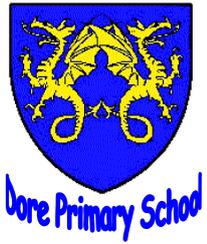


School Change Team News July 2013



The School Change Team has met three times this year most recently also looking at children's work from Reception to Y6. We were amazed at the wide ranging curriculum work on display and at the high standard of written work. We were not surprised to hear that the Y6 moderator was very impressed with the high quality writing seen right across the curriculum and not just in English books. We also reviewed our actions from the original meetings in the Autumn Term when staff, governors and parents met together.

It seems a long time ago that we were still in the midst of rewiring – congratulations to the staff and pupils who coped so well with all the interruptions and room changes. It is all looking GREAT now and the school continues with its premises improvements building on the £1 million refurbishment funded by Sheffield LA. The fantastic 3 new mobile classrooms are a super addition to the school and recently we have added 2 very effective and smart learning spaces upstairs in Key Stage 2 replacing the old sink areas between classes which took up space and became very cluttered. The school desperately needs extra teaching space as we maximise intervention work and welcome our Reading Volunteers and the new Maths Volunteers planned for September. The GB is now considering plans to rebuild and extend the entrance porch in order to improve fire exits and remove the door opening bottleneck also creating a safer signing in area for visitors.

Further points discussed plus review.

1. There was concern over lack of attendance on Information Evenings. It was decided to plan an information afternoon on Wednesday 11th September 2013 from 2pm to 5 p.m. instead of hosting lots of different evenings. This will include stalls from organisations within the community together with information stalls on school residentials, E safety, growing club, SRE with a lot of involvement from the children. Keep the date free and come along. The Y3 new parent information evening in June will give much important information about learning in KS2.

Review: This Welcome Back / Freshers Fayre will take place as stated above. Y5 children are busy planning their input for the afternoon and are looking forward to showing some of what the school offers its pupils. We are inviting various partners who support our school along with community organisations. The Y3 Information evening was held on 1st July.

2. There has been quite a bit of boisterous behaviour in the playground with some boys playing football. A young sports leader course was held to encourage good sporting behaviour from the older children to the younger ones. It was agreed that after the FA Cup Final, football will be stopped and

other sports played to encourage the girls to join in with cricket and rounders etc.

Review: Y6 children wrote some excellent and powerful persuasive letters to SCT asking for this to be reconsidered. After reading the letters and a good discussion it was decided that until end of term football can be played on Mondays and Fridays leaving the middle of the week free for other games and sports. SCT have asked KS2 staff to discuss with classes how there can be equality of opportunity throughout the year so that football games do not monopolise all the space and time. These ideas will be brought back to Dore Democrats at the end of term and a decision will be made by them for the new plan to start in September. SCT wrote to individuals and to the classes to explain this.

3. Parents were asking why the toilets in Y3 are still not working as all the drainage works has been completed around the mobile. Yorkshire Water is currently digging up the ground in the KS1 playground as they think there may be a serious blockage further afield. (They are NOW in use!)

Review: There was a HUGE blockage both in our grounds and beyond and extensive work was carried out by SCC. The school gained great benefit and many of the puddle areas and flood zones on the KS2 pathways have now been eradicated thanks to the review of the whole area – another bonus of having the Kier work teams here. We are also systematically working through school drains near the toilets to try and eradicate the unpleasant smells. Each holiday sees a deep clean. The HT has also visited a local school which has effectively managed a similar problem to seek solutions.

4. There still seems confusion about the £15 voluntary fund request. A letter is coming out shortly to help clarify any points. The school has still only received just over 50% contributions and is hoping to receive more payments next term.

Review: 67% of contributions were received. Parents who did not contribute were asked to make full payment for trips – this was requested on trust. The idea to have an annual school fund collection was to make it easier for parents and it was intended to reduce administration in school. This had been requested by 2 previous SCTeams and suggested by parent governors also as collecting smaller amounts was considered awkward. In fact extra administration was needed because of the dual system. The GB has now made the decision that the school will request a voluntary contribution of £10 per child for the year which will cover whole year group, key stage or whole school special enrichment activities. There will no longer be subsidy towards any trips. If insufficient contributions are collected (less than 90%) then a trip cannot go ahead. Pupil Premium is used for the contribution for school trips for the children who receive free school meals so that all parents will pay the same amount for trips. Having trialled an annual contribution this year,

the new system will be simpler to operate and the voluntary contribution will be collected in October avoiding the start of term when there are a lot of extra expenses.

