

# ABBOTSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

'Helping everyone achieve their best'

Ringwood Road  
Totton  
Southampton  
SO40 8EB

Telephone: (023) 8086 3159  
E-mail: [admin.office@abbsch.co.uk](mailto:admin.office@abbsch.co.uk)  
[www.abbotswood.hants.sch.uk](http://www.abbotswood.hants.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mr G Moore



'It Really Does Matter'



11<sup>th</sup> November 2022

## Parent/Carer Questionnaire

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to everyone that completed the above questionnaire – it is much appreciated. We received 259 responses and we have been busily analysing the results this week.

Overall, we are extremely pleased with the outcome as it is a reflection of how hard we try to make Abbotswood a positive experience for your children. We definitely see school as a partnership between us all. We were particularly overwhelmed (and happy) that 96% of you would recommend Abbotswood to another parent – thank you.

At the same time, we recognise that we are not perfect and sometimes get things wrong. Yet, I can promise you that we will always do our utmost to improve and address any issues that arise/come to our attention.

| <b>Questionnaire: Results</b>   | <b>Strongly Agree / Agree</b> | <b>Disagree / Strongly Disagree</b> | <b>Don't Know</b> |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| My Child is happy at Abbotswood                                       | 98%                           | 2%                                  | 0%                |
| My Child feels safe at Abbotswood                                     | 98%                           | 1%                                  | 1%                |
| Abbotswood makes sure its pupils are well behaved                     | 94%                           | 2%                                  | 4%                |
| Abbotswood teaches my child what to do if they are being bullied      | 72%                           | 6%                                  | 22%               |
| Abbotswood makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year | 98%                           | 1%                                  | 1%                |
| Abbotswood has high expectations for my child                         | 92%                           | 2%                                  | 6%                |
| My child does well at Abbotswood                                      | 98%                           | 0.5%                                | 1.5%              |
| Abbotswood lets me know how my child is doing                         | 96%                           | 3%                                  | 1%                |
| There is a good range of subjects available to my child at Abbotswood | 98%                           | 1%                                  | 1%                |
| I would recommend Abbotswood to another parent                        | 96%                           | 1%                                  | 3%                |

| <b>Questionnaire: Results</b>   | <b>Strongly Agree / Agree</b> | <b>Disagree / Strongly Disagree</b> | <b>Don't Know</b> | <b>No experience of bullying</b> |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| From my experience, Abbotswood deals with incidents of bullying effectively | 68%                           | 4%                                  | 8%                | 20%                              |

| <b>Questionnaire: Results</b>  | <b>Strongly Agree / Agree</b> | <b>Disagree / Strongly Disagree</b> | <b>Don't Know</b> | <b>Never raised concerns</b> |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly | 68%                           | 5%                                  | 2%                | 25%                          |

### You said...

*"It would be lovely if my child could learn to play a musical instrument."*

When I first started teaching in the 1990s, all children across the country learned a musical instrument in Year 3 and 4 (free of charge). I am sure that many of you younger parents have direct experience of this. However, the funding for this was withdrawn about 10 years ago.

As a school, we do try to provide as many opportunities for the children as we can within tight financial constraints. We currently offer three 'music' clubs after school each week – Choir, Song Writing and Ukulele. In addition to this, we have a specialist Music Teacher in school – Mrs Button.

Furthermore, a few years ago, children were able to access Peripatetic music lessons in school at a reduced cost. For a number of reasons, these are no longer practical and it is often cheaper to source music lessons out of school. Nevertheless, we do offer piano lessons before school with Miss Russell and I know that the children enjoy these.

As a music lover who cannot play a note and never had the opportunity to learn as a child, I would love more children to have the opportunity to play an instrument.

