

SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL YEAR PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE
Years 7 – 13 2017/18

<u>OVERALL RESPONSE FROM PARENTS (241)</u>	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
My daughter enjoys school 96% strongly agree/agree	61%	35%	3%	1%	0%
My daughter is safe and well cared for 100% strongly agree/agree	80%	20%	0%	0%	0%
My daughter is making good progress 98% strongly agree/agree	73%	25%	0.5%	0%	1.5%
Staff expect my daughter to work hard and to do her best 100% strongly agree/agree	89%	11%	0%	0%	0%
I feel that my daughter is given an appropriate amount of homework for her age 92% strongly agree/agree	55%	37%	7%	1%	0%
The school helps me to support my daughter's learning 93% strongly agree/agree	55%	38%	3%	0%	4%
The school helps my daughter to have a healthy lifestyle 85% strongly agree/agree	42%	43%	8%	0%	7%
The school makes sure that my daughter is well prepared for the future (for example, changing year group, changing school, and for children who are finishing school, entering further or higher education, or entering employment) 88% strongly agree/agree	55%	33%	2%	0%	10%
Staff are encouraging my daughter to become mature and independent 97% strongly agree/agree	67%	30%	0.5%	0%	2.5%
The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour and bullying 74.5% strongly agree/agree	45%	29.5%	5%	0.5%	20%
The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns 73% strongly agree/agree	38%	35%	2%	0.5%	24.5%
The school is led and managed effectively 96% strongly agree/agree	57%	39%	0%	0%	4%
I would feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions or a problem. 98% strongly agree/agree	69%	29%	1.5%	0%	0.5%
Overall, I am happy with my daughter's experience at this school 98.5% strongly agree/agree	74%	24.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%

Executive Summary:

Firstly, thank you to the parents who took time to complete one of our questionnaires at our Parents' Evenings last year. We appreciate that this takes a few minutes but your feedback and comments are very important to us and the results have been analysed and discussed.

Secondly, we are yet again thrilled with such a positive response in all of the areas surveyed but are always seeking to improve provision further. When one studies the figures and combines the "strongly agree and agree columns", we are pleased that parents and pupils are so happy with the High School and there is very little difference between this year's results and the results for the last three years. However, there have been further improvements and these will be discussed in this executive summary.

All of the parents who responded to the questionnaire feel that the staff at the High School expect pupils to work hard and do their best (Q4). Large numbers of parents include comments on the questionnaires praising the high standards and ethos of the School. We greatly appreciate the comments parents make thanking the school and our staff for all that we do. We saw an increase in the percentage of parents who feel that staff encourage their child to become more mature and independent (+0.5%) along with an increase in those who strongly agree/agree that the School is well led and well managed (+2%).

100% of parents responded positively to Q2 and believe that their child is safe and well cared for at the High School. During 2017/18, we continued our work on anti-bullying and focused in particular on respect, relationships and the use of social media. These were also a community theme in a number of the Curriculum Evenings and parental feedback sheets for these events indicated that the information and support given was very helpful.

Pupil Support Coordinators and Year Heads are now well established within school structures and this September saw the second academic year that pastoral leaders “moved up” with their year groups. The aim of this was to create stronger relationships between home and school in support of pupils. Those who strongly agree/agree that they would feel comfortable in approaching the School (Q13) increased by 2.5% which is pleasing to see; as is the very high percentage of parents (98.5%) who are happy with their child’s experience at the High School. We also saw an increase in the percentage of parents stating that their daughter/son enjoyed school (Q1). Our goal is for all pupils to enjoy school; we realise that issues and problems do arise so continue to encourage pupils and parents to talk to us if there is a problem so that we can work towards resolving it. We hope that these increases reflect the open relationships we try to foster with all parents and pupils.

In 2015/16 we saw a 6% increase in the number of parents who strongly agreed/agreed that the School took their suggestions into account (Q11). 2017/18 saw this percentage decrease slightly by 2%, however, the “don’t know” category increased by a similar amount. The percentage of parents who disagreed/strongly disagreed with this question reduced. To the very small number of parents who feel that they disagree with this statement we would continue to say – “please, talk to us and let us work together to help resolve any issues that you feel exist”. It is always possible to meet with the Head or members of staff, and Governors are available at each Parent Evening.