5. We had quite a lengthy discussion on the website, emails and letters home. All letters sent home and emails are uploaded onto the website under letters and forms. These will now be titled for the Year group it relates too. Letters that need a reply slip are often sent home in paper copy too. There is lots of information on the website to help with our children's learning at home.

Review: There is very positive feedback about DPS website and increased usage. The website complies with statutory requirements and was reviewed by the GB earlier in the year. The DPS website is used as an exemplar by the LA.

6. The SCT supported the Governors to send the questionnaire out to all parents regarding the on-going issue over the school Fence.

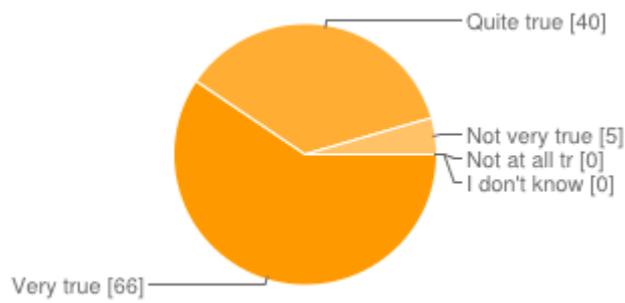
Review: The gathering of information regarding usage of the school site and its surroundings proved invaluable in the event of the Public Inquiry held in November 2012. Many, many thanks to all the parents who completed the questionnaire, to those who stood as witnesses and to the parent who stood as an individual objector. This all carried a lot of weight and backed up the school and the LA very strong stand against making part of our school grounds a village green. The Inspector who led the PI could find no grounds to suggest a village green should be designated. We now await the final verdict from SCC on this recommendation at a public meeting on 18th July.

The GB issued an online parent questionnaire in June 2013. Many thanks to ALL the parents who completed this. **Please note that from September 1st it would be extremely helpful if parents could complete the Ofsted Parent View questionnaire.** This is an **ANNUAL** return – all previous results are archived by Ofsted and we are required to advertise each year. <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

RESPONSES TO SCHOOL QUESTIONNAIRE JUNE 2013:

R	30	19%
Y1	21	13%
Y2	25	16%
Y3	17	11%
Y4	24	15%
Y5	25	16%
Y6	15	10%

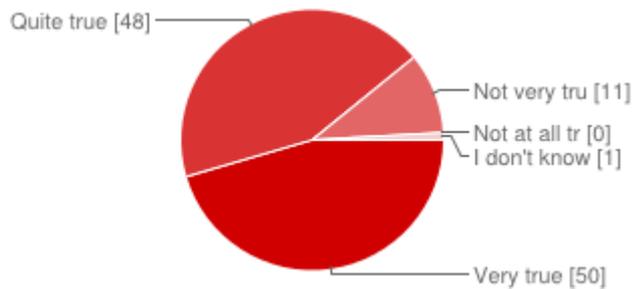
1. My child enjoys being in school



Q1, Q2, Q9, - Visitors to the school comment and are highly impressed by the pupils' engagement with and enjoyment in their learning. Older children act as ambassadors and can speak with passion about the things they enjoy and the different ways in which they learn. Our creative curriculum and special days and weeks are very popular with staff and children. The recent LA/national moderation of Y6 writing raised the comment:

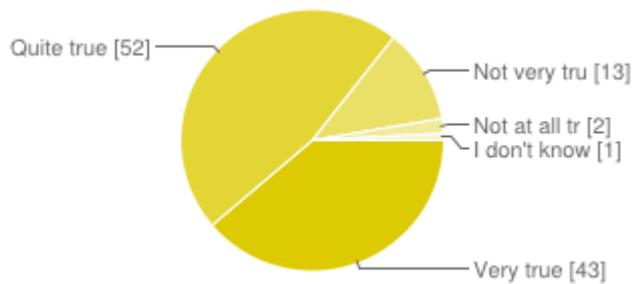
It is clear that the children at Dore Primary School have access to a rich and varied English curriculum. Many, many samples of work across a huge range of subjects highlight the importance which the school places on having a real reason for writing across the curriculum. It is clear that this develops very rounded writers as there is little difference between the quality of writing in formal assessment books and the writing which is completed as part of everyday work.

