

Parental Questionnaire July 2026

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your considered and heartfelt responses in the questionnaire completed at the end of the last academic year. Working at St Edward's is a privilege and I know that the staff and I have been truly touched by your recognition and appreciation of the care your children receive at St Edward's. We will continue to provide a wide range of opportunities for you and the children in the coming academic year. There is a lot to look forward to!

Question: "Are there any highlights this year you would like to comment on?"

You identified a broad range of highlights across the year, particularly the school's **Catholic life, Sacramental celebrations, performances, educational visits, residential experiences, sporting events, enrichment opportunities and strong staff relationships**. It is clear that you highly value the range of opportunities provided and the positive experiences created for children throughout the school year.

1. Religious Life and Catholic Ethos

You valued the school's strong Catholic identity and sacramental celebrations, including:

- First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.
- Class Masses and liturgical celebrations.
- Nativity performances and Christmas celebrations.
- KS2 Carol Concert and choir performances.
- Appreciation for the organisation and significance of the Sacramental programme.

2. Performances and Assemblies

School productions and assemblies were frequently mentioned as highlights:

- Nativity performances were among the most commonly cited events.
- Year 6 production received particularly strong praise.
- Parents enjoyed attendance at assemblies and seeing children's confidence develop.

3. Educational Visits and Residential Experiences

Trips and residential opportunities were a major strength identified by parents:

- Warwick Castle.
- Farm visits.
- London trip.
- Big School Camp.
- Alton Castle residential.
- Outdoor Day and other enrichment activities.

You described these experiences as memorable, enriching and well organised.

4. Sports and Physical Activities

Sports Day was one of the most frequently praised events:

- Described as well organised and enjoyable.
- Athletics, football tournaments, netball and swimming gala were also highlighted.
- Parents appreciated opportunities to attend and participate.

Sporting opportunities are a significant strength. I will take this opportunity to thank all the staff but Mrs Ellis in particular. Her drive and commitment ensure that the children can access a wide range of sports, both for personal growth and development but also engage in competitions as they teach essential life values like teamwork and resilience, and create a shared sense of belonging.

5. Open Lessons and Parent Engagement

Several parents commented positively on:

- Open lessons.
- Workshops.
- Parent-child sessions.
- Opportunities to attend school events and see learning in action.

6. Charity and Community Activities

You recognised:

- Charity fundraising events.
- Community-focused activities.
- The school's commitment to helping children understand service and social responsibility.

7. Staff Appreciation

You specifically praised staff and their commitment:

- Teachers and teaching assistants were frequently recognised for their care, support and dedication.
- Reception staff, class teachers and TAs were highlighted for being approachable and supportive.
- One parent who accompanied a school trip commented positively on staff care and safeguarding of pupils.

8. Music and Wider Opportunities

Parents highlighted:

- Young Voices.
- Choir performances.
- Rocksteady and music lessons.
- Liturgy Leaders.
- Opportunities to perform within the community.

Below are a selection of responses to the question:

- Nativity and Easter Bonnet Parade were a hit. Sports day was great and well ran.
- The class teacher has been fantastic and also the TA. Reception staff are lovely & really helpful.
- Nativity
- School play on the Bayeux Tapestry/Battle of Hastings plus Warwick Castle Trip
- All extra activities were worth attending
- open lessons, nativity
- The Vikings assembly was super good
- I have volunteered to go on a trip and saw how the staff were so supportive and took care of children well and made sure they all were ok
- Two wonderful class workshops, nativity in school, masses and school trips. My son also took part in the big school camp which he really enjoyed.
- Charity activities and initial fundraising
- Fathers and mother day for parents to join in with the kids
- Big school camp
- Mass, open lesson, Sports Day
- Beautiful sacrament celebrations for First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.
- Christmas celebrations were really good
- Easter parade/nativity
- Yes, I have been there for open lessons and parent teacher meeting, well organised sessions and easy to communicate with teacher.
- Drama sessions, residential, sports events, takeover day, charity and fundraising.

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- I think it is wonderful that the school involves the children in charity work; this is so important. I also think it would be great if, one day, the students could have the experience of visiting a foundation to learn about its work and mission and what makes it different. I also think the organization of the sacraments is incredible. It takes a lot of dedication, and all the teachers and staff are to be congratulated.
- Open lesson interactive discussion with patient was very informative
- Confirmation, I am sure that the year 6 production and residential and final assembly will be wonderful too
- So many to mention - class Masses, assemblies, and open lessons have all been lovely to attend and my children have appreciated me being there. My children have had trips that they have all enjoyed as well as the big school camp and Alton Castle coming up. They all love Outdoor Day - the muddier the better! Sporting opportunities have also been highlights for them - football tournaments, netball, the swimming gala and athletics at Abbey Stadium. The older 2 have enjoyed being in the choir and Young Voices was again another amazing opportunity. Rocksteady was enjoyed by my youngest who is now participating in music lessons within the school day. Confirmation was a really special occasion as were the Nativity and KS2 Carol Concert. Singing at Light up a Life was very special and my children also enjoyed singing at the Convent with choir. Liturgy Leaders is also a lovely group to be a part of within school. The Year 6 Production was something that will stay with me always and the staff and children worked so hard. Sports Days were fun and are always a big hit! School provides so many opportunities- the children are incredibly lucky.
- Great residential for outwards bounds. Really enriching experience.
- My children have both really enjoyed their Ed.visits to the farm and having the opportunity to visit London. Assemblies have been fantastic, really proud of the hard work they have put in!
- The Y6 performance was very well prepared and entertaining. The children were confident in delivering their parts. My Y6 daughter is excited to be going on the Alton Castle residential today, thanks for organising.

