

Spring term 2023 parent survey results

We thought you would find it useful to see a summary of the responses from the feedback we collected at the end of the autumn term. We would like to thank everyone that gave us feedback and say that we are really pleased with the generally very positive response and particularly the key areas about the children feeling safe and happy at Sennen School. It has also been pleasing to see that some areas have improved since last time.

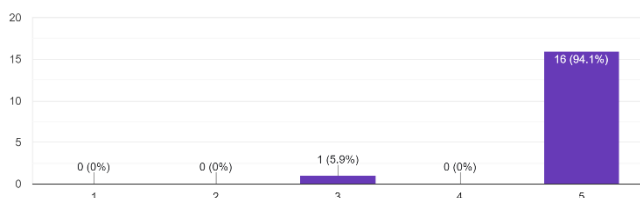
We have reviewed this with the staff, and you can see our responses to the “even better ifs” at the end.

Total of completed feedback forms: 18

NB: 1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree

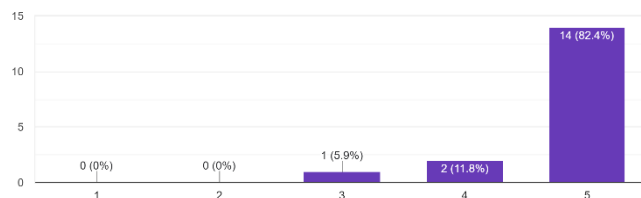
My child feels safe at Sennen School

17 responses



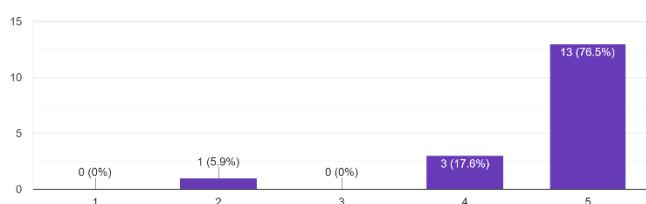
My child is happy at Sennen School

17 responses



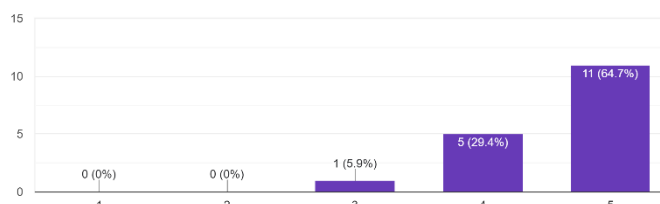
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn through the year.

17 responses



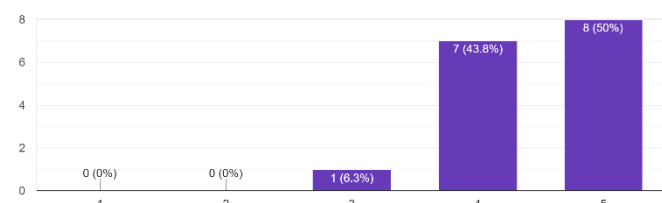
The school has dealt with any issues or concerns quickly and effectively

17 responses



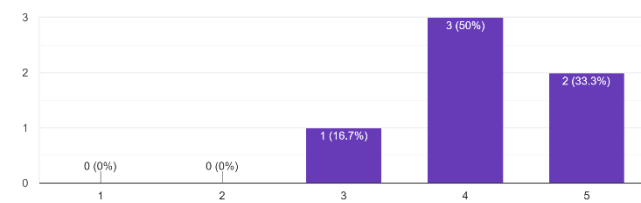
Sennen School has high expectations for my child

16 responses

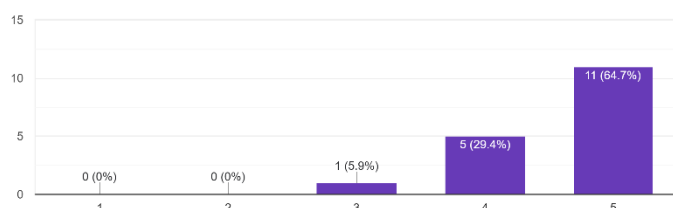


My child has SEND and the school gives them the support they need.

