

# ANNUAL SURVEY RESULTS DECEMBER 2012



Gold Partner  
2011/12



**Healthy Schools**



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## ANNUAL SURVEY 2012

### INTRODUCTION

This is our eighteenth Annual Survey. It has continued this year in the same format as previous years and has again been conducted in mid-December, quite deliberately in what can be the “darkest” days of the school year. Many questions in the survey have remained largely unaltered thus making comparison straightforward.

The survey has sampled around one-third of students, from all year groups, and their parents. All staff have the opportunity to complete the survey. This year, the survey summarises the responses of 43 teachers (45 in 2011) and 30 support staff (30 in 2011). The staff response rate is similar to last year, the highest for many years, and this lends greater reliability and validity to the results. 229 students from all year groups were randomly surveyed and questionnaires were sent out to the parents of these students.

This summary of responses includes raw data for this year, together with a summary showing trends over recent years. The many “free comments” written on the questionnaires by respondents to particular questions have not been included due to considerations of space and simple manageability. However, the comments are studied carefully and in some cases do provide a prompt for action and helpful starters for follow-up.

It is important to remember that the survey provides all stakeholders with an anonymous opportunity to make any comment they wish and that we can all find something about which we may be less than 100% satisfied in just about every aspect of life! With this in mind, responses remain remarkably positive and this year satisfaction rates are increased on last year in most areas.

#### **Students**

Student responses are broadly very positive, with satisfaction rates steady in all categories. Overall student satisfaction rates over the last 5 years are high and stable, with a slight rising trend.

It is encouraging to see another year of improved satisfaction ratings for Q12 (I feel that my teachers are interested in me), with 65% wishing to agree with this statement and only 8% disagreeing. I have discussed this with students in assemblies last year and this was a focus for follow-up work over the last two years. Satisfaction with marking and feedback is also encouragingly high, with only 8% feeling dissatisfied (Q4).

I have spoken with students in assemblies about the outcomes of the Annual Survey and continue to be encouraged by their response, firstly in the assemblies themselves where they appear to show genuine interest in the survey and its outcomes. Further, however, I am so pleased to be able to congratulate them again this year on the mature and reflective way they participate in this opinion-gathering exercise. Again this year, not one single staff member was named on a survey and not one single student took an obvious and anonymous opportunity to “have a pop” at their teachers, at the Headteacher, or at the school. In these assemblies I like to read out verbatim some of comments students record in the free text section. Some are amusing; others quirky, but most are really heart-felt and provide another fascinating window on the way students see their experience of school.

#### **Parents**

Parent responses are again very positive this year, with increased satisfaction rates in 4 categories: Teaching & Learning, Communications, Behaviour and Staff. Satisfaction with staff is at 90% overall with just 1% expressing a dissatisfaction. This is the highest rating recorded for this category and has increased in each of the last 4 years. Satisfaction with Communications is also at a record high level of 95%.

In response to the statement, “In general, I am satisfied with the school” (Q33), 100% of parent responses agreed with this and this is the case for the second year running. A record 97% said their child enjoyed school, up from 95% in 2011 and 88% in 2010.

While the satisfaction rate for Governors is slightly down on 2011, this remains above 2009 and 2010 levels. Governors have an action plan to address this and these actions require a longer period of time to be implemented, before any judgement can be made as to the effectiveness.

### **Support Staff**

Support Staff response to the 2012 survey was very positive overall, with 6 categories showing increased satisfaction rates and, in the other categories (Quality of Education and Governors), satisfaction rates remain high.

The only areas of significant disagreement (8% in both with 83% and 74% agreement respectively) are in Professional Development and Governors. For Governors, the 74% approval rating is only slightly down on 2011, which followed 3 years of a rising trend from just 51% in 2008 when the key issue was opportunities to represent staff views to governors. A range of measures to address this appear to have been successful.

It is pleasing to note 89% satisfaction with the school generally (6% in disagreement), but 3 respondents do not feel that the school is mindful of their well-being (Q34). If even one colleague feels this way, it is a concern. There is every opportunity through the line manager, support staff governor, or regular Headteacher support staff meetings to raise concerns and all staff know that I am always pleased to meet with any colleague to discuss any concern.

### **Teachers**

Satisfaction levels are very high. 100% of teacher respondents believe Vandyke is a good place to work (Q33) and 98% would recommend a colleague to work here (Q32).

For the third year running, 100% of teacher respondents believe the school provides a high quality education for its students (Q1).

In the category headed Working Environment, an area for further discussion with staff and to watch for will be whether some dissatisfaction expressed with teaching rooms and equipment levels becomes a trend or is a blip (Q7 and Q8), as 14% expressed concern, double that of previous years.

### **Summary**

The overall response to our wide-reaching survey in December 2012 has again been overwhelmingly positive. The anonymous survey provides every opportunity for the school to hear a range of grievances or concerns and the 2012 survey has thrown up a small number of these which will be considered and acted upon as necessary. It is, however, heartening that so many colleagues, students and parents take the opportunity to feed back such positive messages about so many good things going on in our school.

In January/ February, we will hold a round of student group meetings to explore further student perceptions about homework, the school library, student voice and healthy lifestyles (Q3, 17, 20, 29).

There are no pressing issues identified for follow-up with parents this year and so the next formal session will be the Summer Survey, when several aspects of practice will be identified for in-depth investigation with parents. As always, the Summer Survey will also have governor involvement.

The Annual Survey helps to inform our school self-evaluation and has done so now for many years. I would like to thank everybody who took part.



Tim Carroll  
18 January 2013





