

# ST JOHNS ANGELL TOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

## SURVEY OF PUPILS, PARENTS & CARERS 2015

### INTRODUCTION

St Johns Angell Town School introduced this set of surveys in March 2013. The surveys were designed to canvas views about school life from parents, pupils and staff at the school. Findings from the surveys were used to support school improvement planning in the school over the next year. The Survey was repeated in June 2014

#### **Context of the school**

St Johns Angell Town is a medium sized Church of England primary school in Brixton South East London. It supports a diverse community with differing needs.

### NOTES ON METHOD

There were three surveys, designed for the different groups of people. All three surveys contained two types of questioning. The first type were a set of general closed questions about the school, and respondents were required to tick how strongly they agreed/disagreed with the statement.

The second type were open-ended questions allowing the respondents to write down their own comments about the school. These questions were: *"What are the 2 things you like best about the School?"* and *"What are the 2 things you would change about the school?"*

With an aim to get maximum response from parents and incorporate any differing views they may have for siblings, parents and carers were asked to submit one form for multiple children, or submit one form per child. A record was entered to account for each child, rather than each parent or carer. Pupils from all Year groups completed the pupil survey. Both Teaching and Support Staff were also given the opportunity to complete the survey.

### RESPONSES

#### **PUPILS**

Surveys were completed by pupils in all classes, Completed surveys were received for 157 pupils. (Nursery children gave answers to the open questions only).

#### **PARENTS AND CARERS**

Parents/carers of 110 pupils responded to the questionnaire. There was a good spread of responses from most year groups, Nursery had the highest response (26), and Year 6 were represented by eight parent/carers.

**Table 1 - shows the numbers of parents/carers completing surveys by Year Group.**

Year Group	Number
1	15
2	14
3	15
4	12
5	11
6	8
N	26
R	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>

## STAFF

Surveys were completed by 10 Teaching Staff and 12 Support Staff.

## FINDINGS – PUPILS

### PART 1 - CLOSED QUESTIONS

The first part of the survey comprised of 20 questions about the school, pupils were required to tick how strongly they agreed/disagreed with the statement. The headings YES! yes, no, NO! and don't know were used (see Appendix Table 1 for a breakdown for each statement).

#### Responses where pupils agreed with the statements

There was a strong positive response to the survey questions by pupils at St Johns Angell Town. For 14 out of the 20 questions at least 9 out of 10 agreed with the statement (YES! And yes).

**Table 2 – Shows the statements with 9 out of 10 or more, positive responses (YES! And yes).**

Question	% YES! and yes
I learn a lot in lessons	96
My parents or carers think it is important for me to do well at school	96
The Headteacher and Senior Staff do a good job	95
The staff make it clear how we should behave in school	95
Adults explain to me how to improve my work	94
I am proud of my school	94
The school helps me to do as well as I can	94
Teaching in this school helps me develop my skills in communication, reading, writing and maths	93

My Teachers comments in my books help me to learn	93
Teaching is good at this school	91
Adults in my school care about me	91
My school helps me get ready to move into my next class	91
I am happy to come to school	90
I know how well I am doing at school	90

The statements with the most positive responses was “I learn a lot in lessons” and “My parents or carers think it is important for me to do well at school” (96%). Other statements, where more than 9 out of 10 responses were in agreement, can be seen in table 2 above.

## CHANGES OVER TIME

**Table 3 – Shows the statements where positive agreement went up since 2013 (YES! And yes).**

Question	2013 % YES! or yes	2015 % YES! or yes	Difference 2011-2015
Children are well Behaved at my school	57	75	18
I am proud of my school	90	94	4
The Headteacher and Senior Staff do a good job	92	95	3
My school helps me get ready to move into my next class	88	91	2
I learn a lot in lessons	94	96	2
Teaching is good at this school	90	91	1
Children are well Behaved in my lessons	70	81	11
Adults in my school care about me	90	91	1
I am happy to come to school	89	90	1

There were 9 questions where the proportion of pupils making a positive response went up in 2015 compared to the first survey in 2013: “Children are well behaved at my school”, went up from 57% to 77% and “I am proud of my school” went up from 90% to 94%.

