St Mary & St John CE Primary School

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You Said, We Did – Governor Survey 2025

Thursday 3rd July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much to everyone who took the time to complete the recent Governor Questionnaire. We received around 150 responses – more than in previous years – and we are deeply grateful for your honest, thoughtful, and encouraging feedback. Your feedback is a vital part of how we reflect, learn, and continue to grow as a school community.

We are incredibly grateful for the trust and partnership you offer us. It was wonderful to hear that so many of you feel your children are happy, safe, and thriving at SSMJ. A strong theme in the responses was appreciation for the warmth, care, and dedication of our staff – and we couldn't be prouder of our team.

Here are just a few of the many heartening comments we received:

"My daughter couldn't receive better care in terms of her special needs. The school is a safe place for her, and my mental health is so much better knowing she's supported."

"I can wholeheartedly recommend this school to another parent, knowing that the staff is dedicated and professional and the curriculum offers a varied and stimulating learning experience for our children."

"Literally could not be more impressed with the school and all staff members… It's more than we could have ever wished for!"

"The teachers are particularly kind and caring and go to great lengths to make school an enjoyable place."

"My daughter wakes up each morning happy to go to school. She feels recognised and well supported by her teachers and is especially fond of her class teacher."

These reflections mean a great deal to us. They affirm our mission to provide a nurturing, inclusive, and ambitious learning environment where every child can flourish.

Of course, your feedback also helps us understand where improvements can be made. We've heard your suggestions around clearer academic communication, consistency in homework, and the desire for more structured updates across the year. We are actively taking steps to respond to these areas.

Your insights are invaluable in helping us build on what's working well and understand where we can do better. Below, we've summarised key themes from the survey and how we are responding.

🌟 You Said: Warm, caring staff and a strong school ethos

We Did:

Thank you for recognising the dedication and kindness of our teachers and staff. We have shared your positive comments with the whole team – over 40 individuals were named specifically! Your appreciation means the world.

📚 You Said: You want more regular updates on your child's academic progress

We Did:

Teachers are always happy to meet with parents who would like an update on their child's progress. While our calendar includes a full programme of training and professional development, which limits our capacity to add more formal meetings, we remain committed to maintaining open lines of communication throughout the year.

🏠 You Said: Homework expectations are inconsistent

We Did:

We're reviewing our whole-school homework policy, with a particular focus on progression between Years 5 and 6. Updates will be shared at the start of the new academic year so that expectations are clear and consistent across the school.

🔄 You Said: Communication can be overwhelming and fragmented

We Did:

From September, we will move to a single update system. Our newsletters pull together key dates, events, and updates across classes and the whole school. We'll review and refine this based on your feedback.

🌿 You Said: You value enrichment like Forest School and the arts

We Did:

We're proud that Forest School, trips, and creative learning were so positively received. We're looking to expand Forest School provision in 2025–26 and are also investing in new music and drama enrichment opportunities.

💬 You Said: SEND experiences can be inconsistent between classrooms

We Did:

We're working with our Inclusion Lead to ensure greater consistency in how support plans are followed and communicated. A review system is in place to better monitor and share what's in place for children with additional needs.

🍽️ You Said: Concerns about food quality and nutrition

We Did:

We've begun reviewing the food offered at school events and are in early discussions with our caterers about menu quality and reducing ultra-processed items. More updates to come – and we welcome ideas from our parent community!

Thank you again for your partnership and care for our school. It's this shared commitment that makes St Mary & St John such a special place to grow and learn.

With warm wishes on behalf of the Governing Body,

and the St Mary & St John Team
Headteacher

WATER SMART Schools GOLD
Wellbeing Award for Schools 2024-2027
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
Artsmark Gold Award Awarded by Arts Council England
Let all that you do be done in love... 1 Corinthians 16:14
Children Fit For Life Award