6 responses

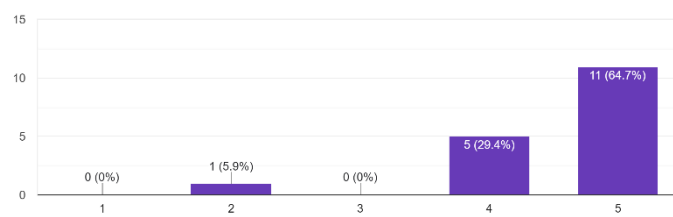


17 responses



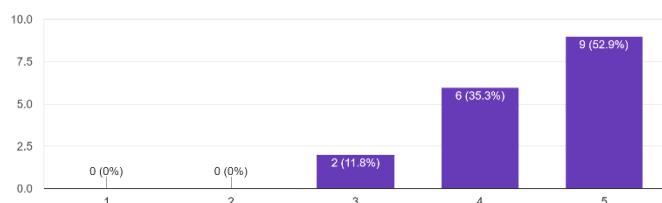
My child does well at Sennen School

17 responses



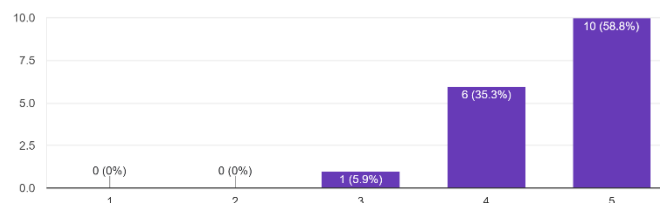
Sennen School supports my child's wider development

17 responses



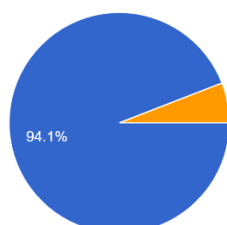
The school keep me informed on how my child is doing

17 responses



I would recommend this school to another parent

17 responses



● Yes
● No
● Maybe

What are we doing well?

- Good range of sport
- Inclusion of forest school
- New play equipment looks amazing, thanks for persevering!
- Very clear child centered learning.
- The school boosts and builds each pupils confidence
- Supported my child's needs and made them find solutions to help their nerves and worries
- Investing in outdoor learning and activities
- Very passionate about learning outdoors
- Creating a range of subjects and after school activities to cater for all learning and different learning abilities.
- Keeping them engaged, busy and happy in their learning.
- Nurturing children in a friendly, balanced and inclusive setting, whilst delivering a broad curriculum with a hands on and outdoor focus.
- Plenty of extra activities for children to take part in.
- Outdoor and indoor learning experiences, knowing children on individual level and accommodating their needs, creating new experiences, helping us (parents) understand creative alternatives of education. Very approachable and caring team. Thank you!
- Lots of outdoor activities
- communication is really good
- Patient, professional and friendly teaching staff. Very well organised with excellent communication with students and parents. Relaxed and comfortable environment in which to learn. Well organised and varies out of school activities.
- Lovely nurturing school with a wide range of exciting opportunities.
- Every child is known to staff and there is a community feel within the school. My child is happy to come to school and gets excited about projects. Love the interaction with the beach environment especially beach school.
- My child is thriving this year I feel due to the small class size which is a massive selling point for the school.
- Academically the school engages with my child and seems to be progressing well. Gives my child a feeling of security and self worth. Teaches the values of friendship and respect for others, such as dealing with bullying quickly.
- The welcoming smile from staff members at the start of the school day give reassurance to parents.
- You treat the children as individuals and are always willing to deal with any concerns or issues that I bring up. The communication is brilliant if I ask for it. I like the balance between giving the children structure alongside the freedom to be who they are and express themselves. I love that they read with someone every day

What could we improve on?

- **Sports provision - although much better this year, more after school clubs could be provided. Aware financial and staffing constraints, however there are many passionate sporting parents who I am sure would run a club if asked.**

Miss Clackworthy has worked very hard to try and improve the sporting provision this year and has been very successful. We have however found that uptake hasn't always been good, with some pupils dropping out after one session. This is something we need to work on to make sure our children experience a broad range of sports.

We have asked several parents to run a club and hope they are able to follow through with their offer. We would however need to fully DBS any person working with our children, as well as provide a member of school staff to supervise. This is for the parent's protection, as well as the childrens'. This is where we sometimes struggle, as we are a small staff with many commitments.

- **Streamline communication - this is very tough to get right, as it's not always more is better. Sometimes fewer options is more effective e.g. email and newsletter for general info, txt for emergency. Having various platforms and methods of communication can sometimes be confusing for parents but must be very time consuming for staff.**

We completely agree and spend a long time discussing the best ways to communicate to parents. At the beginning of the year, we explained that communication would take place in the following ways:

1. *Newsletter / emails – main point of communication, all dates, clubs and activities will be included*
2. *Texts – last minute changes*
3. *Social media – sharing and celebrating learning*

For this to work, it means that parents and carers will need to make sure they have read the newsletter, and direct any questions either via email, or in person, rather than on social media.

- **Appreciate the constraints, but perhaps more access to male role models.**

This can be a challenge for many primary schools, regardless of the size. When we recruit, the position is open to all who would like to apply and is not discriminatory, we make sure we appoint the best person for the role. We do employ a male sports coach as part of our sports provision.

