



# Merridale Primary School

Aspen Way Wolverhampton WV3 0UP

Telephone: 01902 558760

E Mail: [office@merridaleprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@merridaleprimary.co.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs Laura Towle

[www.merridaleprimary.co.uk](http://www.merridaleprimary.co.uk)

## 2024 Parent/Carer Survey Evaluation

In the Spring term, we asked for your opinions and views about how the school performs in a range of different areas. We received 44 completed surveys. All of this information has now been collated and your comments noted and discussed. We have provided a summary of each question area and a selection of comments made, which reflect the views held by the majority of respondents. We have also, in our summary, identified how the school is going to respond to areas of concern raised to improve what we do in the future.

I think you will agree, after reading the summary that the general view of how the school is performing is a very positive one and we will aim to continue to work alongside you to ensure that this is maintained and built upon in the future.

Thanks, once again, to everyone who contributed to this survey. Your feedback is important to our school.

### 1. **My child is happy at Merridale Primary School**

98% of parents/carers agreed or strongly agreed that their child is happy at Merridale.

Merridale is a very nice school.

Merridale is a lovely school. Staff really care about the children and prioritise learning as well as well-being.

My kids are very happy.

I like this school.

He is making great progress.

The progress they have made has been wonderful.

2. **My child feels safe at this school**

96% of parents/carers agreed or strongly agreed that their child feels safe at school.

As a school, we are proactive in ensuring that all pupils feel safe whilst they are in our care. All reported issues are dealt with and we encourage children and families to let us know whenever issues arise so we can address and resolve them.

School staff, including school leaders, will always make themselves available to discuss any concerns you may have. If you have any concerns that a problem has not been addressed, please contact Mrs Towle at school.

3. **The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved**

95% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that the school ensures pupils are well behaved

We are incredibly proud of the excellent behaviour and conduct shown by the vast majority of our students for the vast majority of the time. We spend a lot of time teaching children to respect each other and our school through our school's values and Golden Rules. Any reported issues are always dealt with and we invest a great deal of time working closely with children and their families to ensure that problems are addressed and resolved. We encourage children and parents/carers to report any issues at the earliest point so that staff can respond appropriately.

4. **My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively**

82% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that the school dealt with bullying in an effective and swift manner (or that their child had not been bullied)

We take all reports of bullying very seriously.

From our Anti-Bullying policy:

“Bullying is anti-social behaviour and affects everyone; it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed will pupils be able to fully benefit from the opportunities available at schools.

What is bullying? Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms (for instance, online bullying via text messages or the internet), and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences. Stopping violence and ensuring immediate physical safety is obviously a school’s first priority but emotional bullying can be more damaging than physical.”

If you have any concerns about your child being bullied, please contact Mrs Towle at school at the earliest possible point.

5. **The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.**

98% of parents and carers agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.

Two comments shared were:

“Not much information is shared”

“Learning Logs and newsletters are really helpful so I can support my child at home. We get paper copies as well as being able to find them on the website.”

Can I remind parents and carers that we provide curriculum newsletters for each class each half term, detailing what children will be learning. These can be found online using the link below and papers copies are also sent out with children:

[The Curriculum by Class | Merridale Primary](#)

We also provide Discover newsletters (Year 1-6) on class pages, linked to topics being covered in school. These can also be found on the class pages on our website (link above).

Our aim, at Merridale, is for parents and carers to be partners in their child’s learning. We provide regular workshops and meetings to demonstrate and explain how we teach across the curriculum as well as celebrating children’s achievements and talents, We

encourage all adults to attend as many sessions as possible throughout the school year. We have recently held workshops on Doodle, Science in schools, PE and sports, Caterlink food tasting, Christmas and Spring craft sessions, Music and Dhol drumming performances, dance and choir performances, Phonics, Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check, Year 6 assessments, open story-time sessions, Online safety as well as Discover showcases for topics. If any parents or carers feel they would like more information on our curriculum, please get in touch.

