



# St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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**Executive Head Teacher:** Mr D Juric  
**Head of School:** Mrs J Bowen  
**Chair of Governors:** Mrs A Nichols

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16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As you are aware, we recently invited you to participate in a questionnaire about the school. I said at the time that we would seek to feedback on the outcomes this half-term. We received just over 300 responses, approximately a third of which also provided a free text comment. I intend to summarise below the overall feedback, section by section, along with any planned action points which have come out of the process.

## Curriculum

We were very pleased that parents overwhelmingly expressed the opinion that the school provided a good range of subjects, had high expectations for learning, and provided a high standard of teaching and homework. These opinions were echoed by positive comments in the free text section. Feedback on the student planner was extremely positive. Some parents did suggest consideration of electronic versions of this resource, which is something the school is already in the process of doing. Responses regarding the feedback students receive on their work was again very positive, with a few suggestions for improvement in the comments section. We received positive feedback on SEND provision. Feedback on SEND in the comments section has been considered and we will continue to work with individual parents and students to achieve the best provision we can. Most responses regarding how aware parents were of their child's curriculum were positive, although some felt this could be improved further.

In light of this feedback, in addition to our ongoing engagement with parents around SEND provision, we will also seek to address the provision of an online/app-based form of planner to supplement the paper based one, and to establish more effective systems for the provision of information for parents on their child's curriculum.

## Communication

Feedback was in general very positive with regards to communication. The MyEd app received excellent feedback, but with a few comments linked to other possible electronic communication systems, already mentioned in the section above on Curriculum. Communication on events and the school website both received very positive feedback. In the comments section there were a handful of comments saying the timeliness of responses could be improved, but there was a pretty much equal number of comments praising the promptness of communication. We were pleased that a sizeable majority of parents felt they knew how to approach the school with questions. Parents responded positively on communication around problems or concerns, but we are aware that this will always be an area where we need to continue to work to increase the level of satisfaction even further. Approximately 60% of parents say they follow the school on social media.

The refinement of school/ home communication is an ongoing process, and we will continue to be mindful over timeliness across all forms of communication, and to work with parents over any concerns or problems they may have. We will also specifically address the matter of improved forms of electronic communication with parents, as referenced in the previous section. We are seeking to develop an effective and appropriate social media presence, which we will continue to publicise.



## Pastoral

We were very pleased that feedback on the clarity of school rules and expectations, absence and attendance, the school's values and student safety and happiness, were all extremely positive. The response on behaviour was very positive but we are aware this is never an area around which we can be complacent. Feedback on rewards and praise was very positive too. A strong majority of parents felt their child had someone in school whom they could go to and who would listen to them, although when we have asked students themselves this question, their answer has been even more positive. The question on bullying engendered a very high level of *don't knows* in response. However, of those who did respond, most parents were positive over how the matter was handled. Obviously, we will continually seek to work with parents and pupils around this matter, should it arise. It was also very gratifying to read many individual comments thanking the school for the overall care and support given to children.

This section is always under review, and we are continually seeking to improve. However, one specific area we will seek to address is to remind students of the various staff available to them in different situations.

## Assessment and Reporting

Feedback was very positive on the clarity and quality of reports. A strong majority of parents were happy with the regularity of reporting, although some parents did say they would like more regular updates. The school currently reports three times a year to most year groups and twice a year to the others. Within that cycle, each year group receives a full written report once a year. We are confident that this does not compare unfavourably to other schools. However, we will consider whether there are further ways we can keep parents updated on their child's progress to supplement the scheduled reports. Feedback on the parent information evenings was very good. The question about the format of parents' evenings was very divided in its responses. Many parents clearly state a preference for face-to-face evenings and many parents state a clear preference for online. This puts the school in the difficult position that whichever way we go, we are displeasing some people. We will have to consider how we might strike a balance.

In response to these questions, we will consider how we might supplement the current reporting system so that all parents feel regularly updated. We will also consider whether we can arrive at some form of blended system for parents' evenings across the year groups which can acknowledge the difference of opinion amongst parents.

## Ethos and Personal Development

We were pleased that so many parents said their child enjoys attending St Robert's. The feedback on extracurricular provision was excellent overall. A few parents did mention PE facilities as an area for improvement. The school is aware of this situation and is currently seeking to put in place short term remedies, as well as trying to work for longer term improvement. Feedback on Collective Worship opportunities was extremely positive, and parents said they felt well informed on the Catholic Life of the school. Every parent who expressed an opinion on the school's involvement in charitable causes responded positively. However, there were a good number of *don't knows*, possibly suggesting the need for more effective publicity of these events. Parents were also less sure whether their own children were involved in these events. Those who expressed an opinion responded positively when asked whether the school supported the wider personal development of their child, but again there were some *don't knows* amongst the answers.

The main areas to come out of this section is the ongoing work looking to address PE facilities, as well as more effective communication around charitable works and the personal development programme.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the questionnaire and for reading the feedback. We have found it a very useful means of identifying areas which you feel we are already doing well, and also aspects which you feel we can try to improve further. We will consider and, where possible, seek to address the areas highlighted as part of our ongoing improvement work. As previously stated, we will, later this year, send out a further questionnaire purely focussed on post-16 provision, as well as a second whole school one around Prayer, Catholic Life and Mission.

Yours faithfully



**Mr D Juric, Headteacher**