



St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Primary School
Parental Questionnaire June/July 2015
Catholic Life

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please find the results of the recent questionnaire. 52 questionnaires were returned to school. Thank you to the parents and carers who returned these forms. The responses were unanimously positive. We especially appreciate the 100% 'strongly agree' and 'agree' return rate to the questions asking if both children and families feel valued and welcomed by school. At St. Teresa's, we particularly strive to live out our mission statement and the Gospel values through being an inclusive school. We make a big effort to welcome all into our diverse school family.

Below are the results with a sample of the responses made.

Please tick the box that you feel most appropriate	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
The mission statement is central to the life of the school	44% (23)	50% (26)			6% (3)
The Catholic life of the school has a positive impact on relationships	46% (24)	50% (26)	2% (1)		2% (1)
The school has a strong commitment to social justice	46% (24)	42% (22)	6% (3)		6% (3)
My child feels a valued member of the school community	46% (24)	54% (28)			
My family feels valued and welcomed by the school	40% (21)	60% (31)			
The school has strong links with the parish	48% (25)	46% (24)	2% (1)		4% (2)
The school has strong links with the wider community	27% (14)	58% (30)	4% (2)		12% (6)
Catholic life is well led in school	60% (31)	37% (19)			4% (2)

What is good about the Catholic life of St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Primary School?

The way the children go to church and learn in RE

Love the fact that we support CAFOD, St. Teresa's Hospice and the Salvation Army - Raises awareness

It is taught in a child friendly way. The children are familiar with church and go on a regular basis.

We are lucky to have the church next to us and we use it well. All masses and celebrations in the church are enjoyable.

Children learn about Catholic life, about Jesus' life and pray in school.

It involves the whole community and all children and all races.

The values that St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School have are very good.
The sense of community.
All children get on without any racial problems thanks to the children being led towards Catholic beliefs.
The school has really strong links with the parish.
The children know about good behaviour in church.
That children help each other; learn how to be kind; share; have good manners; learn how to pray; how to be friendly with each other and to be better people.
They attend church a lot and bring home prayers.
Children are taught to accept other beliefs and cultures.
Teaching children about what a Catholic is and making them understand in a way that is beneficial to them and those around them.
The schools ethos shines through and I feel privileged that my child is guided in this way.
The assemblies are excellent and a highlight for the children.
The support to the parish of St. Teresa's; charities they support CAFOD, Red Nose Day, Hospice. Children in school feel welcomed and loved.
All the children know each other and always make a point of saying hello.
Good lessons in religion; good teachers; near to the church; Holy Communion.
We are fortunate to have church and school close together. The children take part so willingly from a young age which benefits them.
All have a common purpose like a little community.
All the children, whatever year, know each other's name and always make a point of speaking to each other.
The children are comfortable and familiar with church and understand the principles of the Catholic faith.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

How could the Catholic life of St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Primary School be improved?

Continue with what you are doing

It is as good as it can be.

Social Catholic family days

More one to one learning for those that don't grasp the true meaning of what a Catholic is.

More religious after school activities.

Do more prayers.

Encourage more families to attend mass on Sunday

You can't!

As a school, we will act on the constructive comments made. We intend to publish Mass times on the school newsletters and publicise Parish events more. From the autumn term, we will have a section on the school website showing the prayers that we teach and use in school.

As regards to religious after school activities, as a school, we already provide the Sacramental preparation for Reconciliation and Holy Communion for the parish. This consists of preparation classes and encouragement to attend specific Sunday masses. Our year three teachers, this year, have given of their time after school and at weekends to facilitate this and we intend to support the children of the Parish in this way in the future. We also have our Mini Vinnie group that support social justice programmes. The children also have a new Prayer Place in the key stage two playground where they can pray quietly to God in amongst the hustle and bustle of playtime. Every year, we also have a Catholic theatre company or a prayer company in school to enhance the curriculum. We have hosted Northern Dance workshops and productions; The Ten:Ten theatre company and assemblies and workshops on the Lindisfarne Gospels. We also on a weekly basis send out the Wednesday Word. However, we will endeavour to increase the extra-curricular programme in RE in even more interesting ways.

Our links with the Parish are strong - we celebrate class masses, whole school masses, Stations of the Cross and Nativity celebrations with all parishioners. For the last few years, the children have also helped out at the Parish Fayre. Football competitions organised within the Summer Fayre programme have also meant that Parish Fayre attendance has risen and families enjoyed picnics together on the field whilst watching the football matches.

Some parents indicated that they did not know an answer to a particular question. As a school, we need to perhaps link our news to 'education speak'. Our wider links include our commitment to supporting charities locally, nationally and globally such as: carol singing to raise money for St. Teresa's Hospice; collecting tins for the Darlington Foodbank ran by the Salvation Army and raising money for a waterpump for a developing country in the third world. We have links with local schools through the transition programme of our year six pupils and moderation of work. Our Foundation Stage teachers link with other early years providers to ensure smooth settling in of our youngest children. In order to keep our children safe, we have links with local police community officers, fire officers and the school nurse team who are invited into school to talk to the children at various points of the year. Year six also take part in a safety carousel with other local schools. In recent years, our older children have accessed events organised by the NSPCC, Childline, Northern Grid Internet Safety and Show Racism the Red Card. Children link up with neighbouring schools when we attend The Good Shepherd mass when we support St. Cuthbert's Care. The older children also attend diocesan events such as special Faith event masses and Youth Mission events. Our sporting links throughout Darlington are strong. We have school teams and groups of children compete regularly in town events. As ever, we always aim to further widen our links so that the children have a wide range of useful learning experiences throughout their time at St. Teresa's School.

Thank you once again for completing the questionnaire on Catholic Life, your comments are very much appreciated by the staff and governors of St. Teresa's.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Lindsay

Deputy Head Teacher

