

Mumbulla School Parent Survey 2020

Qualitative Data

There were 55 responses to this year's survey. The Board is extremely grateful to all the respondents. The school community can be assured that the findings are being taken seriously. The school's Governance Leadership and Management (GLaM) Mandated Group will recommend to the College of Teachers, other Mandated Groups and individuals any practical changes, concerns and ideas gleaned from the survey which may lead to positive change within the school.

All quantitative results are also published on the school's website.

Respondents also added qualitative comments in answer to some questions. These are presented in summary form below as in some cases comments identified the respondent or an individual member of staff. It is not appropriate to publish any material that identifies individuals as this may affect future participation in the survey.

Additional comments about Information Sources

Comments about information sources were positive. The Bulletin remains parents' main source of information.

In what areas do you mostly volunteer?

As one parent noted, "COVID-19 was the main barrier to volunteering" during 2020.

What suggestions do you have for how the school could make it easier for parents to participate?

Parents are very keen to get reminders about the many ways they can participate, be that through a list of ways to get involved at the start of each term or via rostering multiple volunteer opportunities ahead of time so families can schedule their time.

Additional comments about Parent Engagement

Most respondents felt like their engagement with the school was down purely because of COVID-19 restrictions, not because they did not wish to be involved. As one parent noted, "Tricky year for parent engagement. We will have to work hard next year to re-engage parent population."

Monthly or termly parent education was also suggested. Something that the College and P&F try hard to put in place. On the back of 2020, we are planning regular parent education opportunities in 2021.

Additional comments about School Culture & Communication

The comments in this section were overwhelmingly positive. Here is a sample:

- I enjoy visiting the school
- Amazing communication! Really. Very caring and professional.

An area highlighted for the school to work on is:

- More notice before events and excursions for planning purposes, including comprehensive details/instructions ahead of time

Additional comments about Teacher/Parent Communication

As per previous year's responses, teacher communication is noted as outstanding and class meetings are an absolute highlight for many respondents. Parents did not love communicating via Zoom, but most were very understanding of the necessity for this.

What do you appreciate most about the school?

The responses to this question all fit positively within the following areas (there was not a single negative response to this question):

1. The Steiner curriculum
2. The staff/teachers and their beautiful manner with the children
3. The Community
4. Aesthetically pleasing, warm and nurturing environment

Here are a few examples of what respondents wrote:

The Steiner-focused curriculum, the care given to the children and the focus on the whole child.

The whole school community - it has been missed very much this year! The magic and beauty of heart centred creative learning.

Low tech environment. Warm engaging staff and teachers. Feeling of kindness and respect amongst children and teachers and staff.

The mindset: community oriented, appreciating the whole child, no rush to learn but appropriate support offered and real world nature experiences for the children, care and love.

Do you have any hopes, dreams or aspirations for the school over the next 5 years?

There are two main answers to this question (which have been repeated since the Parent Survey has been going out):

- Extend school to include Years 7 & 8 and beyond.
- A new Kindergarten building.

What do you feel are the main challenges for the future of the school in the next 5 years?

The following points were highlighted by respondents as the primary challenges:

- No active P&F
- Maintaining the core values and principles of the Steiner in the current social climate.
- ICT

Additional comments about Leadership and Direction

There were only 6 written responses to this question. Two of these responses were recommending that the school move toward a principal model of leadership. Another two thought the current leadership model was working exceptionally well. The remaining two comments did not relate to the question.

Additional comments about Parent Education

1. More of it!
2. Parents loved the Cybersafe talk, Susan Perrow and talks from the School Counsellor.

Further comments about school's overall management of remote learning during COVID-19?

Overall parents expressed that they were very impressed with the way the school handled this uncharted territory.

I think Mumbulla has been exemplary in its handling of COVID-19. We could not have asked for any more

Parents praised the resources that the teachers provided, though some struggled to stay on top of home learning. There were grateful messages about the beautiful learning packages the teachers put together and appreciation of the clear communication from the school.

Most respondents who commented were thankful to the school for putting the children's and the teacher's wellbeing first.

The proactive decisions early on led the way in minimising risk to the community. The schools flexibility and creativity working with current regulations and restrictions has been just as important, keeping risk at a minimum but still providing rich and valuable opportunities for its students.

I think the school does very well in managing this very difficult issue.

I think you've all done an amazing job of managing through such a challenging time. I do really miss being able to come onto the school grounds (for the sense of 'community'), but I realise this is beyond your control.

Are there any comments you would like to make about any aspect of the school?

The responses to this question were mostly positive. Here is a sample:

Well done Mumbulla on the most challenging of years

You are doing a wonderful job! Thank you :)

... keep striving for excellence – it is showing.

However, there is an area of concern that has been raised again this year that needs our further attention. Together, as a staff and a community, we aim to turn our focus to this in 2021 and beyond:

A more overt and proactive stance on inappropriate or bullying behaviours so that children fully understand what bullying is, what the school expectations are and what the consequences are if they do the wrong thing.

Once again, the Board of Mumbulla School thank you for your insightful responses and we hope that together we can continue to make our school the special place that it is.

Board of Directors