There were some other small differences from last year’s high satisfaction, and for 2 questions satisfaction went down by 5 percentage points: “I feel my views can make a difference to school life” (88% to 83%, “I feel safe when I am at school” (94% to 89%), however satisfaction increased for these two statements since 2014.

## RESPONSES WHERE PUPILS DISAGREED WITH THE STATEMENTS

**Table 4 - shows the statements where 10% or more of pupils disagreed with the statement**

Question	% NO! or no
Children are well Behaved at my school	25
Children are well Behaved in my lessons	11

I am happy to come to school	10
If someone is bullied the school does something about it	10
I can find someone to talk about my problems with	10

The highest rate of disagreement was with the statement “*Children are well behaved at my school*”, where a quarter of pupils responding disagreed/disagreed strongly (NO! or no).

The statement with the second highest proportion of pupils disagreeing was another statement about behaviour “*Children are well behaved in my lessons*”, this was just over 10% , one in 10 (11%).

This is an area that is showing significant improvement. The level of dissatisfaction is falling year on year.

## PART 2 - OPEN QUESTIONS

The second part of the survey gave the pupils an opportunity to write down comments about what elements they liked most and elements they would change at St Johns Angell Town.

### WHAT ARE THE 2 THINGS YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THIS SCHOOL?

**Table 5 - shows the positive aspects of the school with 10% or more of pupil comments**

Question	% NO! or no
Teachers/Support staff	19
Learning/Lessons	13
Visits, trips, activities	13
Golden time/reward/points	10

There were lots of comments about what the children liked best about the school (135). The most popular response was in relation to Teachers and Staff, 19% of comments were positive about staff.

This differs from last year where most comments were about learning and lessons (second highest this year) and in 2013 most pupils positive comments related to playtime and play equipment. Some examples of comments from pupils were: “*Teachers are wonderful and blessed*”, “*Teachers helping me to learn*” “*Teachers care about me a lot*”.

### WHAT ARE THE 2 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE ABOUT THIS SCHOOL?

There were a number of suggestions for change at the school. As with the last 2 year’s survey, the most common reported theme for what pupils would like to change was the buildings and space. IN the 2015 survey though a lot of the comments referred to wanting to go back to the old school (16% of comments about the buildings and space) - “*I like the old school*”, “*bigger classrooms*”.

There other theme where there were a lot of responses was related to changes to the playground and outside space (15% of comments). “*A slide in the playground*”, “*The size of the playground*”

## PART 1 - CLOSED QUESTIONS

### Responses where parents and carers agreed with the statements

Parents/carers response was very positive. Nine out of 10 agreeing with all but 1 of the 20 questions. The only statement with less than 90% agreement was “The Governing Body plays an effective part in the leadership of the school”, 87% agreed with that statement and all the rest ticked “Don’t Know”. This was the least agreed with question last year also but higher than previous years for agreement.

As most parents agreed with all statements we can look at the higher positive rating – Strongly Agree.

**Table 6 – Shows the statements where more than half of parents made very positive responses.**

Question	% Strongly Agree
It is important that my child comes to school everyday.	77
My child is happy at school	69
My child is safe at school	59
My child is taught well at this school	59
I would recommend this school to another parent	58
I am kept well informed about how my child is progressing	57
Staff expect my child to work hard and do his or her best.	57
Staff let me know how I can help my child at home	55
Staff encourage my child to become mature and independent.	55
My child is well looked after at this school	53
My child is making good progress at school	52
The arrangements for my son or daughter to settle into each class at the school are good.	51

## CHANGES OVER TIME

**Table 7 – Shows the statements where the proportion of positive responses went up in 2015.**

Question	2013 % YES! or yes	2015 % YES! or yes	Difference 2011-2015
The school is led and managed well	94	97	3
My child is making good progress at school	98	100	2
The arrangements for my son or daughter to settle into each class at the school are good.	97	98	1
My child is taught well at this school	98	99	1

The majority of questions had very strong responses in 2013, 2014 and 2015 and there was little change with most.

There were however 2 questions where the proportion of pupils making a positive response went down by more than 3 percentage points in 2015, however satisfaction still remained above 95%.

