

2024 Mumbulla School Parent Survey – Summary for Our School Community

The 2024 Parent Survey received **59 responses**, providing valuable insights into how families engage with Mumbulla School, what they appreciate, and areas where improvements can be made.

Thank you to all families who participated in our survey. Your feedback helps us grow and improve as a school community. Below is a summary of the key findings and recommendations based on your responses.

1. Information Sources

Findings:

- The **weekly Bulletin** is the primary source of information for 93% of families, with most reading it **cover to cover or focusing on their child's class notes**.
- Secondary sources include **emails from the front office (46%) and updates from children (26%)**.
- The **school website and Facebook page** are not widely used for information.
- Some parents would like a **detailed events calendar** to help them plan ahead.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Keep the **weekly Bulletin as the main communication tool** but explore ways to improve accessibility.
 - ✓ Develop an **online calendar** for school events and volunteering opportunities.
 - ✓ Improve the **website's usability** to provide clearer information on policies and upcoming activities.
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2. Parent Engagement

Findings:

- 59% of parents feel they **contribute at full capacity**, but 7% **want to assist more but are unsure how**.
- Parents appreciate **flexible volunteering options** but want **more advance notice for events**.
- Events like **working bees, camps, and festivals** help parents feel connected to the school.
- Some parents feel the **P&F's role could be clearer**, and not all parents know how to get involved.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Offer **clearer guidance** on how parents can participate in school activities.
- ✓ Provide **advance notice** for volunteering opportunities.
- ✓ Consider **introducing an opt-in contribution system** for those who can't volunteer but still want to support events like the Spring Fair.

3. School Culture & Communication

Findings:

- 96% of parents feel **welcome at the school**.
- 91% feel **satisfied with school communication**, but some want **more transparency on school decisions**.
- Some parents feel that **classroom updates and teacher communication could be improved**.
- A few concerns were raised about **bullying policies and school responses to student wellbeing issues**.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Maintain the **strong sense of community** while improving **information-sharing on school governance**.
 - ✓ Address concerns about **bullying** by making our **policies and procedures more transparent and clearly communicating with parents**.
 - ✓ Encourage **more inclusive involvement in school activities** to ensure all families feel equally informed.
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4. Teacher/Parent Communication

Findings:

- 79% of parents feel that **teachers communicate openly and in a timely manner**, but some **struggle to get responses to emails or updates on their child's progress**.
- 83% of parents feel **informed about the curriculum**, but some want **more clarity on classroom learning and assessment**.
- Class meetings are **valued by 88% of parents**, but some **would like them to be more frequent**.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Maintain **teacher communication on student progress** through regular updates, not just at reporting periods.
 - ✓ Consider **holding class meetings more frequently** to provide more opportunities for parent engagement.
 - ✓ Explore Compass **parent portal** as a means for parents accessing appropriate classroom information.
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5. Leadership and Direction

Findings:

- 65% of parents feel **well-informed about school leadership**, but 40% are **unclear on the role of the College of Teachers and the Board**.
- Many parents support **Mumbulla's vision and values**, but some **want more transparency on future plans**.
- A number of families had **hoped for a high school expansion**, but this is no longer planned.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Increase **Board and College of Teachers updates** in the Bulletin or through termly parent meetings.
 - ✓ Provide **clearer information on the school's vision and strategic plans**, including use of new land.
 - ✓ Consider **ways to inform families of how children fair in the transition** from Mumbulla to other schools.
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6. Parent Education

Findings:

- 71% of parents are **interested in further education sessions**, particularly on **child development, technology use, and transitioning to high school**.
- Parents appreciate **online sessions** but **would like recordings or text summaries** for those who can't attend live.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Continue offering **parent education webinars**, with topics informed by parent interest.
 - ✓ Provide **recorded or written summaries** for busy parents who can't attend live sessions.
 - ✓ Introduce **monthly parent study groups** on Steiner education for those who want to deepen their understanding.
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7. Additional Comments from Parents

What You Love About Mumbulla:

- The **strong sense of community** and **deeply caring teachers**.
- The **music, craft, and creative arts** that makes the school unique.
- The **beautiful environment** and focus on **holistic education**.

Hopes for the Future:

- Some parents still **wish for a high school**, though they understand why it is not proceeding.
 - Parents hope the school will continue to **focus on sustainability and reconciliation**.
 - Requests for **more structured physical activity and sports** in the curriculum.
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Next Steps & Moving Forward

We are taking your feedback on board and looking at ways to:

- ✓ Improve **communication between teachers and parents** through alternative means of updates and additional class meetings.
- ✓ Provide **clearer information on governance and school decisions**.
- ✓ Make **volunteering easier and more accessible** for all parents.
- ✓ Continue **developing engaging parent education opportunities**.

We deeply appreciate your involvement in our school and your thoughtful feedback. Together, we will continue to make Mumbulla a place where our children thrive.