading books are easy

A better platform for home learning

Communication. Frustratingly parents evening was not a very good standard this year. Not much repore or encouragement from staff. I felt like the teacher didn't have a clear, full or current report of my child.

It's a small school with not as much space but after school clubs offering a range of activities.

Supporting parents from an early stage where concerns are raised such as SEND. Ignoring these needs for 5 years, as they might seem marginal, and putting testing back on the parents is not acceptable. Surely the needs of the child should come before budgets!

I really believe that a wider range of sports is needed - I totally respect the fact that this comes down to funding but I feel many parents would maybe donate to this specific requirement - Almost like an in school time club or similar to the year 3 swimming - Maybe at the weekend - I can hear the academy business director's response to this already!! :) But if it made the school Money!! Again possibly on the



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clubs theme - I think the transition to secondary school would be easier had a language been taught from year 1/2. It seems (on the surface) a lot of other schools in the area are benefitting from this. Maybe that would be something to look into - I know more money but again maybe the parents would chip in! I know there used to be an external French teacher - Maybe you could offer lunchtime clubs. a hard one but making some parts of the curriculum more engaging for the children by making them more interactive or hands on - This has developed over the years but possibly we could do more with this. I think and I'm not sure how exactly - so please forgive me for semi talking out-loud - but maybe more time needs to be spent on the mental health & things such as bullying etc from a younger age. Kids are growing up with so much competition around them and sometimes its hard not to pander to this - Some of this lies with parental responsibility but I do think some lies within the grounds of the classroom. It's a hard line between parents and school and I know many parents expect the school to do it all and so don't do much parenting. Kids are exposed to stuff so much earlier these days due to the use of You Tube etc.

A better variety of Year 1 phonics books - more interesting stories and information books for the children to read.

Thank you for your responses to our questions.

We know it is great that so many of you share our vision in these challenging times. We appreciate your positive feedback and also your suggestions for development, many of which are constructive. We do listen to you, and your feedback helps us to shape the future of our school.

Many of you (too many for us to contact individually!) indicated that you'd like to talk to a member of the leadership team further about your responses. If you would like to do this, please make an appointment for Parent Time via the office. Time is set aside on a Wednesday afternoon for this, but we will try to offer an alternative if this is not convenient for you.

To those of you who would like to become parent volunteer readers, storytellers or to visit a class to talk about your 'world of work' - yes please. We would love your help!

As always, we have much we'd like to do. Here's a start:

You asked....

For hot lunches Y4-Y6

We are already working on a plan to achieve this in the summer term and will let you know as soon as we are ready to take bookings.



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For a wider variety of club activities after school

As a school, we chose to move away from individual teacher-led clubs and focus our resources on developing Busy Bunch. The reasons for this were given last year: significant increase time needed for pastoral-related work and conversations with parents, consideration for teacher workload and the safeguarding complexities of running multiple clubs.

Since Spring 2022, we have developed Busy Bunch so that it offers a range of activities, including arts, crafts and baking, alongside the ever-popular games and outdoor free play.

We invite families of children in receipt of pupil premium to contact the school office, so that we can ensure fair access to all.

We will feature Busy Bunch in the newsletter next term, so you can see what is on offer. If your child hasn't attended for a while, why not book them in and see for yourself!

In addition to Busy Bunch, we offer the following clubs:

KS1 choir	Year 1-6 dodgeball
KS2 choir	Year 3-6 netball
KS1 ukulele	Year 3-6 girls only football
KS2 ukulele	EYFS-Y2 football
Year 3-6 chess	Year 3-6 football
EYFS-Y2 Lego	Year 3-6 basketball
Year 3-4 recorders	Year 3-6 cricket
Year 5-6 recorders	Year 2-6 tennis

Thank you for your support