2. My child is stimulated and challenged in school



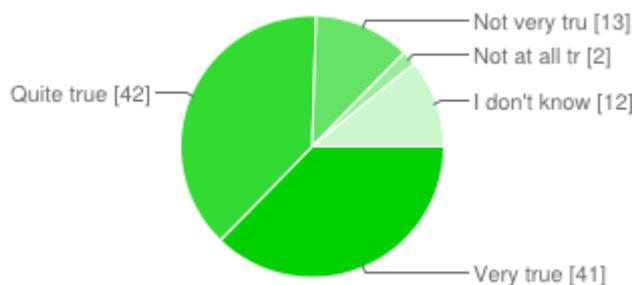
See Q1

3. Teachers let me know about my child's strengths and weaknesses



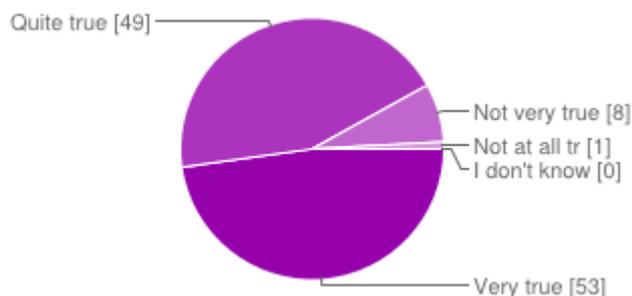
Q3, Q7 Home School Chat Books each term keep parents alerted to their child's effort and attitude as they progress with their learning. Parental support and engagement through parent teacher meetings is excellent. Teachers write an extremely detailed annual report which clearly highlight each child's learning strengths and areas for development. These reports are personalised and take a great deal of time. Pertinent targets are set and these are intended to be recalled for the next academic year.

4. The school offers a good balance of extra-curricular activities



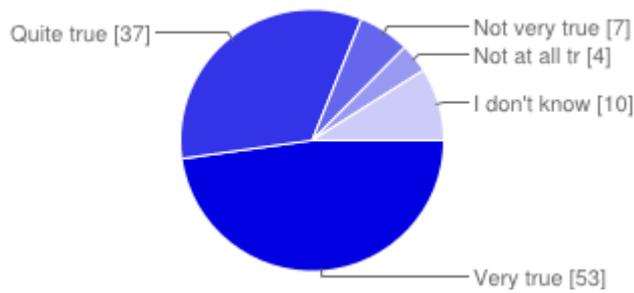
DPS has achieved the Quality in Study Support Award at Enhanced Level. This involved a very stringent audit and assessment of all the DPS provision that is beyond the basic curriculum; this includes extra-curricular activities and the ways in which our pupils take responsibility for their own learning and leisure and seek to make a difference in their own and wider communities.

5. As a parent I feel welcome in the school



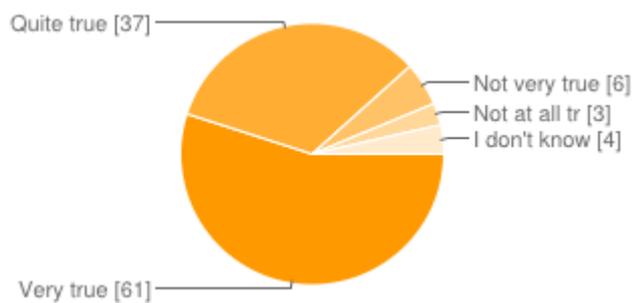
The HT and DHT operate an open door and open appointment policy; staff will happily meet by appointment to discuss your child