### Responses where parents and carers disagreed with the statements

There were very small numbers of parents/carers expressing a negative response to any question, the most was 4 responses disagreeing, see table 7 for the 4 questions.

**Table 8 - shows the statements where 5 or more % respondents disagreed with the statement**

Question	% Disagree/Strongly Disagree
The school responds well to any concerns I raise	4
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	4
My child is safe at school	4
The school makes sure that pupils behave well at the school	4

## PART 2 - OPEN QUESTIONS

The second part of the survey gave the parent/carers an opportunity to write down comments about what elements they liked most and elements they would change about the school. As with the pupils, not all parent/carers wrote a comment, and some added more than one for each question.

### WHAT ARE THE 2 THINGS YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THIS SCHOOL?

By far the most common theme for comments about what parents/carers like about St Johns Angell Town were the same as the last two years - in relation to staff and teaching and learning (30% of comments). Examples were *"Kind, friendly Teachers"*, and *"teaching is amazing"*, *"nice teachers who listen"*, *"staff interaction and encouragement"*.

The next most common theme was again the same as last year, comments relating to the Christian ethos (11%). Examples were *"Christian school"* and *"it's a church school, kids grow up knowing a religion"*.

There were 2 more themes covering more than 10% of responses; Dealing with Behaviour and bullying and Learning/Homework/children doing their best. Examples were *"the way bullying is dealt with"* and *"children encouraged to do their best"*, *"family and church orientated"*.

### WHAT ARE THE 2 THINGS YOU WOULD CHANGE ABOUT THIS SCHOOL?

There were only 30 comments made by parents/carers in relation to things they would change about the school. The main theme was about school buildings and the site *"back to normal site"*, *"present site"*.

## CLOSED QUESTIONS - TEACHERS

### Responses where Teaching Staff agreed with the statements

Of the school staff, 10 teachers completed the questionnaire with 31 questions. One Teacher represents 10% of the teaching staff responding.

Responses were very positive on the whole with all staff agreeing (always or mostly) with 18 statements and more than 80% agreeing with a further 10 statements.

Looking at the proportion of Teachers saying the statement is “Always” true showed that 9 of the 10 teachers said “always” to 6 statements. Table 7 below shows the most positive responses.

**Table 9 – shows the questions with 90% reporting “Always” to the statement.**

Question	% Always
Does the school encourage a range of teaching methods	90
Are expectations about school work communicated clearly to all pupils	90
Does school do enough to provide for pupils emotional, physical and social need?	90
Does the school have effective systems to support pupils with SEN?	90
Does the school undertake regular monitoring of the curriculum?	90
Is there mutual respect between the staff and the Leadership & Management Team?	90

## CHANGES OVER TIME

With each member of teaching staff representing 10% of the responses it shows apparently bigger changes, changes must be looked at with caution.

There were 9 questions that showed an increase in positive responses by more than 10%. The highest change in positive response was for “*Do you regularly collaborate to plan teaching?*” this increased by more than 50 percentage points since 2013.

**Table 10 – shows the questions that elicited an increase in positive responses by more than 10%.**

Question	% Always/Mostly 2013	% Always/Mostly 2015	Change
Do you regularly collaborate to plan teaching	29	80	51
Does the school regularly review the achievements of the school improvement plan?	72	100	28
Do you have input into the school improvement plan?	72	100	28
Do you feel sufficiently informed about progress in other year groups	72	90	18

Is there regular discussion about school targets	85	100	15
Does the school undertake regular monitoring of the curriculum?	86	100	14
Does the school encourage a range of teaching methods	86	100	14
Are you training needs linked to the school improvement plan and to perf. Management?	86	100	14
Is the school effectively staffed?	86	100	14

There were also 5 statements where the proportion of positive responses went down by more than 10 percentage points.