Question: What do you feel we as a school are doing well?

The responses to the question show that you recognise how hard we work to ensure every child belongs, is nurtured and has a wide variety of opportunities presented to them, matched to their needs. We will continue to further develop this provision in the current academic year. You can see the school's strengths in enrichment and sporting opportunities, pupil leadership, pastoral support and dedicated staff. You value the nurturing ethos, strong SEND provision, emotional wellbeing support through initiatives such as Big Heart Club, and the range of opportunities that contribute to pupils' academic, spiritual and personal development.

Key Strengths Identified

1. Enrichment and Sporting Opportunities You highly value the wide range of opportunities available beyond the classroom, including:

- Sporting competitions and clubs
- Gymnastics, football and athletics events
- Young Voices participation
- Wider enrichment activities and experiences

2. Pupil Leadership A significant number responses recognised:

- Student leadership opportunities
- Pupil leadership roles
- Leading liturgies and worship
- Developing responsibility and confidence

3. Pastoral Care and SEND Support Many comments praised:

- The SENDCo and SEND provision

- Intervention programmes
- Pastoral mentoring
- Support for children requiring additional help

4. Heart Club and Emotional Wellbeing Support You highlighted the positive impact of:

- Heart Club / Big Heart Club
- Bereavement support
- Emotional wellbeing provision

One parent specifically noted that Heart Club had helped their child process grief and talk about feelings, demonstrating the value of the school's pastoral care.

5. Staff Commitment and Quality of Teaching Parents repeatedly praised:

- Dedicated teachers and teaching assistants
- Caring and compassionate staff
- Strong relationships between staff and pupils
- High-quality learning experiences

Comments described staff as "exemplary", "amazing", "organised" and "committed". It is a superb team at St Edward's and your appreciation of their efforts, commitment and enthusiasm means a great deal to every one of us.

6. Leadership and School Culture You recognised:

- Strong school leadership
- An organised and caring environment
- A positive, supportive ethos

7. Communication and Parent Engagement You noted improvements in:

- School communication
- Newsletter updates
- Parent engagement
- Parents' evenings and opportunities to visit classrooms

8. Community Links and Catholic Life You valued:

- Community engagement
- Links with the wider community
- Prayer, Mass and visiting speakers
- Opportunities to participate in liturgical life

Below are a selection of responses to the question:

- Invite parents to be a volunteer in mass-good engagement
- I love the big heart club, i think its a great idea, and I know it's really helped my son this year with grief and talking about feelings.
- Better communication this year.
- Opportunity
- Senco
- Enrichment opportunities
- The school is wonderful, and we are very pleased with the progress and outcomes our children have achieved this year.
- My experience so far of the class teachers and teaching assistants has been nothing but exemplary. They clearly devote a great deal of time, care, and effort to supporting the children, and I am extremely grateful for the commitment they have shown in supporting my child.
- Enrichment Opportunities and community links
- Having a team of extra help needed for child and any support available is there.

- Opportunity but need to be more inclusive
- It is wonderful to read about the many sporting and enrichment opportunities in the school newsletter. There has also been a strong drive to engage and communicate with parents.
- The leadership
- Student Leadership
- All of the above to be honest
- Sporting opportunities & prayer/ mass speakers
- Pupil leadership with leading Liturgies. Sporting opportunities with year 6 girls football, year 3 and 4 gymnastics and an athletic competition at Abbey Stadium.
- Parent teacher feedback
- Pupil Leadership and pastoral mentoring
- Pupil Leadership, Enrichment Opportunities, community links, sporting opportunities
- Staff members
- This school is truly amazing. The love and dedication shown by all the teachers and staff are remarkable. It is inspiring to see how organized, caring, and compassionate everyone is. You have built an outstanding team, and it truly makes a difference.
- Academically the learning opportunities given to the children are very exceptional which is developing them in a very fast pace.
- Sporting opportunities
- Pastoral care, especially Heart Club with Mrs Connaughton
- All of the above opportunities that are available to the children at school are a testament to the hard work and dedication of staff
- Interventions for both children who need extra support, resulting in greater confidence and academic improvement. Positive relationships that my children have with staff.
- Supporting Young Voices; parents' evening and opportunities to see the classroom.