*"Sport could be more inclusive for SEN children."*

All PE and Sport lessons are fully inclusive due to having three fully qualified Sports Coaches who work with the school SENCO to adapt lessons where needed. We also take part in the New Forest Inclusive completions where SEN children across every year group have been selected to attend with Mrs Moore. Last year, we attended inclusive Multiskills, Boccia, Cricket and Curling and this year we have a programme of competitions to attend. Sports Clubs are open to all children to attend.

### SEN children who have attended sports events:

2021/2022- 51

2022/2023- 23 so far this year

### SEN children who have attended extra-curricular clubs:

2021/2022- 56

2022/2023 - 57 so far this year

*“I would like more updates on pupil progress.”*

I would agree that, over the past couple of years during COVID-19, it has been more difficult to involve parents and keep you up-to-date with what your child has been doing in school. Now that things have returned to normal, we are doing all we can to involve you in your child’s learning – for example, it was lovely to see so many of you at the Parent Outcomes and Parents’ Evenings last half term.

We are always looking for ways to improve our communication with you and this includes updates on pupil progress. We are always open to suggestions on how we can improve this. At present, we do provide the following:

- Three Parents’ evenings across the year (2 bookable ones and an informal one in the Summer Term).
- Two school reports (Spring and Summer).
- Teachers are available after school every day on the playground, or appointments can be made via [admin.office@abbsch.co.uk](mailto:admin.office@abbsch.co.uk).
- Parent Outcomes across the year.

To be honest, the best indicator of your child’s progress in school is the child themselves and whether they are happy.

*“The band reward system needs to be scrapped or make sure that every child who does their best leaves with all the bands.”*

The subject of rewarding children (and adults!) is always a contentious one – you can never please everyone. In fact, some people believe that children should not be rewarded at all for their efforts and that they should want to do well regardless of any tangible reward. We do not hold this view at Abbotswood.

We moved to the band system based on our school values about 5 years ago. Feedback has been generally positive. However, I do say to the children regularly in our celebration assembly that it must be difficult for a teacher to choose only one child each week as so many of them work so hard. This is the same for the Headteacher Award where only three children per class are chosen each year. I have listed just some of our school rewards below:

- Headteacher Award
- Values wristbands
- STAR writer/reader
- House points
- Table points
- Star of the Day
- Star of the Week
- TTRS Star of the Week (with the opportunity to win Amazon vouchers)
- Zoella and Ziggy, our attendance mascots
- Space Race Reading prizes
- Tommy stickers and postcards home
- Handwriting certificates
- Spelling Legend
- Abbotswood Reading Challenge.

*“Need to put less pressure around the SATs.”*

Two of the biggest external pressures for school are SATs and Ofsted. Like it or not, judgements are made on schools based on both of these.

At Abbotswood, we believe strongly that your child is 'more than a score' and, although the SATs are important, there is more to school than passing a test. Nevertheless, we want your children to fulfil their potential and help them with the SATs in any way we can. The children in Year 6 work very hard towards their assessments but we always try not to put too much pressure on them. From my experience, some children will always worry when faced with any kind of test and we support them in a variety of ways. For example:

- Some children are entitled to additional time
- Some children carry out the tests in small groups supported by an adult
- Some children are entitled to readers
- The Friends of Abbotswood provide a breakfast of croissants and juice every day for every child.

*"Please reduce the amount of emails I receive from you."*

This is something that has been on my mind for a while and is somewhat ironic as I construct another email. I speak as someone who receives over 100 work emails every day. What did we do before emails were invented?

The challenge for schools is to communicate everything without over sharing. This is particularly challenging in such a big school as Abbotswood. We promise that we are looking at streamlining the way we send out communications.