6. **Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)?**

87% of parents and carers who stated that their child has additional needs agreed or strongly agreed that the school gives their child the support they need to succeed. 13% of parents who responded this question– 1 parent/carer (who stated that their child has additional needs) did not know what support their child received at school.

From these responses, we identified that some parents and carers seemed to be unclear about the support that their child received at school if they have additional needs.

At Parent consultation meetings, teachers share the Individual Provision Plans and targets for children who have additional needs and require extra support. We know that, sometimes, parents and carers are unable to attend parent consultation sessions. In these instances, we encourage parents and carers to make an appointment with their child's teacher to find out more about the support they receive at school.

If you would like any further information or advice on this, please contact your child's teacher or Mrs Tara, our SENCO, at school.

7. **The school has high expectations for my child**

87% of parents and carers agreed that the school has high expectations for their child. 11% stated that they didn't know.

Merridale staff have high expectations for children's learning, behaviour and conduct. We appreciate that all children are on their own journey and we spend time getting to know them and their learning and emotional needs. All staff work incredibly hard to ensure that the children of Merridale to achieve their potential, whatever their starting point.

We endeavour to advise and assist parents and carers equip them with the skills and knowledge to support their children with their learning outside of school also through information sessions and workshops as well as Curriculum Newsletters and parent consultation sessions. We urge all parents and carers to attend as many sessions as possible to enable them to become more familiar with the expectations, learning and progress at school.

Feedback from parents and carers is that they sometimes feel parent/carer consultation appointments are not long enough to discuss their child in the detail that they wish. Can I remind you that you are welcome to make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher at any point during the school year, not just when problems might arise, to enable you to ask questions and find out more about their progress at school. To make an appointment, please contact the school office.

**8. [My child does well at this school.](#)**

[98% of parents and carers agreed or strongly agreed that their children do well at Merridale.](#)

We are proud of the achievements of our pupils – whether academic or non-academic. Our end of key stage 2 results show that our children achieve well from their starting points through our provision and support.

You can find out more about the outcomes for our pupils on our website: [School Performance | Merridale Primary](#) as well as the DfE's "Compare School Performance" site: [All schools and colleges in Wolverhampton - Compare school and college performance data in England - GOV.UK \(compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk\)](#)

This link lets you look at the Key Stage 2 results for the 94 primary schools in Wolverhampton. Last year (July 2023), our end of Key Stage 2 outcomes placed Merridale 22<sup>nd</sup> on this list. We are very proud of this achievement as we feel it presents the fantastic progress that our pupils make during their time at Merridale.

If you click on the two small arrows for reading progress, the site re-orders the data and you will see that Merridale's progress measure for reading places us first in Wolverhampton Local Authority (LA). We are also 9<sup>th</sup> in the LA for Maths progress. These achievements are a real testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff team as well as our pupils and their families. We know that not all learning and progress can be measured through test results but we do feel incredibly proud of the achievements of our children and their commitment to their learning.

**9. [The school lets me know how my child is doing.](#)**

[96% of parents and carers agreed or strongly agreed that school staff let them know how their child is doing at school.](#)

We work closely with parents and carers when there are issues and we aim to maximise the potential for all children. We share successes and progress in many ways including through personal contact, phone calls, certificates and awards.

We share our assessments and targets with parents and carers informally and formally through parent consultation meetings in the Autumn and Spring terms as well as through

an end of year written report.

90% of parent and carers attended our most recent parent consultation session (February 2024) and we urge all parents and carers to make the most of these meetings to find out how their child is doing at school.

A couple of comments for this question included:

“Parents’ evenings and school events like showcases are great for celebrating their learning and progress!

“I like the text messages and reminders. Lots of communication which is appreciated”.

**10. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.**

93% of parents and carers agreed or strongly agreed that Merridale provides a good range of subjects for children at the school.

7% of parents and carers stated that they didn’t know.

