



2018 KINGSGATE SCHOOL PARENT CONSULTATION

GENERAL SCHOOL BUSINESS

ABSTRACT

This is a summary document of all responses to the 2018 Parent Community Consultation Survey which focussed on the general business of the school. It provides the reader with hard data responses to the questions directly asked within the consultation process and also identifies common and strong themes that emerged from comments made by the stakeholder group.

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Submitted 27th October 2018

PARENT AND CAREGIVER CONSULTATION SUMMARY

OCTOBER 2018

GENERAL SCHOOL FOCUS

Q1: How would you rate the school's ability to provide your child with a safe physical, emotional and spiritual environment?

Non-existent	Poor	Developing	Strong	Exceptional	Don't know
0%	5%	25%	50%	20%	0%

Comment Summary: (4 comments received)

- There is an overall happiness with the greater environment at KingsGate School with a recognition that we have kind and caring staff that allow children to explore their learning and spiritual development in a safe environment. However, it is recognised too that there is room for improvement particularly in giving sound guidance to children about the type of language they use towards each other, especially outside of the classroom setting.

Q2: Do you feel discipline standards at KingsGate is consistent and fair for all students?

Yes	No	Sometimes	Don't know
53%	0%	26%	21%

Comment Summary: (7 comments received)

- There is general agreement that the discipline standards are applied fair and appropriately at school, but that frustration and/or annoyance among parents and students occurs when a consequence does not fit the behaviour and discipline procedures, such as keeping a class in based on the poor behaviour of few students. There was an underlying concern too that there was no discipline for breaches of uniform standards.

Q3: What do you see as KingsGate School's most important priorities over the next 12 months? (i.e. What do we need to focus our money, time and energy on the most?)

New school development including keeping parents updated	13%
Increasing the academic standard across the board	13%
Quality teaching, curriculum delivery, teacher appraisal and support	11%
Staff PD generally (inclusive of Christian character development)	11%
More EOTC activities (inclusive of camps and service activities)	9%
Creating more extracurricular activities	9%
School environment (wet weather play area, shade, play resources)	5.5%
Building "community" with the parents from all teachers	5.5%
Development of our Christian character	3%
Discipline and behaviour consistency	3%
Respectful school communication	3%
Student well-being and health	2%
Smaller class sizes	2%
Take home resources for struggling students	2%
Support for our ESOL students and their families	2%
The ability to keep our current students	2%
Having uniform sizes for larger/older students	2%
Being more responsive to our Pasifika families	2%

Q4: Do you feel that there is adequate communication between home and school in regard to successes and challenges that your child experiences in their classrooms?

Yes	No
37%	63%

Comment Summary (10 comments received)

- Parent voice is clear in that as a body they believe they are:
 - not being communicated with enough regarding their child's achievement from their child's classroom teacher.
 - frustrated about the quality and quantity of the communication that exists, and only then if it exists, for which many parents have expressed it doesn't.
 - frustrated that when communication is made, it is at the parent's initiative not the teachers.
 - motivated to help but they need teacher direction (which they aren't receiving) as to how they can help at home.

Q5: How would you rate the school's ability to generally communicate with the parents and caregivers of our students? (e.g. About events, items of interest, school goals and strategic planning etc?)

Non-existent	Poor	Developing	Strong	Exceptional
0%	15%	40%	35%	10%

Comment Summary (7 comments received)

- **Notice Periods:** As a school we need to give more notice to parents and caregivers about events that are upcoming. Many said they would like to help but couldn't because of shorter than usual notice periods of some events this year. A number of suggestions were made for an annual calendar of events to be published.
- **Board Communication:** There was concern that there was not enough communication from the board, particularly about the move to the new school, and also generally e.g. offering the community biography's on new staff etc.
- **Newsletter & Website:** A number of comments were made in regard to the newsletter format with parents seeking a larger font and less advertising. There was equal praise and constructive criticism about the school website with some enjoying the new look while others suggested ways to "tidy it up".

Q6 Classroom: How would you rate the importance of your child receiving weekly homework?

A top priority but not the most important	65%
The most important priority	10%
Not very important	25%
Not important at all	0%

Comment Summary: (9 comments received)

- Homework is viewed by parents as an important facet of school life. Themes that emerged throughout the comments were as follows:
 - a. Anything other than reading homework below the age of 8 is seen as having little value.
 - b. As students get older (8+) they need to learn the importance of the self-management aspect of their learning, particularly the year 7 and 8's who are in preparation for high school.