What suggestions do you have to make the school even better?

When asked this question, many of you reflected on what you feel we are doing well and to continue with this. Once again, I thank you for the faith and trust you put in us and how you recognise that we are working in the best interests of all within our school community.

Below are a selection of the responses:

- Keep doing what you are doing
- Continue to provide a safe and encouraging learning environment to all children even those with additional needs. To ensure health and safety is paramount and any incidents are logged and acted upon to ensure the safety of all children.
- At the moment nothing I can think of
- Well done, great year
- Thank you, you are the best.
- None, thankfully everything perfect.
- The teaching staff to continue with their dedicated spirit and with the support of the parents we shall get to up.

You did also share some very valid points of how we can do even better:

- Parents volunteering in everything
- In my opinion, the school could do more to encourage greater involvement and interaction among parents.

School Response- If any parents are available to support the school in any way, please contact the school office. We have a small and dedicated PTA and we would love to see this grow. They would then be able to organise more family or social events. If you are able to come into school

on a regular basis and can make that commitment, we will apply for the DBS to enable this to take place.

- For example, celebrating the feast days of different saints through themed activities could be a lovely way to bring the school community together. St Joseph's feast day could include simple woodworking or craft activities, while St John's feast day could be celebrated with traditional festivities, helping children learn about different cultures and traditions within the school community.

School Response- We currently celebrate the house group saints and the start of Advent. This is something we will look into.

- *Treat boys and girls equally*

School Response- We treat each member of the school community as an individual with unique gifts, talents and different interests. We try and provide as many equal opportunities as we can, sporting events such as the cross-country runners were mixed and we have strong boys and girls football teams. All children have equal access to the sporting events at lunchtime and the clubs are open to all children. Our updated behaviour policy does not differentiate on the grounds of gender. It would be good to hear more of your thoughts so please do email head@ so we can address any specific areas or concerns.

- More one to one feedback around the kids progress and specially around areas for improvement
- Have more communication from teachers. Have a way to escalate when there is an issue with a class teacher..... I have very little understanding of my child's progress and next steps in their learning, and I don't think there's been enough support with social learning either.
- More communication between parents and teachers

School Response- -Class teachers can be contacted either through the enquiry@ or the teacher@ emails, or once the class have been dismissed, you can speak to them at the end of the school day; they are more than willing to set up a meeting if more time is needed. If you feel that your concerns have not been listened to, then you should speak to a more senior member of staff, either of the Assistant Head Teachers and then Deputy or Head Teacher if the issue has still not been resolved. Information shared at parent meetings and in the end of year report provide information on achievement and also next steps in learning. Pupils on the SEND register also have Individual Support Plans which are reviewed termly. It is important that parents' are well informed so we will look at how else we can ensure that communication is clear and that you have a full understanding of how to support your child.

- New destinations for school trips.

School Response- All trips are reviewed after they take place, we consider cost and value for money as well as how they support the curriculum and enrichment opportunities for the children. There are some changes this academic year but also some events that which after careful consideration we feel are the best option available. Please look out for the list of upcoming events for the year which Mrs Kendrick will send out shortly.

- More art resources/art club
- art club and dance club/ more flexibility with the after school provision

School Response- We have reviewed our provision of clubs during the school day and also after school. We have Adventure Grove for Key stage 1 offering Art and Class Act Theatre Group for Key Stage 2 for drama. There are also clubs that run at lunchtime such as the Digital Leaders for Year 5, a Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 gardening club and a reading club. These are in addition to some of the clubs which took place last year. We are hoping to have more clubs up and running in Autumn 2 and the Spring term so more children have the opportunity to take part.

- Communication is still very last minute even with weekly emails. For parents who work full time a weeks notice is not sufficient to organise time to attend events.
School Response- You are right, a week's notice is not enough and I hope this was a one off or due to a last minute change which was out of our control. Systems have improved and are much more co-ordinated which should ensure that there is sufficient notice of events.
- I would love to see the Carol Concert return to Church.
School Response- I agree that this would be the ideal, the carol service in church was a wonderful, spiritual and reverent event. Unfortunately, we found it increasingly difficult to facilitate this. The practicality of taking up to 240 children to church for rehearsals and the carol service itself proved to be unsustainable due to the number of walkers required to supervise the children and ensure the safety of all. When there is a one-off event, we are very fortunate that many parents will volunteer to walk but very few are able to commit to a number of sessions in quick succession.
- I'd also mention one point about cultural expectations regarding parental involvement. It would be really helpful if emails could explicitly state when parents are expected or encouraged to attend an event. A good example is Sports Day. In the UK, parents know that Sports Day often includes the mums' and dads' races. However, this wasn't mentioned in any of the school emails. As an international parent, I knew that these races are part of the tradition at some point, but because they weren't specifically mentioned I simply prepared my son for Sports Day as a school event.
School Response- Thank you for raising this point, going forward we will include this information about different events so that all parents know the expectations.