**Table 11 – shows the questions that elicited a decrease in positive responses by more than 10%.**

Question	% Always/Mostly 2013	% Always/Mostly 2015	Change
Does the school have effective systems to support pupils with EAL?	86	90	4
Are you able to develop your professional skills?	100	100	0
Are support staff used effectively	100	90	-10
Is the school Sufficiently resourced to deliver the full curriculum	86	90	4
Does the school have effective systems to support pupils with SEN?	86	100%	14

### Responses where Staff disagreed with the statements

There was only one question where a teacher responded “Never”, this was “*Do you regularly collaborate to plan teaching?*” This was two teachers, the same response as in the 2014 survey.

## CLOSED QUESTIONS – SUPPORT STAFF

### Responses where Support Staff agreed with the statements

Of the school staff, 12 support staff completed the questionnaire with 15 questions. One support staff member represents just over 8% of the support staff responding.

There was 1 questions where all Support Staff reported that the statement applies Always or Mostly, this was; “*Do you enjoy working at the school?*”

There were 7 of the 15 questions where 8 or more out of 12 Support staff reported Always or Mostly.

Looking at the proportion of Teachers saying the statement is “Always” true showed that the strongest positive response was again “*Do you enjoy working at the school?*” and also 75% of support staff responded “Always” to the question “*Do all staff have the children's development foremost in mind?*”

**Table 12 – shows the questions with more than 80% of Support Staff reporting “Always or Mostly” to the statement.**

Question	% Always/Mostly
Do you enjoy working at the school?	100
Are you aware of the school's aims?	92
Does the school expect high standards of behaviour?	91
Do all members of your team work together?	83
Are new staff well supported in this school?	83
Do you feel able to offer suggestions to the SLT?	83
Do all staff have the children's development foremost in mind?	83

### Responses where Staff disagreed with the statements

The statement that elicited the most negative response was *“Is there mutual respect between all members of staff?”* and *“Do all staff have a commitment to the whole school?”* With 50% of support Staff saying Sometimes or never.

**Table 13 – shows the questions with a Third or more Support Staff reporting “Sometimes” or “Never” to the statement.**

Question	% Sometimes or Never
Is there mutual respect between all members of staff?	50
Do you feel involved in the life of the school?	42
Do you contribute to the school development plan?	33
Do all members of staff pay attention to keeping the school environment clean, safe and attractive?	33
Do children show respect to all members of staff?	33

### Open Questions Teachers

The second part of the survey gave the staff an opportunity to write down comments about what elements they liked most and elements they would change at St Johns Angell Town.

#### WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT WORKING AT THIS SCHOOL?

As with the last two years, the comments were generally about the well supported and friendly work environment with positive relationships between staff and a motivational atmosphere.

“Friendly, caring, supportive relationships and ethos”, “being listened to and valued. To be encouraged to act and carry out your ideas”.

#### WHAT IS THE THING YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT WORKING AT THIS SCHOOL?

The most common theme for comments from staff was about work pressure.

### Open Questions Support Staff

**WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT WORKING AT THIS SCHOOL?**

The main comments, as with teachers, were about the happy motivated environment.

