



# RUSHDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY

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## Parent Survey March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete this year's Parent Survey. Your feedback is invaluable and will be used to further improve the school's provision. This year, we received an excellent response, with 119 of you participating - your engagement is truly appreciated! Below is a summary of key areas of success and aspects we will be working on over the next few terms.

### **My child is doing well at the academy.**

The majority of parents (96%) agree or strongly agree that their child is doing well at the academy, reflecting confidence in the quality of education provided. One parent commented, *"My child is thriving academically and emotionally. The teachers are so supportive."*

### **My child feels safe at the academy.**

A significant number of parents (98%) reported that their child feels safe at school. Safety remains a top priority, and we are committed to maintaining a secure and supportive environment. A parent noted, *"I have no worries about my child's safety - staff are always vigilant and caring."*

### **I would recommend this academy to other parents.**

94% of parents stated they would recommend Rushden Primary Academy, highlighting the positive experiences families have within our school community. One parent shared, *"This school has given my child so much confidence and happiness. I couldn't recommend it enough."*

### **The school makes sure our children are well behaved.**

97% of parents feel that the school ensures good behaviour, reinforcing our commitment to a respectful and structured learning environment. We will continue to support children in developing positive behaviours. A parent commented, *"The school instils great values in the children, and behaviour expectations are clear."*

### **The school makes me aware of what my child will be learning throughout the year.**

97% of parents feel informed about their child's learning. We will continue to communicate curriculum information clearly and accessibly. One parent said, *"The newsletters and updates on learning topics really help me support my child at home."*

### **If I have raised concerns, I feel the school has listened and responded appropriately.**

Of the parents who have raised concerns, 94% feel that the school has addressed them appropriately. We encourage open communication and will continue to listen to and act on parental feedback. One parent shared, *"Whenever I've had a concern, the school has responded quickly and with care."*

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**The school lets me know how my child is doing.**

96% of parents agree that they receive adequate updates on their child's progress. This year we have added termly reports, in addition to 2 parents' evenings and our annual written report. I would very much like to discuss any ideas of how we can be more transparent and move forward in this area – please get in touch.

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

93% of parents feel that the academy supports their child's wider personal development. We remain committed to providing opportunities for enrichment and personal growth. One parent stated, *"The extra-curricular activities and enrichment opportunities are fantastic."* However, if you are one of the 7% who think we could do more, I am happy to listen.

**I am happy with general communication from the school (about school events etc).**

97% of parents are satisfied with the general communication from the school. We strive to ensure timely and clear updates through newsletters, emails, and our online platforms. A parent shared, *"Communication has improved so much—Dojo messages and emails are so useful."*

**What do you particularly value about the school? (What do we do well?)**

Parents highlighted several positive aspects of RPA, including: dedicated teachers, strong community, engaging curriculum. One parent commented, *"The staff genuinely care about the children, and it shows in everything they do."*

**What would you like to see improved at the school?**

Thank you for your thoughts here. I have provided some comments on some of your suggestions.

Use of screens	<p>We may use movies when it is wet play, and there were a few occasions, when it was very cold that we had a movie on in the library at lunchtime. These are exceptions to the rule, and on normal days, there's reading, colouring and board games available in the library.</p> <p>I will investigate screen use at the end of the day – I believe that some classes watch Newsround, but I too, would rather they be sharing a book at home time.</p>
Prompt dismissal	<p>I have asked all teachers to prepare to dismiss earlier and open doors a few minutes earlier.</p>
Homework	<p>This is always a contentious issue. We are always re-evaluating what we do and will continue to do so.</p> <p>I will speak to the teachers about how to acknowledge complete homework.</p>
Clubs	<p>All Star Sports offer a range of sports clubs, but I have asked that we look at securing another provider for things like dance and gymnastics, when the hall is free. I have also asked that we investigate other external providers for things such as science clubs.</p> <p>Younger children</p> <p>This offer is limited when the children first start as the level of supervision that the children need is higher than that of the older children. We do not have the staff needed to do this. More becomes available throughout the year as the children learn the school's rules and routines.</p>

	<p><b>Staff-led clubs - context</b></p> <p>We listened to feedback last year and we now try to offer these at different times throughout the week, based on staff availability. Depending on the teacher's role, they may have senior team meeting on a Monday, staff training on a Tuesday and Key Stage meetings and moderation on a Thursday. In addition to this, all staff attend 1 Wednesday Twilight session per term.</p> <p>Our support staff work until 3:30 pm and many of them offer to stay on to provide a club for the children, but I will not insist on this as it is outside of their contacted hours.</p>
More Staff	I would like this too!
Parking	I will continue to send reminders to be considerate around school, but there is little more that I am able to do. If you see someone being dangerous, I advise that it is reported to the police. I have asked for a PCSO presence outside school at pick-up and drop-off times, but I expect every school does likewise.
More frequent updates	<p>If you have questions regarding your child's progress and how to support them, please ask their teacher. You can send a Dojo message and ask for a chat at any time.</p> <p>In addition to the Big Picture documents, the website is full of curriculum content.</p>
SEND	The demand for SEND support is increasing at a significant rate. This is a national picture, and all schools are having to adapt what they provide for some children. In response to this, we have increased the capacity in the team so that we can try to address more concerns. Most often, we are just as frustrated as you with how much time things take, but we can only work as fast as the Local Authority, and we have strict protocols to follow.
School Dinners	The menu is set by the Trust to ensure it meets all food standards guidance in terms of nutrition. I am not sure why they have a meat-free day. I will pass your comments on.
Dojo	Some of you would like more frequent posts; others would like less. What we are working on is the consistency of posts between classes.
Breakfast & After School Club	Some of you have requested more flexibility here, especially when you do shiftwork. I will meet with Mrs Wright about how we could do this.
Investments	<p>The Trust invested in securing all GAT school sites with automated gates last year. This was not at a cost to the school. It has however, increased the safety of the pupils so a positive addition.</p> <p>The development of The Nest's outdoor area was commissions through SEND funding. I am always looking for additional funding streams to improve the wider school.</p>

Current projects are:

- Outdoor classroom/gazebo – due Spring 2025
- Sensory Garden – due Summer 2025
- Goal ends with hoops – due Summer 2025
- Continued treatment of the field – annual
- Additional playground markings – future project
- Redevelopment of the EYFS outside area - future project
- Climbing wall addition to the storage container - future project

Like most schools, there is no pot of gold to pay for these improvements – we must find/apply for it. If you are aware of any local or big businesses that may want to sponsor a project with us, please get in touch.

Thank you to all parents who took the time to complete the survey. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us to continue improving our school for every child and family.

Yours sincerely

Miss Edwards