- **More parent / community interaction**

This has been something that we have worked hard to improve on post Covid, but appreciate that we have a way to go. So far over the last year we have had parent visitors helping with our art / computing topics, a trip to the Minack, weekly drama from staff at Cape Cornwall and visits to local woodland. We have a local author coming in to help us celebrate World Book Day in March. Safeguarding is always a top priority in our school, and we must ensure that any outside visitor into entering our school have undergone the appropriate checks, and that all visitors are accompanied by a member of staff. Moving forward, we plan to do another parent survey, asking what parents might be willing to offer so that we can have a bank of skills that we can draw upon as needed. The National Curriculum that we must follow gives us a very full timetable, so we need to make sure that all visits are relevant to the learning that is taking place.

- **School lunches are occasionally not the most exciting or tasty.**

We appreciate this feedback and will send it over to the catering company

- **More communication with parents regarding learning for the year ahead outlining books and topic areas in parent friendly language.**

All topics planners are posted on our website termly, including texts you may want to read that are linked to the learning. You can find these topic planners here:

https://www.sennen.cornwall.sch.uk/web/spring_term_1_2023/635900

You can also find out about the literacy and maths units on our website here:

<https://www.sennen.cornwall.sch.uk/web/mathematics/399359>

<https://www.sennen.cornwall.sch.uk/web/english/399358>

We don't send these out in paper form due to the cost of printing, but if you would like one, please pop into the office and let us know. Also, if you would like to know more about the topics, please ask to chat to your child's teacher.

- **Advanced notifications for trips or school events with dates and times especially helpful for working parents. This includes the costs of the trips.**

We aim to give parents as much notice as possible for any trips or events and try to add these dates to the newsletter as quickly as possible. For trips, a letter of clarification is sent out closer to the event with full details on. We do however have some last minute opportunities that we like to take advantage of (such as the year ¾ camp as the centre reopened and offered us a space) but appreciate this can cause some anxiety over cost. The school is funding a considerable amount for each residential trip this year to make it as affordable for all as possible. If anyone is struggling financially with any of the trips, please make an appointment to speak to us and we will help if we can.

- **A forum for parental feedback is this something Governors should be doing?**

All governor contact details will be added to the newsletter and can also be found on the website. All governors are able and willing to listen to any concerns / feedback that you may have. The governing body will be adding a page to our newsletter that will be updated termly. This will detail the role of school governors and provide information for the previous Governing body meeting and any current areas of focus.

- **More informal progress updates of my child's development - especially if gaps are appearing. Parents evening and reports are only just adequate to ascertain my child's development.**

We have an open door policy at our school. We also need to consider teacher workload in producing more paperwork but if you ever need to chat to a teacher, please feel free to arrange an appointment to come and speak to them. We have an obligation to report 3 x annually (2 parents evenings and 1 written report). Currently, we do exceed this as we want parents to be as informed as possible. We aim to send the termly reports out just before parents evening so that questions can be addressed in those sessions, but this is not possible every term.

- **Have an up to date website that cover all areas of interest including Governors (who they are and their roles), diary of events, inset days and holidays.**

All dates are up to date for the rest of the year and can be found on our website under the calendar tab. We do not have any more INSET Days this year until the end of July. You can also look at the newsletters on our website each week and see upcoming events (under the news tab). If you don't have access to the internet and would prefer a paper copy of the newsletter each week, please let us know and we will make one available. All current governors are on the website and can be found under the governor tab. Now that we have a full governing body, we will be updating the website with their roles over the next term.

<https://www.sennen.cornwall.sch.uk/web/governors/400301>

- **Now that Covid has eased, reintroduce the weekly pupils' assembly. It was an indirect way of including parents and an opportunity for pupil acknowledgement and achievements was so special for everyone.**

Following the more permanent partition of Cowloe class we no longer have room in school for all parents and children together. We plan to introduce a parent assembly each half term, starting at the end of term 4. This will celebrate the learning in each class. We are trying to organise booking the hall for this, so will let you know a date as soon as we can.

- **I would like to see less waste. Every day my daughter comes home with a whole mass of scrubbed up bits of paper which go straight in the recycling. I don't know if 'art' at the school is given any focus in its own right or if it just consists of colouring in an unimaginative print out from the internet? Also the fact that it is often crumpled up and is often repeats of the same worksheet or colouring in design, makes me wonder if there is much attention to valuing their work or placing value on materials.**

We carry out mixed recycling at school, which the children are responsible for maintaining. Part of this recycling is to reuse old worksheets as scrap paper, which is used at breaks and lunchtimes by the children. Sometimes they use the back, sometimes they have a go at the sheet again! Sometimes they ask us for pictures that they would like to colour in, and we print a supply for them. They are then told to either recycle the paper or take it home. They are not part of our taught art curriculum.

We run a full art curriculum (as celebrated in our newsletter last term) and the children keep a sketch book and have some art in their topic books. More information can be found on our art curriculum here:

https://www.sennen.cornwall.sch.uk/web/art_and_design/399910

- **It would be great if Brisons had a chance to do forest school again like in Aire, or a bit of outside learning.**

This is happening in term 4 on a Friday at our St Loy site. There will also be a new timetable for them to use the Aire garden being implemented in term 4.