

Parental feedback from June 2023

Stars (the things you really like about St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery)

'Similar' responses have been grouped together

Many thanks for all your 'stars'. It is great to receive feedback on things you feel are going well. It is also encouraging to hear that amendments we make in school are having a positive impact on the children and yourselves.

Parental star – Provision/Ethos/Facilities

- *My granddaughter has been attending the nursery since January 2023, I have noticed that she really enjoys going and actually asks on a Saturday if she going to nursery.
- *My granddaughters development has come on so well.
- *The extra-curricular activities offered to the students and the holiday club provisions are a great addition to a brilliant school.
- *The new additions to the school ie forest school and the continual improvement of the school year on year.
- *Being so welcoming and updating with pictures!
- *The frequent stay and play sessions to see how your child is settling in.
- *Dealing with bullying.
- *Making the children feel welcome.
- *Understanding needs.
- *Helping people through tough times.
- *Always been warm and welcoming.
- *A lot of trips, opportunities and people going in school.
- *School environment keep clean and tidy.
- *Brilliant with supporting the children.
- *All the trips they go on.
- *They treat each child as an individual and give them the time and encouragement to develop.
- *Love that there is always a wide range of after school activities.
- *That all play areas in both Lancaster and Darlington are both safe and kids love them.
- *Children always seem happy here.
- *The annual London trip organised for the year 6's is such a wonderful way for them to end their primary school life. No doubt the memories of the experience will remain with them for many years to come.

Parental star – Staff

- *The staff are so friendly.
- *They are for the families, you can go to staff with any issues they have time for you even when you can see they are busy.
- *Staff outside to greet you, Headteacher etc. If you needed a chat you can always get someone.
- *Mrs Davies, Miss Davies and Mrs Jones are fabulous in pre-school: generally feel safe leaving my child with them.
- *The teachers are nice always and school admins do help a lot.
- *All reception staff are truly amazing especially Miss Killian. My son has come on so much this year with confidence especially with his reading and writing they have made learning fun and enjoyable. They have also supported him and myself through personal issues which could have impacted on his education but didn't because of the support he was given in school.
- *Well done to St George's Central for the broad range of after-school extracurricular activities on offer throughout the school year. They really help to develop confidence in the children.

Parental star – Communication

- *The newsletter is frequently updated and mobile text SMS are sent timely to provide information in the fastest way and allow us to understand what's happening in school.
- *They keep parents informed of how the child is doing both academically but also emotionally, and give parents support in how to help them learn and develop at home also.
- *I love the amount of care all the staff show towards the children and for all their hard work they put into everything. Superb school I always recommend to others.
- *I would like to thank all the staff of St George's Central for their consistent, nurturing support for the children, and for being friendly, welcoming and helpful towards the parents.

Wishes (ways that you think we could improve St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery)

'Similar' responses have been grouped together

Parental wish: PE kits	School response
<p>The white PE T-shirts. Having the children wear PE kit on PE days is brilliant and a great improvement however the T-shirts being white is not. They are a nightmare to keep clean: pen, food, paint just gets all over them. I purchased the official PE tops at the start of the year and by October they were ruined. Then bought again in November, also with them having blue sleeves they can't be bleached and were ruined not long after. I now buy cheap plain white T-shirts every other month and I don't think they look as smart.</p> <p>PE kit white t-shirts always look dirty/stained compared to the smart outdoor PE kit. It would be great if they were navy with white sleeves instead.</p> <p>The white PE tops should be navy.</p> <p>The PE tops: I think would be better all dark as it's near impossible to keep that style of T-shirt white so they begin to look scruffy. I have tried to bleach them and they just look awful.</p>	<p><i>Through the work I undertake with all primary schools locally, I have been able to see first-hand how almost every school has the same 'style' PE T-shirt that we do. The white t-shirt and coloured sleeve approach seems to be popular with school PE kit designers. I am thinking that a white coloured material is selected as white materials reflect the heat and so it will support your children to be cooler during active PE sessions in the sunshine. Darker materials absorb more heat and so that is why almost all primary school PE kit t-shirts are like ours.</i></p> <p><i>Due to the informal feedback I had received about our school PE T-shirts earlier this year, I have already been in touch with Chris from Icon Embroidery regarding alternative PE T-shirts. I asked if it would be possible for the children to have the same PE T-shirt that our staff wear. Unfortunately, they do not cater for our youngest children in these same designs.</i></p> <p><i>I was provided with some other darker coloured sample PE T-shirts – out of these there was one design that could fit with our current PE kit/school colours. However, this would be slightly more expensive than the current white PE T-shirts and we have also previously had feedback regarding the costs of school uniform.</i></p> <p><i>Like last year, we will soon be providing all parents/carers of children currently in Reception – current Year 5 (Year 1 – Year 6 for September 2023) with an outdoor PE kit voucher to support you when purchasing the outdoor PE kit. This takes approximately £2500 from our school budget. If we make any changes to our PE kit, the amount on the voucher we issue will not increase and so you will need to meet any additional costs yourselves should we make any changes in the future.</i></p> <p><i>Therefore, our approach with this will be:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>-there will be no changes to PE kits for September 2023, please continue to purchase the white T-shirts for this year.</i> <i>-during the Autumn Term, I will contact Icon Embroidery about providing a range of samples, of various sizes, with our school badge on.</i> <i>-during the Spring Term, we will hold a consultation with you as parents/carers (like we did in January 2018 with the change to our school polo-shirts).</i> <i>-taking into account the results of the consultation, a final decision will be made in the Summer Term regarding our PE kit so that we are ready for September 2024.</i>
Parental wish: After school club (wrap around care)	School response
<p>Nothing really, after school club would be good</p>	<p><i>Thank you for the positive comment. My opinion and our school position regarding after school provision, remains unchanged from these comments from previous years:</i></p> <p><i>'One of the strengths of our school is the amount of extra – curricular clubs our staff lead after school, for free, on a weekly basis. The clubs on offer for your children are reviewed each half term.</i></p> <p><i>We have no 'regular' after school provision in place at our school. With the staffing levels needed to meet the basic ratios for this, the financial charges that would need to be in place for this are what I would consider to be 'very high'. When it comes to after school provision, I often think:</i></p> <p align="center"><i>Is being in the same school environment from 7:30am until 6pm ideal for children?</i></p> <p><i>I am aware that people have roles/responsibilities that require them to work long hours and know how arrangements need to be made for before and after school. Making use of one the child minders who regularly pick children up from our school could be an option. Through using one of the local child minders, you will have that after school care and your child will have a change of environment. For me, this will help support their mental health and well-being as they 'relax' in a homely environment after being in the school one all day.'</i></p>

