

Pollington-Balne CE (VA) Primary School



Parent Survey – October 2023

28 respondents. Not all respondents answered every question.

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree
My child enjoys school	27	0	1
The staff at Pollington-Balne Primary School keep my child safe	26	1	1
My child is making good progress at Pollington-Balne	26	1	1
Teaching at Pollington-Balne is good	27	0	1
I am kept informed about how my child is progressing	25	2	1
The school gives me information about events and activities	24	1	3
If I have a concern, I am able to voice my concern to the school	26	0	2
I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions or a problem or a complaint	25	0	3
I find it easy to contact my child's teacher	25	1	1
Staff expect my child to work hard and do his or her best	27	0	1
Most children behave well	22	1	4
Staff encourage my child to become mature and independent	26	0	2
The school provides appropriate homework	24	0	3
My child is not bullied at school	27	1	0
There is a good range of activities that my child finds interesting and enjoyable	25	0	2
I feel welcome in the school and am encouraged to take part in school activities and events	27	0	1
I know where to access school policies and procedures	25	0	3
The school is led and managed well	24	2	2
I am happy that my child attends Pollington-Balne Primary School	26	0	1
RECEPTION PARENTS ONLY – The transition arrangements for my child to settle in to their new class were good	9	0	0

My child was well prepared for school before the September start	9	0	0
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What do you like most about Pollington-Balne Primary School?

- The staff are friendly, approachable, helpful and welcoming
- Safe, welcoming, happy, friendly school
- Staff are knowledgeable and approachable
- Teachers take concerns from parents with appropriate measures
- Students seem to be happy and supported by all staff
- Staff build strong relationships with children so they settle quickly and are happy at school
- Staff know the children well – knowing what they like individually – to get the best out of them
- Child focused
- Strong moral values instilled in the children
- Strong sense of community
- Awards, PE, Weekly book, Teach manners, Explain phonics well
- The variety of activities available
- Well sequenced, enjoyable curriculum offer
- Children feel like they belong
- Sense of community; the community feeling
- Opportunities offered to the children
- My child feels comfortable and enjoys going
- Children are praised. Encouraged
- The way staff speak with children is lovely
- Friendliness, structure, connection to church
- How happy our child is coming every day
- Our children enjoy the learning that takes place every day
- We see how hard you all work to support our children
- It teaches in a way that my child enjoys
- Small and inclusive
- Good transition from Pollington Pre-school; children feel valued
- Interschool sports, Forest School, friendly, small
- The small population of the school
- Teachers take a genuine interest in the children they teach

How do you feel about the set homework?

- Good / very good
- Happy – glad of phonics to practice – learning the letter rhymes
- Appropriate / adequate
- My child looks forward to completing it
- No issues
- Fine – acceptable level / fine as it is
- Age appropriate, right amount, child enjoys doing it
- Good tasks set, however, some of the tasks not challenging enough. It would be nice to have feedback
- Sometimes too much; a book, spellings and another handout sometimes with 4-5 activities. For my child this is too much
- Homework should be optional – we do it when we have time and the inclination. I don't feel that the school puts pressure on children to do homework
- Class 4 – regular homework set on a weekly basis that are appropriate / challenging
- It's a challenge
- We feel there is quite a lot but [my child] likes to do it, so no hardship
- Good variety of tasks. Child enjoys completing it (her words!)
- Happy with choices/ activities on offer; home learning links to child's learning outcomes; Not too much / good balance of subjects; regular homework set
- It's got better this year now it is tailored to my child's needs
- Correct amount – doesn't make homelife too stressful trying to get it completed

Our 3 key school priorities for the school year 2023-2024 are:

1. Quality of Education:

- Consistency of approach to phonics and early reading so that pupils make at least expected progress
- Improve writing outcomes in Year 2 as well as ensuring consistency of handwriting across school
- Maths – Embed fluency to ensure that children are secure in all four mathematics operations and have good recall of multiplication facts so that they are able to apply this knowledge to problem solving efficiently

2. Personal Development:

- Whole community lives out aims, ethos, values for our school and the federation
- Wellbeing for all
- Increase pupil voice
- Further develop RE / SMSC
- Further develop community links

3. Leadership and management:

- Strengthen Leadership across federation, including governance, middle leaders and subject leaders – ensure all roles explicit / clear
- Subject leadership – Develop teams to support work across both schools. Effectively support colleagues, ensuring monitoring and feedback brings about positive change
- SEND – ensure that staff are consistent in their approaches to teaching to ensure that all children, regardless of need, have equal access to the curriculum.
- Strengthen governance within school, building on the newly formed Federation Governing Board

Do you think these priorities reflect your expectations of Pollington-Balne Primary School?

20/28 respondents answered this question – with **100% agreeing** with the priorities. Additional comments:

- 😊
- Very pleased the Quality of Education priorities match with the areas that we would consider to be areas needing improvement. Handwriting in particular has in the past been an obstacle to progress due to the cursive style. It is good that this has now been brought in line with National Curriculum Guidance
- They match the areas for improvement from the most recent Ofsted inspection and simultaneously keep the school ethos

What would you like us to do better at school?

- Nothing / N/A
- More school led after school activities that ran before covid – sports clubs for competitions – cross country – football & others / More after school activities that we don't have to pay for, like cross country, football, etc.
- Sometimes a bit more clarity on events is needed. E.g. parents evening dates were sent out on the newsletter but there was no info on how to book them until the week after. Same for phonics meeting – a quick note to say where to go / if children are welcome, etc. would be useful
- I would like the school to keep my and the other children that want to learn safe from the violent ones. Chaos in the classroom on most days. Violence to be taken seriously
- It would be nice as parents to have a list of expectations at the start of the new school year. We could then prepare our children and explain to them what is expected of them. Also to receive a message when they achieve (as particularly my child) can never remember why they got the certificate or sticker, etc.
- The training and level of support for children who need extra help
- Nothing – I am happy that both my children feel safe and are progressing well
- Better communication from school office – some things need more advance notice; messages could be clearer – e.g. covering notes with attachments that are sent out
- Review how handwriting is taught / No more curly handwriting

- Improve focus on correct spelling of basic words in KS1
- We are very happy with the school – more integration with the PTA would also be welcomed if possible
- Please be more mindful that not all parents drop off and pick up everyday
- Could Young Voices be an extra-curricular offer in the future?
- More Sports Equipment
- More updated School App to allow contact with teacher
- School led after school activities that were in place and run by school; More opportunities e.g. educational trips Yorvik Centre and Young Voices examples of opportunities other local schools seem to have / More opportunities e.g. educational trips similar to those other local schools participate in
- Notify us of activities in advance – although this has got better
- Communication in advance – no more 1 day notice
- The award / certificate system is very positive. However, it sometimes can make a child feel deflated if rarely chosen when they feel that they are trying their best

Do you:

Read the school newsletter? Yes 26

Use the school website? Yes 22

- Sometimes – it's sometimes out of date
- Occasionally

Use Facebook? Yes 23

- How do I get added to the Facebook?