



'Believe & Achieve'

The Carlton & Faceby and Bilsdale CE Federation

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'Believe & Achieve'

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Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you very much to those who completed the parent and carer questionnaires last term. We received responses from 57% of the parents across the federation. Your views are greatly appreciated and, for your interest, we are sharing the responses to the statements in the first section in the attached table.

In response to the questions, we had many comments with a similar theme. Below is a selection of your comments.

**What are our greatest strengths?**

*Nurturing school, where children feel safe and secure. Excellent teaching with wonderful staff!*

*Quality of teaching. Making children feel unique but also part of a school family. Inspiring children to learn.*

*Excellent, dedicated teaching staff. Well-equipped learning environment. Support staff always on hand to answer queries.*

*Everything! Individualised & responsive teaching. Great balance of learning and wellbeing. Teaching that brings interest & confidence in my child.*

*The warm and kind ethos which encourages being kind to each other.*

*Teaching core values alongside the academic. Resilience, perseverance, self-belief, independence.*

*Friendly, kind and caring. Every member of staff has been fantastic. My child is so happy at school.*

*Outdoor activities, wildlife garden. Phonics.*

*Community feel. Kids feel important & involved.*

Your views and feedback are important to us. Here are a number of suggestions for improvements with our response.

**What could we improve?**

*Playtime? (name) finds lunchtime play a bit overwhelming when sharing the space with the older children. On dry days perhaps the grassy area could be used?*

Both schools have a selection of outdoor equipment that the children use at break times. The children do enjoy the extra space using the field. We do have to wait for it to be dry enough to use which is usually the summer term and the first part of the autumn term. On federated Fridays, we have staggered break time so the children have more space. At Carlton, we have recently introduced a rota for extra activities lead by Y5 and Y6 play leaders. The children are really enjoying these activities.

*Please can we reinstate East Barnby if possible.*

We have ensured that pupils will cover the outdoor and adventurous aspect of the PE curriculum this year. We intend to offer a residential outdoor learning-based trip for all children by the time they leave KS2.

*It would be nice to see more school trips recommencing.*

Wherever possible we select educational visits which are linked to topics to enhance learning. For example, KS2 children enjoyed a trip to Vindolanda in September as part of learning about the Romans. We are finalising trips taking place during summer term for all key stages. Not all of our topics lend themselves to a visit but there may be visitors into school eg. the Planetarium or Yazi. We always try to consider the financial impact of trips too – especially when budgets are being squeezed – and recognise that transport is a costly part of any visit especially for families with more than one child.

*Advance notice of topic if possible at the end of term for next term.*

The curriculum plans for the whole year are available on the school website in the curriculum section under the 'Children' tab. We have sent out newsletters detailing plans for this term.

*Wrap-around care from 07.30 - 18.00hrs.*

We offer wrap-around care, which must be pre-booked, at Carlton from 07.45 – 17.30 hrs Monday to Friday. This provision requires a minimum of 2 staff to be available in school and these hours are what we are able to cover with the small number of staff employed and relies on additional hours. However, the school wishes to support working families and although the number of families regularly using the provision is modest, meaning that generally the costs are not met from fees income alone, we believe parents value the offer.

*Use of social media as a means of communication. Communicating more, with more notice given with any changes, clubs etc.*

We endeavour to communicate promptly and appropriately with families. Sometimes arrangements go wrong and we have to make changes at short notice. When this happens we try to communicate by the most efficient means available to us – Teacher2Parents text, email or, if necessary, telephone to the child's first contact. If the change is less immediate we would send a written note via pupil mail.

We update the diary dates on each monthly Newsletter to give advance notice even if we don't have finalised arrangements. The school website is a source of information available to all, however we understand that this is not always parents preferred information point. Please tell us what you would like to be able to access from the website so we can respond accordingly.

Social media is a very effective tool for many people, however it does take time to manage this well and appropriately. Unfortunately, we do not have senior staff time available to commit to this additional method of communication.

If you do not have access to text or email please let the office know. They will be willing to print out and send home with your child, any electronic letters. All documents can be provided in a accessible format upon request.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email us or request a time when you can come into school.

Yours sincerely

*Rachel Grundmann*

Mrs R Grundmann

*Diane Jeffries*

Miss D Jeffries