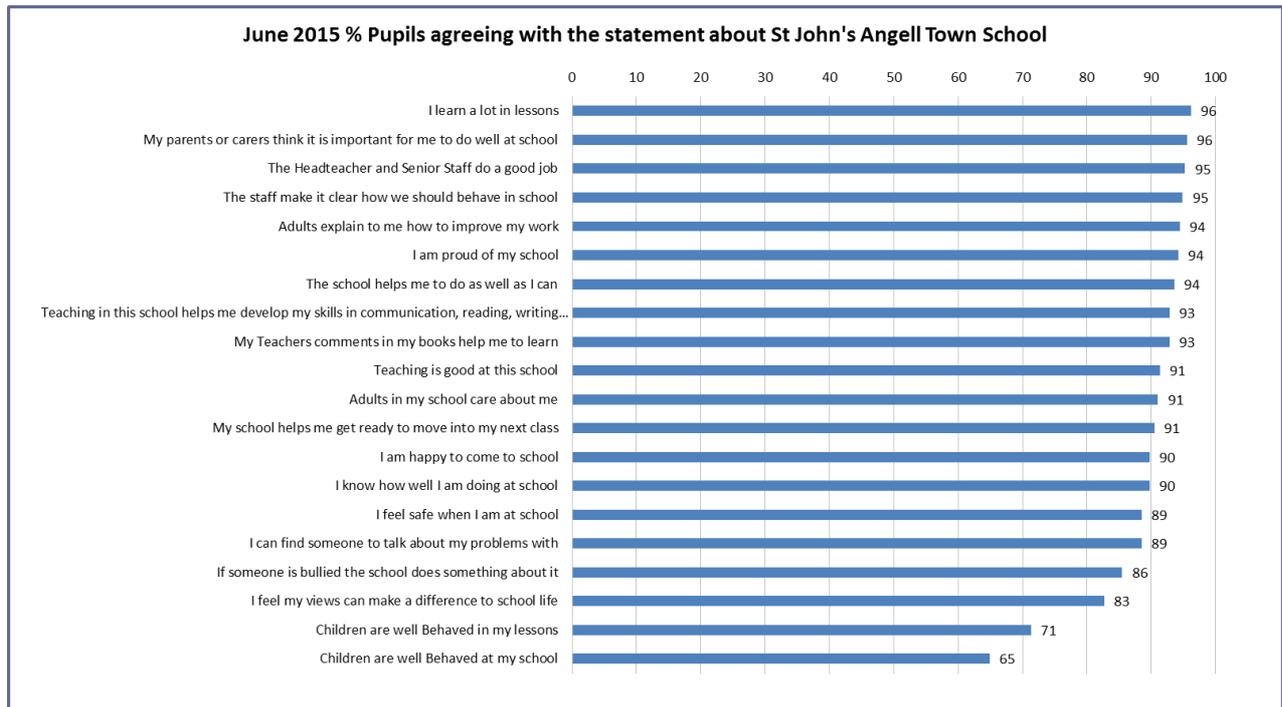
“A happy place to work”, “Community spirit”

**WHAT IS THE THING YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT WORKING AT THIS SCHOOL?**

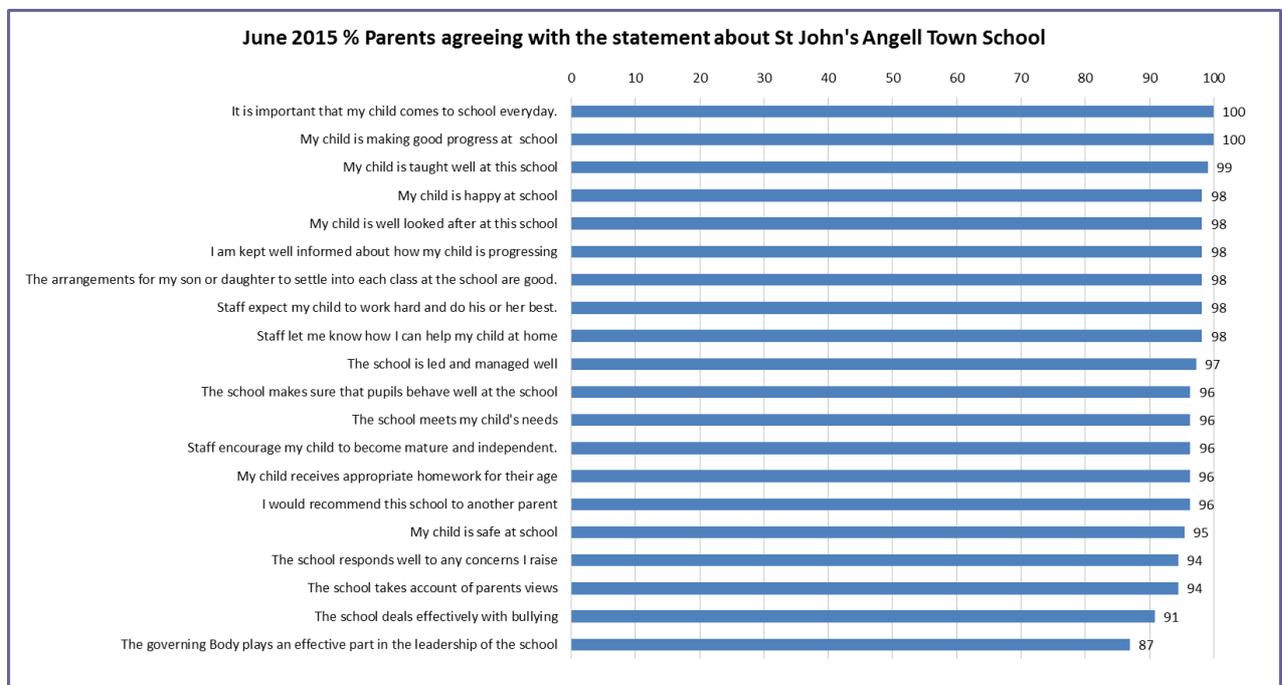
There were also comments about things support staff would like to change. Six staff comments referred to improving communication “communication could improve”, “communication between staff”.