Merridale Primary School follows the National Curriculum and covers all subjects as required. We provide regular information to parents and carers through our Discover and Curriculum Newsletters via our website.

**11. The school provides a range of clubs and activities for children to take part in outside of lessons.**

86% of parents and carers agreed that the school provides a good range of extra-curricular activities. 9% said they didn’t know.

We offer a range of clubs for children across the school including sports, arts, crafts, yoga, dance and choir. Club forms are sent out at the start of each term and places are allocated on a first come, first served basis. We know that this sometimes means that children do not secure a place in their preferred club.

We ask for a £18 contribution per term for each club attended (approximately £1.60 per child per session) and children who are eligible for Pupil Premium funding are offered free club places. The true cost of running these clubs is closer to £25 per child per term but we do not pass all of this cost onto families so that we can make it as accessible as possible for all children.

Occasionally, we do have to cancel after school clubs sessions for example, when a member of staff is unwell. We are not able to offer refunds when this happens but, as clubs are already heavily subsidised by school, we feel that this is fair. We only ever cancel clubs as a last resort.

Clubs are offered to children so that they can explore their interests and hobbies. After school clubs are not provided as childcare. The school does not offer any wrap-around

childcare options (breakfast club etc). One parent did comment that they would like wrap-around care for their child. Whilst we would like to support working parents, this is not something we are able to offer at this time. We recently surveyed parents and carers on this subject (September 2023) and identified that there were only 10 children who would attend after school childcare provision and 3 children who would attend a breakfast club (making this financially unsustainable). You can read further information about this here:

[https://www.merridaleprimary.co.uk/files/ugd/9deda6\\_0b4db3a80d5d4c5a82bb55f17c077a4f.pdf](https://www.merridaleprimary.co.uk/files/ugd/9deda6_0b4db3a80d5d4c5a82bb55f17c077a4f.pdf)

**12. I am happy with the school's present policy on school uniform (i.e. that no uniform is defined by the school).**

66% of parents and carers agreed with the present policy on school uniform.

This issue provokes a range of different, and often very strong, viewpoints with a number of parents and carers indicating that they would like the school to introduce a uniform whilst the majority of parents and carers (who completed this survey) indicated that they are happy with the current no-uniform policy of the school. Can I remind parents and carers that they are welcome to send their children into school in uniform-style clothing if they wish (as some families choose to do).

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

86% of parents and carers agreed or strongly agreed that the school supports their child's personal development. 14% of parents and carers indicated that they didn't know.

The school provides many opportunities to develop the whole child from visits and trips to outdoor learning and Forest School. We champion and celebrate inclusivity and diversity as well as teaching children independence and resilience. Our Relationship and Health Education (RHE) lessons prepare children for life, helping them to really know and value who they are and understand how they relate to others in this.

As a school we regular celebrate success and encourage children to be the best they can be through our values-based education, school aims and Golden Rules. Our Learning Mentor and Family Support Worker support children and their families to assist them in over-coming barriers and seeking support where it is needed.

Many children also take on many roles and responsibilities within school such as School Councillors, Peer Supporters, Young Interpreters, Reading Ambassadors and House Captains as well as roles within their individual classes. We are always pleased and proud of the way our pupils conduct themselves inside and outside of school, treating others with respect and demonstrating their positive behaviour.

**14. I would recommend this school to another parent.**

91% of parents and carers said they would recommend this school to another parent.  
7% of parents and carers said that they didn't know.

We are proud of our students and our school and we know that our families are too. We are over-subscribed for admission to our Reception class each year and we feel that this is a good indicator of our positive reputation in our community.

A couple of comments from this question:

“Overall Merridale is a good school. It's small and every child gets attention. Staff are friendly and approachable. Children enjoy school.”

“I do all the time!”