## **Positive Comments**

There were numerous positive comments and it is impossible to list them all. However, I can assure you that every single one of them is greatly appreciated. Here are just a few of them:

*"I just want to say a massive thank you to everyone at Abbotswood. My child is in Year 6, they have blossomed so much, and they love school. You have made them progress so much from where they were...you all deserve a medal as you have been amazing – top school with top class staff!"*

*"X has loved his time at Abbotswood, as did his sister before him. I am gutted it will come to an end this school year. I would recommend the school to anyone who asks. An awesome teaching team, an awesome team of support staff and great opportunities. You guys are the best!"*

*"I cannot stress how blessed I feel that my children are at this school. They are treated as individuals and allowed to flourish in their own right. Thank you for all your staff do."*

*"We like seeing Tommy the dog."*

*"My daughter loves Abbotswood and I believe the teaching staff make the difference in the wonderful atmosphere within the school. Thank you all."*

*"Since moving my child to Abbotswood I cannot put into words the change in her. The positivity, kindness, warmth and overall experience for my child at Abbotswood has been amazing and I am so glad I made the decision to move. From her teacher and LSA in 4ML to the office staff, gate staff, before school club teachers and dinner staff I cannot thank everyone enough for the positive impact they have had on her and it really has had a hugely positive impact on her at school and her learning. Communication is fantastic and really shows in the joint effort with school and home life. I will most certainly recommend Abbotswood to anyone!"*

*"The school values are clear and my children understand what they are and the importance of them."*

*"My daughter has thrived since moving into Year 3 at Abbotswood. She has such a great support from her class teacher, Mr Humphries, and she really really enjoys her time there. She loves to*

*learn, so much so she plays 'teachers' and conducts assemblies at home. I've been told I have to sit cross legged and sit up straight! Thank you for all your support and guidance so far in my daughter's journey."*

*"The staff are extremely supportive with my child's additional needs and I have to say having a parent support worker is so reassuring. Louise Evans does such an amazing job; please don't let her go un-noticed."*

*"Abbotswood is a fantastic school and the standard of teachers and LSAs is very high. My son loves coming to school and doesn't want to ever leave!"*

*"Fantastic school and my child is extremely happy! Many opportunities to participate in learning in and out of the classroom, clubs and various sports. My child feels safe, valued and loves her school!"*

*"We have two children at the school (Yr6 and Yr4) and both are very different characters. Both children are thriving and are genuinely excited to go to school every day. To quote what they said this week; 'We wish we could stay at Abbotswood forever.' We couldn't agree more! Thank you for inspiring them."*

*"From what I see/hear from my children, Abbotswood staff make learning fun, they help to instil confidence and encourage all children to do their best. They enjoy school and often talk fondly of what they've done during that day. The support and office staff do a great job of keeping the school running smoothly, keeping us informed and help keep our children safe. Personally our children are very happy at Abbotswood and therefore as parents we are happy too. Thank you to everyone at Abbotswood for all your hard work, we appreciate you all."*

*"Exceptional school with passionate teachers. Happy my children attend this school."*

*"The staff at Abbotswood are a very strong team who work together to ensure all children are valued. It has been a pleasure to watch both our children thrive and develop as people whilst at the school. It is great to see the school placing value on children's personal development and self-esteem during class and through the extensive range of extra-curricular activities on offer. Thank you."*

*"I would highly recommend Abbotswood to other parents."*

*"My daughter is thriving at Abbotswood and I am so impressed with the school. The range of after-school activities are excellent and cater for everyone, and the effort put in by the teachers/LSAs is clearly evident. The communications from the school are perfect too. The teachers seem happy under Mr Moore's leadership, which I think is really important."*

*"My oldest child recently finished her time at Abbotswood and my youngest has just started. They both love the school and I've always found the teachers fantastic."*

*"All staff are friendly and welcoming, my daughter has absolutely thrived since being at Abbotswood, we are so happy we chose this school!"*

*"Since joining Abbotswood, my child's confidence has grown not only academically but in her independence as well. Her class teachers have been brilliant but I believe all staff at Abbotswood make a difference (she talks about the LSAs, lunchtime staff, office staff etc.). She is so much happier since moving to Abbotswood and I cannot thank the staff enough for making it a smooth transition for her."*