- c. Parents want to see and be made aware of clear connections between homework and what is being taught in the classroom through more effective communication from the teacher.
- d. If homework is sent home, then there is a clear expectation from parents that the homework will be marked by the teacher on its return.

Q7 Classroom: Do you feel that each subject in the NZ Curriculum is given the correct classroom teaching time? (i.e. Are subjects such as science, music, health and PE, and drama are given an appropriate amount of classroom time over the course of each term?)

Developing - the teachers are working on getting the right balance	53%
No - the balance is poor right now	29%
Yes - the balance is good right now	18%

Comment Summary: (11 comments received)

- Parental views on curriculum delivery were exceptionally clear as well as wide and varied in focus. The following themes came to the fore in the responses:
 - a. Physical education opportunities need to be increased and valued more. However, in the same breath parents acknowledged that our current school site doesn't lend itself well to this. Nonetheless they would like to see opportunities broaden next year.
 - b. The perceived lack of focus on the Social Science curriculum in general was seen not just viewed as a concern but also as an area that the parent body wanted to establish more focus on. Social Science subjects such Geography, History, and Culture were actively mentioned as subjects they believed were important for their children to learn.
 - c. The Science curriculum and the Arts curriculum (particularly music) were also seen as important elements of curriculum delivery that were not currently being adequately met or provided for.
 - d. A number of parents openly questioned the value of swimming lessons for their children (both senior and junior), many viewing them as useless and more like swim parties as the time allowed for it allowed little skill development.
 - e. The use of iPads as a teaching and learning tool was queried as some believed the emphasis on the use of these was too great.

Q8: Strengths: What do you think we do well at KingsGate School? (i.e. What are our strengths?)

Inclusive Christian character development & spiritual growth	30%
Hardworking, respectful & passionate teachers	10%
Caring culture	10%
Friendliness within the school	8.5%
Approachable staff	8.5%
Small, safe family atmosphere	8.5%
Pet day	5%
Positive students who are encouraged in learning	3%
School Assemblies	3%
General communication	3%
Christian music/singing	3%
Traditional classroom, traditional teaching	1.5%
Homework	1.5%
Interaction with other schools	1.5%
General standard of behaviour	1.5%
Cultural diversity	1.5%

Q9 Weaknesses: What do you think we could improve on at KingsGate School? (i.e. our weaknesses)

Extending students learning (pushing to higher standards)	12%
Time allocated to sports and physical education	8%
The standard of teaching and quality of curriculum delivery	8%
Creating more extracurricular activities	6%
Reducing class sizes	6%
Opportunities for practical applications of the Bible.	6%
Preparedness for high school	6%
Discipline enforcement generally	6%
General communication between teachers and parents	6%
School event and calendar planning	6%
More opportunities for working parents to be involved	4%
Enforcing uniform expectations	4%
Opportunities for arts & environmental education	4%
Developing computer science opportunities	2%
More care and attention for the average student	2%
More focus on contrasting the Christian and secular views	2%
Reducing teacher admin load so they can teach more	2%
More opportunities to celebrate our cultural diversity	2%
Developing play-based learning	2%
Purchasing a school bus	2%
Minimising screen time for the students	2%
Pet Day	2%

Q10 General: Are you happy with your child's overall standard of education at KingsGate School?

Yes-the overall standard of education is very good.	53%
Developing - The overall standard is getting better	42%
Declining - The overall standard is getting worse	5%
No - the overall standard of education is very poor	0%

Comment Summary (11 comments received)

- Based on the data above parental voice is clear that in general terms they are happy with the education that their children are receiving but acknowledge that there is room for improvement.
- The following themes emerged as significant constructive criticism and "work ons" in the wider sense of the education provided at KingsGate School:
 - Students need to be pushed/encouraged more to excel and to go beyond what they feel is possible at all levels.
 - There junior school continues to function well (0-4) but senior school (5-8) needs continued development in all areas with the acknowledgement that it has progressed from where it has been previously.
 - There is a concern that there could be a possible over reliance of use of digital tools as teaching and learning strategies.
- The following themes emerged as significant areas of positive praise in the wider sense of the education provided at KingsGate School:
 - The parent body is happy, that after much change across the school, that we are taking the time required to get the basics right, that we are setting solid foundations for a bright and blessed future and acknowledge that this cannot be accomplished all at once.
 - They are thankful for the work all the school staff and parent volunteers put into creating a school environment that is safe and one that they are progressively able to have more input into.
 - Many respondents acknowledged that offering critical observation is easy when they are not the ones receiving feedback but that it is exceptionally important for staff and board to understand that they are very thankful for all the hard work they do and that they continue to pray for God's blessing on our school now and into the future.