

Friday 16 May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am pleased to write with a summary of our recent stakeholder surveys, including our intended follow-up actions. Collecting the views of parents, staff and children plays an important role in helping us improve how we serve families and our community. We are grateful to everyone who took time to respond to the questionnaires earlier in the year.

As mentioned in my previous letter, the full survey outcomes from parents, children and staff have been reviewed by leaders at the last governing body meeting, including comparing the outcomes with the survey undertaken in 2023.

Leaders were reassured and touched by the many positive responses. A key recurring theme in these responses was the dedication of the staff team at St Peter's and the difference this makes to the children. As recognised in the Ofsted report in 2024, there were also many positive comments in relation to the support provided for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

One notable change from 2023 was a lower return rate. In 2023 we received 123 responses from parents compared with 47 this year. We have noted that on this occasion the surveys were managed centrally by the trust and were open for a shorter period than previously. Going forward, we will ensure we provide more reminders to parents during the survey window as well as suggesting to the trust a longer response window.

After carefully reviewing the survey responses, leaders have identified two key areas for improvement: how we communicate children's progress to families, and how we support and manage challenging behaviour. We are pleased to share more information on these areas below.

## Communicating children's progress:

We value all opportunities to work alongside families to support their children both in person and via written communications. We continue to work hard to ensure we do this as effectively as possible while also managing staff workload, as well as expectations of families to attend meetings and presentations at school.

We are always happy to meet with parents throughout the year as and when requested in addition to the formal pre planned opportunities to meet. If families ever wish to make an appointment, they can email <a href="mailto:admin@stpeters.ycst.co.uk">admin@stpeters.ycst.co.uk</a> or call 01423 569684.

Having listened to the feedback, in 2025-2026 we will:

- Build on our existing approach, by introducing further opportunities for parents to come into school to review their children's work and meet with class teachers.
- Adjust the timing of parent consultation meetings throughout the year, so they follow on from assessment periods to make conversations more constructive.
- Providing free onsite childcare for school-age children during parent consultation meetings so parents can talk to staff without distraction.
- Introduce short individual written reports to parents during the academic year, as well as the usual end of year report.



We will write to all families at the start of the next academic year with full details and specific dates for all opportunities to engage with school about their children's progress. This will ensure that new families also have access to this important information

## Managing challenging behaviour

The second most common area for improvement was the impact of the behaviour of a small number of children, many of whom have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Overall, behaviour is strong, as noted by many families, external visitors and also by Ofsted in our inspection last year.

'Behaviour in lessons, and around school, is calm and orderly. Instances of poor behaviour are unusual. Where this does happen, the school acts swiftly to address it. Pupils demonstrate the school's simple behaviour rules of 'responsible, respectful, safe' consistently well.'

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The behaviour of most children continues to be exemplary and the systems to recognise this and remind children where necessary are clear and understood. At our last data check, 78% of children had a 100% positive behaviour record. So far this year, children have been awarded a total of 22,569 merits with over 95% of children having received at least one merit milestone award. Despite these clear strengths, we recognise that the behaviour of a small number of children poses a challenge and is of concern to parents, children and staff.

We are clear in our vision that we very much value each individual member of our school.

'We want everyone to know and feel they are nurtured, precious, unique and loved.'

'Every person has something that only they can offer. Every member of our school community is continually encouraged to shine, as only they can.'

As an inclusive school, we are committed to welcoming children and meeting their needs. We also understand the concerns some parents have raised about the impact of certain behaviours on their children. Leaders, including governors, have reflected on this feedback alongside our legal and moral duty to admit children referred to us by the Local Authority—even where this might present challenges and may affect others in the school community. We remain focused on supporting all children at St Peter's while listening carefully to the views of families, children and staff.

We continue to take steps and measures to reduce the number of incidents occurring and where incidents do occur, minimising the impact of these on other children and staff. We are working on this by:

- Providing ongoing training for our staff to ensure we can provide the best possible care and education for all our children, allowing everyone to feel safe, valued and respected and to learn in an environment free from distractions.
- Working closely with external agencies to ensure we are managing any challenging behaviour in line with recognised research based best practice.
- Continuing to support all children through peer awareness works to help them understand the needs of others. This is an important part of our work in preparing children for their future.
- Increasing our links and connections with other professional services to provide bespoke support for children with a high level of need. This is contributing to reducing the number of incidents concerning behaviour.
- Continue to develop individual play and learning based therapeutic spaces within school so that where there is a risk that more challenging behaviours impact on the learning of others, we can minimise this using these spaces.



Thank you again to all those who engaged in the survey process we are grateful for your views. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing admin@stpeters.ycst.co.uk or calling 01423 569684. Best wishes Mr Paul Griffiths Headteacher.