Attendance at Curriculum Evenings continues to be very good and we find them to be a useful opportunity for parents and staff to meet and talk less formally than traditional parents’ evenings. Each Curriculum Evening focuses on the issues that are specific to each year group with presentations from key pastoral and academic staff. Presentations are available on the school website the following morning for parents to download and discuss at home. We also have a “community theme” to each evening. We introduced Curriculum Evenings two years ago with the goal of parents feeling more informed about their child’s progress and learning. Q6 has seen a further increase this year (by 3% / a 5% increase in 2 years) of parents who feel that the School helps them to support their child’s learning, whilst Q8 remains the same. We would encourage parents to attend Curriculum Evenings and parents’ evenings and contact the school if there is specific information they would like included in the Curriculum Evenings (this is also a question on the feedback sheet at the actual Curriculum Evenings). We are pleased to see that 98% of all parents feel that their daughter/son is making good progress. In recent years, we have reviewed the curriculum offer at both KS5 and KS4 and introduced an element of subject choice for Year 9. National curriculum changes have been both a challenge and an opportunity at all levels and we continue to work towards shaping a curriculum offer that meets the needs of our highly motivated, engaging and hard-working pupils.

The percentage of parents who strongly agree that we set an appropriate amount of homework has increased again this year, a 9% increase in two years. We hope this reflects the work we have been doing on ensuring that every homework task is relevant and extends learning and understanding. Our work in this area over the last two years has resulted in our new Homework Policy (effective from September 2018); a discussion and document in which the School Council have been very proactive partners.

The “strongly agree/agree” responses to Q10 have reduced by 3.5%, however, the “don’t know” has increased by 4%. 16 respondents (a reduction on the previous year) disagreed with this statement. We are not content that any parent or pupil felt that they disagreed with this statement and would like to reassure pupils and parents that we will not tolerate bullying or anti-social behaviour and will work hard to address any issue that is raised. Please ensure that you raise any concerns with the Pastoral Team promptly. If you feel the matter is not being addressed at this point then we would encourage parents to liaise with the Senior Staff with oversight for each Key Stage or the

Headmistress. The School Council have worked hard with staff this year to evaluate and review our Anti-Bullying procedures and the new policy was launched this September (2018).

On the parental questionnaire, there is a section for “free comments”. For the question, asking for changes or improvements parents would like to see, there were 61 comments. Three areas were mentioned more than once and by two parents in each case. Firstly, an upgrade to the older toilets. Some of our toilets are indeed part of the original 1960s buildings with solid and long lasting porcelain. We realise they are tired and dated but are so well made that they would be very expensive to replace and there is little these days that is built to last as well. We will however look to refurbish the areas as soon as the budget allows. Secondly, updating the photographs on the School website. We have made this a priority over the course of the last academic year and the photographs are all now new and are working update them on a more regular basis. Thirdly, too much homework and not enough revision time. As explained in last year’s report and this one, homework is a priority for the School and we have now built in a period leading into the exams when all homework must be revision based.

There were 80 comments made by individuals in response to the question regarding the schools most positive qualities. Below are those most commonly repeated:

Good communication	8
Schools leaders	10
Excellent behaviour and well-disciplined	14
Excellent teaching	15
Everything! Community, ethos, values	16
Academic progress and reaching potential	21
High expectations / strong work ethic	31
Excellent staff, supportive, positive, caring, encouraging	34
Kind and caring environment	35

“Thank you for the foundation in all areas of life SHS is providing”

“The teachers and staff have been extremely helpful.”

“Very happy with my daughter’s progress; thank you!”

“Our daughter is having a wonderful time here. Thank you!”

“We have been extremely happy with how our daughter has adjusted to the school and the support she has been given.”

“Good communication between home and school.”

“Supportive and approachable”.

“The School is fabulous – thank you!”

“The children are mature and encouraged to be more grown up.!

“Our daughter is turning into a young lady thanks to the School’s influence.”

“Fantastic pastoral care; a firm and fair approach.”

“Teachers go over and above expectations; encouraging and supportive to ensure students reach their full potential.”

“Excellent school.”

“A strong community ethos.”

“Great school. Well done!”

The incredibly high positive percentage totals for all of the questions are a testament to the highly committed and professional staff that we have at the High School. Colleagues are well-qualified and skilled practitioners who are enthusiastic and devoted to ensuring that each pupil progresses and achieves a fully rounded education.

Thank you again for your feedback. We will continue to share the results, feedback and executive summary with parents and pupils on an annual basis. The issues raised are now discussed fully by the staff and the Governing Body of the School.