Parental wish: SEND	School response
<p>SEND: more for SEND children, although mine has a different placement for September for SEND children. This has led to him being separate from siblings. It would be a great opportunity for this school to look at resourced provision – I think the school could do it.</p>	<p><i>'Resourced Provision' is something that I had not previously thought of for St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery. There are currently two schools within the local group of primary schools that have 'Resourced Provision'.</i></p> <p><i>'Resourced Provision' is where a school is provided with extra funding and resources to cater for children from different schools in the area. The school may have additional classrooms to support children with more complex needs who wish to attend an inclusive mainstream school.</i></p> <p><i>Through speaking with a Headteacher colleague about this, I know that one of our local schools with 'Resourced Provision' caters for children from Reception – Year 6, with a maximum of 12 places. The placement of children is decided by SEND team at Wigan Council and all requests for places are made through this team. Therefore, those 12 places are for children from all schools within the area.</i></p> <p><i>If we as a school decided we would like to add 'Resourced Provision' to our school, then Wigan Council would have to think that there is a (further) need in our area and we would be asked to submit an expression of interest. I believe that there is a small pot of funding to develop the school building for this, but this would not be enough to make the necessary changes required for 'Resourced Provision' at St. George's Central.</i></p>
Parental wish: School site	School response
<p>The school parking control, school security.</p>	<p><i>In terms of school parking control, I am unsure which element is being referred to with this 'wish'? Is it the general traffic on Darlington Street or the 'Pavement signs' we have had in place since February 2023?</i></p> <p><i>In terms of the general traffic on Darlington Street, I have said many times over the years how with approximately 340 children all accessing our site in and around the same time, it is maybe best to avoid the street altogether. However, I do see the 'determination' with some drivers as they look to park as close as they can to school! Unfortunately, I am not going to change that approach with some people. I would just ask that when driving and parking near school that people are courteous to the residents of Darlington Street, who do 'look after' our school when we are not here.</i></p> <p><i>With regards to the 'Pavement signs', our School Council members undertook some 'research' outside school with an aim to make Darlington Street safer at 'dropping off' and 'collecting' time. A decision was therefore made to have the 'Pavement signs' in place. I have only received positive feedback from parents/carers about these, apart from people asking if we could have them in place on the pavement at the 'nursery end' of Darlington Street.</i></p> <p><i>We made the decision not to have these signs in place at the 'nursery end' of Darlington Street and only on the pavement where legally people should not park from 8am – 5pm. We could put the 'Pavement signs' in place in other areas of Darlington Street, but we have no legal right to do so. Therefore, people could legally move the signs and we would then have this scenario of people contacting me in school to say that the signs have been moved! Policing the parking of cars beyond the zig-zags is not currently part of my role. Can I just remind people that if you must park on Darlington Street, that you do so ensuring the safety of all people.</i></p> <p><i>In terms of school security, if you feel there are further things we could do to ensure our site is safe and secure for all staff and children, then please contact me in school to discuss.</i></p>
Parental wish: Positive	School response
<p>To just keep on striving to be a wonderful school that is able to provide a good education and lots of positive, character building experiences for the children.</p>	<p><i>Thank you very much! I can assure you that over this last year every staff member at St. George's Central has worked extremely hard. Thank you for your comments. During my eleven years as headteacher at St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery, I am always looking to change things for improvement and I will continue to do this so that your children receive what we consider to be the very best offer.</i></p>

Parental wish: Positive <i>continued</i>	School response <i>continued</i>
	<p><i>The one thing I have not yet changed over the last few years is this final comment that I always leave in this section of the feedback, when I look at all the 'stars and the wishes' as I say:</i></p> <p><i>"We do our best, but when you have over 300 sets of parents/carers who are different ages, come from different backgrounds, with different life experiences, it is sometimes difficult to please everyone. At the forefront of our mind, when we do anything at school, is the children and their long term benefit. That is why we are here! Without them, we would have a building with no life or soul. We will continue to work hard and ensure that the mantra of 'NEVER SETTLE FOR LESS THAN YOUR BEST' is something that every staff member carries out and every child leaves our school knowing and living."</i></p>



Mr M Grogan, Headteacher
Friday 7th July 2023