6. Pupils are treated fairly in school

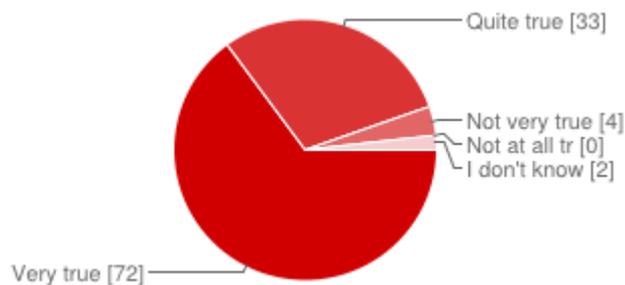


See q.11

7. Meetings between parents and teachers are helpful

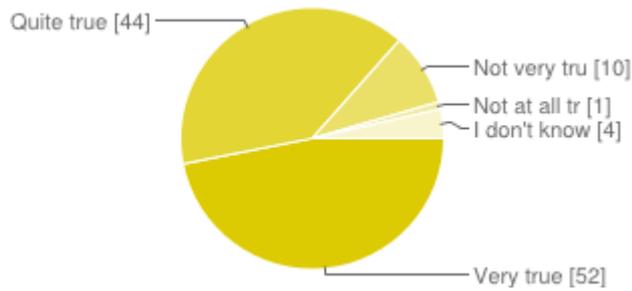


8. Pupils' achievements are celebrated by the school



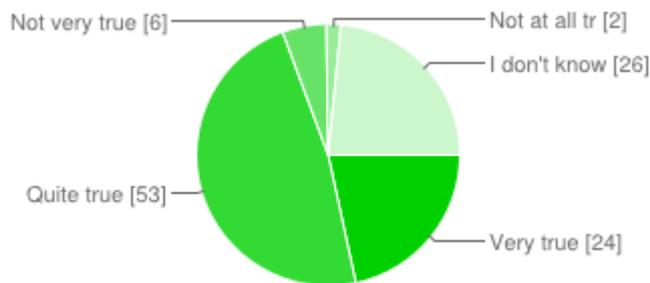
It is clear to see that children are motivated and inspired by the many ways in which we celebrate a wide range of achievements. Year by year records of Merit Achievements for every child show that the vast majority of children achieve higher or maintain the higher levels each year. There are wide-reaching ways in which the school celebrates all achievements that are brought to our attention.

9. There is a wide range of visits that support pupils' learning



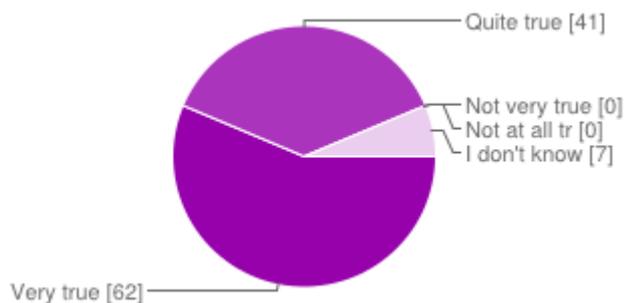
Leavers' surveys and questionnaires (children and parents) for the past 4 years have ranked visits and residentials at the top of the list for best aspects of DPS.

10. Teachers respond to poor behaviour effectively



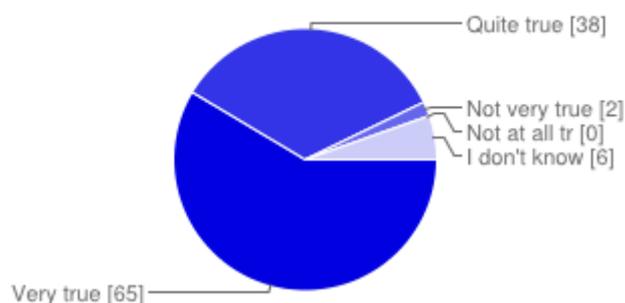
The school as a best practice school, is being used by Sheffield LA to help benchmark Behaviour and Safety in its schools. Dore Primary School is a Lead School for and is a national case-study for anti-bullying.

11. Pupils respect teachers in our school

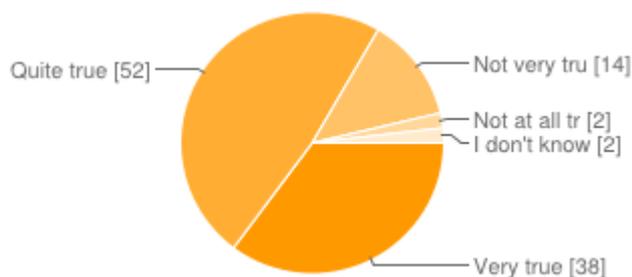


Questions 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, are evidenced by the recent award at the highest level of the UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award and the Ofsted Judgement that the emotional health and well-being of Dore Pupils is 'exceptional' and the Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural (SMSC) aspect is 'outstanding'. Visitor feedback to the school commends and underlines the warm and welcoming ethos of the school, the Values system and the high regard of our "We choose RESPECT" motto. A very recent comment (June 13) from a professional who supports children in our school: "Thank you.....it's so lovely working in your school, I feel very much part of a beautiful family."