## APPENDIX

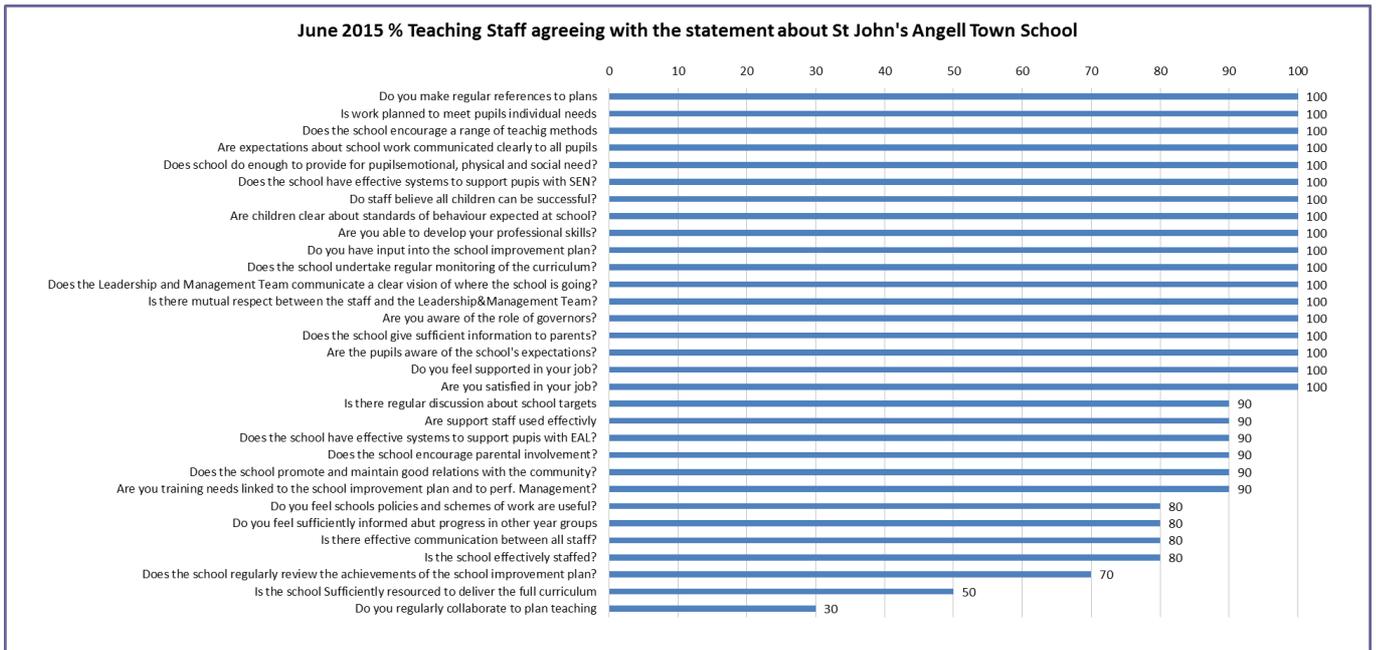
**Table 1 – Pupils responses to questions 1 – 20**



**Table 2 – Parent and Carer responses to questions 1 – 20**



**Table 3 – Teaching Staff responses to questions 1 - 31**



**Table 3 – Support Staff responses to questions 1 - 15**

