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Summary Report of Parental Survey – May 2023

Introduction:

Welcome to the summary report of the recent survey conducted at St. John's National School. This comprehensive feedback from parents provides valuable insights into various aspects of the school's performance, including teaching standards, homework practices, assessment methods, and communication strategies. The findings indicate a positive overall sentiment, but also highlight areas for improvement and enhancement. This report outlines key observations and outlines the school's commitment to addressing concerns collaboratively for the continuous improvement of the learning environment.

Key Findings:

Wellbeing:

The survey results reflect a positive perception among parents regarding the school's attention to wellbeing, fair treatment, and commitment to social and personal development. The school will continue to build on these strengths and work towards addressing any areas that may benefit from improvement, ensuring the ongoing satisfaction of both parents and pupils.

Behaviour:

While the survey indicates a positive perception of safety and understanding of behaviour, there is an opportunity to enhance communication regarding the school's code of behaviour and anti-bullying procedures. The school is committed to addressing these areas for improvement and maintaining a secure and supportive environment for all pupils.

Curricular and Extra Curricular

Though parents express high satisfaction with core subjects and the inclusion of PE in the curriculum, there is an opportunity to improve communication and clarity regarding exposure and proficiency in other subjects. The school is committed to addressing these concerns and ensuring a well-rounded education for all pupils.

Homework and Assessment

Although the majority of parents are satisfied with the teaching and learning standards, there are areas of concern related to homework, and the form it will take in the future. The school is committed to addressing these concerns collaboratively with parents to ensure a positive and effective learning environment for all pupils. The survey data indicated a shift away from viewing standardised test scores as the sole indicator of children's progress at school.

Communication:

While parents are satisfied with the overall communication methods and platforms, there is a need to address uncertainties about reporting from the Board of Management and Parents Association. The school is committed to enhancing transparency and ensuring that parents are well-informed about important school governance and association activities.

Conclusion:

Parents overwhelmingly express satisfaction with the standards of teaching and learning, with high levels of contentment in core subjects (English, Irish, and Maths) and PE lessons. However, there is a desire for a reevaluation of the homework policy.

Parents no longer view standardised test scores as the primary indicator of progress, signalling a positive shift towards valuing alternative measures. Some parents, however, lack awareness of their child's ability to self-assess their learning.

Communication methods and social media platforms are generally satisfactory, but there is uncertainty regarding reporting from the Board of Management and Parents Association. Improvement opportunities include transparent reporting and enhanced communication strategies for these governing bodies.

The school is committed to addressing concerns collaboratively, ensuring a positive and effective learning environment with continuous improvement in communication practices.

Next Steps:

- Utilise the valuable insights from the survey to inform the school's Strategic School Self-Evaluation process.
- Initiate a comprehensive review of the school's homework policy.
- Aim for a more uniform approach across all classes, addressing concerns and aligning with parent expectations for an effective and balanced homework structure.

- Develop and implement a transparent communication strategy regarding decisions and activities from the Board of Management and Parents Association.
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to continuous improvement, prioritising the best interests of pupils and maintaining a positive learning environment.

Through these strategic steps, St. John's National School aims to proactively enhance the overall educational experience for every child. The school remains dedicated to fostering a collaborative and supportive environment that prioritises the diverse needs of its school community.