12. Teachers respect pupils in our school

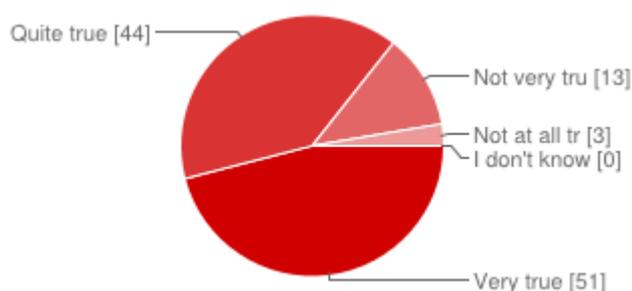


13. School buildings are kept clean and in good order



Much work continues between the school, our Property Management Service and the contracted cleaning company to improve standards of cleanliness and there has been significant increase in monthly audit scores over the last 15 months. We continue to highlight our concerns over the cleanliness/smell of toilet areas and are considering options for renewing aspects of the drainage and tiling. There is an ongoing programme of communal area and classroom refurbishment which has been well supported by the LA during the recent refurbishment. The SLT and GB constantly review premises conditions very well supported by the Property Management Service; health and safety along with effective resourcing for teaching and learning are the main priorities.

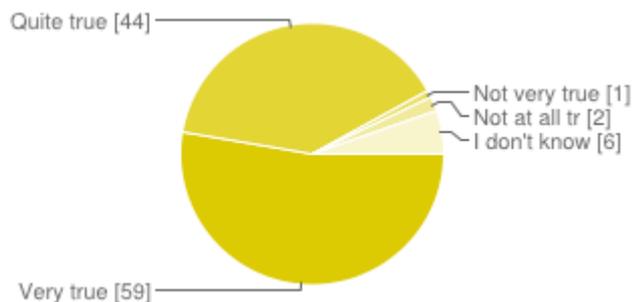
14. The school has shown me how I can help my child at home



The school offers much guidance on the website about ways in which you can help your child at home. You can find this in the section Our Learning/Homework. The school Learning Platform is Purple Mash - every child has a log-in to this comprehensive and child-friendly resource. The school subscribes to FIRSTNews and there are **weekly** activities for reading and comprehension

here. Reading at home is also an important element of homework where parents can make a significant difference to their child's skill and progress. The school highly recommends Schofield and Sims mental arithmetic books for basic maths skills practice - link on the website. Children also bring home Big Maths Learn Its & Checks and follow a programme of spelling practice. In keeping with our Creative Curriculum approach children are strongly encouraged to follow up their own lines of enquiry completing self-chosen 'Learning at Home' tasks in which the child chooses how to present their learning in a self-chosen area which complements their study in school. Many children (sometimes working with a friend) complete fabulous work on the full range of subjects choosing, art, modelling, diaries, letters, Powerpoint presentations, posters, photographs, research, film, drama to show what they have found out or enjoyed. The school has just invested in Mathsletics and Junior Librarian and your child shortly will have access to these excellent online resources at home.

15. Our school has a good reputation in the community



DPS is a very popular school and many year groups are oversubscribed. Pupil numbers have increased steadily over the past 3 years.

The SCT reforms each school year. It is an opportunity for parents, staff and governors to work together to celebrate the strengths of the school and to discuss areas for development. Pupil voice is heard through the Dore Democrats school council.

SCT dates for 2013-2014 are Monday 7th October 2013 7.00 p.m.

Monday 11th November 2013 7.00 p.m.

Thursday 19th June 2014 6.30 p.m.

If you would like to join the 2013-2014 SCT please email Sue Hopkinson HT on headteacher@dore.sheffield.sch.uk