Parents and carers were also asked what the school did well and how the school might be improved. We have summarised some of the findings from this below, along with our response:

**What the school does well:**

- The school cares for ALL pupils and treats everyone equally.
- School focusses on reading and children develop a lifelong love for reading.
- This school is good in every aspect. Both my children are growing up to be confident and intelligent. They articulate well in their studies and teachers are very supportive.
- They do well in everything.
- A really lovely school which is loved by the whole community.
- No uniform is great. Children are comfortable at school. This is easier for parents with no uniform to buy and keep up with as children grow.

**How could the school be improved?**

Several responses to this question focussed on the need to develop the pathway at the start of our one-way system which parents and carers use at the end of the school day ( outside the Year 4 and 5 classrooms doors, just past the car park gates). We are pleased that this has now been improved and have welcomed all of the positive comments on how much this has improved this walk-way.

A couple of comments raised their preference for introducing a school uniform as they believe it would “be a great addition to maintain identity, pride and a sense of belonging”. As highlighted in the previous question in this survey, we do not currently have a majority of parents and carers requesting this change. We remain committed to asking this question in every survey and will respond accordingly. We are very proud at Merridale of the positive behaviour of our children and we do



feel that they are proud of our school and feel part of a strong community. There has been no strong evidence to support the need to introduce a school uniform so far.

### **Parent/Carer Consultation Feedback (28.2.24)**

Following our recent parent/carers consultation session in February, we asked for some feedback from those attending. We received 14 responses to this survey and have summarised these below:

- 93% of respondent (13 parents/carers) stated that they found the consultation meeting extremely useful or useful. 7% (1 respondent) said that they did not know. Comments on this question included:
  - “I loved to listen about my child’s progress”
  - “I am grateful for all that the Nursery staff do for my child”
  - “I always find the parent consultation meetings a great opportunity to hear how my child is doing and where the areas of improvement are. My child’s teachers have always support me in how to help them at home which is extremely useful”.
  - “I get to see and hear my child’s academic progress”.
  - “I just felt we all had a lot to say but, unfortunately, such a short time”.
  
- Question: Tell us something positive from you meeting with your child’s teacher today:
  - She explained truly about my child's behaviour. Her nature is very nice.
  - It was helpful
  - Knowing he’s on track for learning
  - My child teacher was lovely and gave me a lot of information about my child and I’m happy with my child progress.
  - Absolutely brilliant and helpful staff.
  - It’s really nice to hear how my child is progressing with his learning, and hearing about what activities he is doing.
  - Teachers were so positive and polite. They gave me all necessary information about my son. They answered my questions. It was so useful.
  - Teachers are doing good job!
  
- Question: How could we improve our parent/carers consultation sessions?
  - I do not think there is any wrong. As I noticed everything was going on perfectly. Many thanks. I would like to say thank you to all staff members who arranged this meeting for us.
  - Give more time for the parent consultation
  - Make them a little longer
  - By allowing more time. And possibly printing out onto sheets key information of the child. For parents to read in their own time.
  - I don’t think you can improve them. I think they are well organised and the teachers spend a good amount of time with parents.

Response: We know that some parents and carers would appreciate more time for their appointments. However, we also have to bear in mind the impact on staff of these sessions which continue, after a full day of teaching for most teachers, until 8pm. It would not be possible to extend the appointment times but, as we explained above, parents and carers are invited to make an appointment with their child's teacher at any point during the school year to discuss their learning and progress.

We provide a full, written report on each pupil at the end of each school year in July. It would not be possible to provide further written reports at other points during the year due to the impact on teachers and their workload. Again, we feel we provide a wealth of information on our curriculum to parents and carers via our website and always encourage parents and carers to attend school events to find out more.

*As ever, if you have a question, complaint or concern about school (or you just want to let us know something that is going well), the best way to raise and address this is by arranging to come in and talk to school staff. In this way, we can work in partnership to provide the very best opportunities and support for our students and their families. Mrs Towle welcomes feedback and will happily arrange a convenient time to discuss any issues with families.*

**Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete and return this survey. Your feedback is important to us and will help us to continue to improve our school.**