

UH Network Consultation Survey Summary

Maidstone Intermediate

September 2018

In September this survey was put out to all parents of school-age children across Upper Hutt. 29 Maidstone parents responded. This summary is from the results from our Maidstone parents only.

1. My child talks about their learning at home

Strongly agree:	6
Agree:	21
Disagree	2
Strongly disagree:	0

2. My child knows what they are learning at school and why

Strongly agree:	2
Agree:	25
Disagree	2
Strongly disagree:	0

3. My child seeks to learn new things independently

Strongly agree:	3
Agree:	22
Disagree	3
Strongly disagree:	1

4. My child keeps trying, even when things get hard

Strongly agree:	5
Agree:	20
Disagree	4
Strongly disagree:	0

5. What do you see as your key role when it comes to supporting your child's learning and achievement?

Comments included

- Showing interest
- Encouraging
- Listening
- Providing resources
- Valuing learning and education

6. Teachers use my knowledge as a parent/ caregiver to support my child's learning at school

Strongly agree:	5
Agree:	13
Disagree	10
Strongly disagree:	1

7. I have a clear idea about my child's learning and progress

Strongly agree:	7
Agree:	17
Disagree	5
Strongly disagree:	0

8. My child feels confident talking to teachers about learning and challenges they face at school

Strongly agree:	3
Agree:	18
Disagree	8
Strongly disagree:	0

9. As a parent, I feel confident talking to teachers about learning and challenges my child faces at school

Strongly agree: 12
Agree: 17
Disagree: 0
Strongly disagree: 0

10. What do you see as important actions to help strengthen communication between students, teachers and parents?

Comments included

- Regular contact is appreciated
- Emails and texts are preferred by a number of families
- Would like to hear more about the focus for the learning
- More exchange of information at the beginning of the year- Maidstone not welcoming of parents
- Open and honest communication appreciated

11. My child likes coming to school

Strongly agree: 10
Agree: 16
Disagree: 3
Strongly disagree: 0

12. My child's learning appears to have the right level of challenge for them

Strongly agree: 4
Agree: 20
Disagree: 4
Strongly disagree: 1

13. Learning at school connects to my child's strengths/interests

Strongly agree: 4
Agree: 20
Disagree: 5
Strongly disagree: 0

14. Learning at school is relevant to what my child needs to know or be able to do

Strongly agree: 3
Agree: 24
Disagree: 2
Strongly disagree: 0

15. What do you believe could help keep your child interested and engaged with their learning at school?

- Learning in contexts that interest them
- Make sure topics relate to the child
- Structure and routine
- Allow self-selected projects
- More support when struggling
- Importance of connectedness and collaborative learning
- Have old style classrooms instead of modern learning open styles
- Smaller class sizes
- Variety - change things up a bit

16. What further information would you like as a parent/ caregiver to ensure you can support your child in the best way possible?

- More information on what they're learning at school
- Tips on how to help
- Recognise anxiety in students
- Playground monitoring
- Provide examples for learning
- Open and honest conversations with parents
- Communicate deadlines
- Intermediate could communicate more detail around the topics
- Communicate with parents if student is struggling
- Regular communication from teacher to parents

17. Is there any other feedback you would like to share with your school/ schools in general about children being engaged at school?

- Seeing students happy is important
- Ability grouping in certain subjects beneficial
- Bullying is a huge issue and can impact on a child - have zero tolerance
- Distracting students make concentration difficult
- Manage gold tickets and merits fairly
- Teachers are wonderful and supportive - we are lucky
- Follow-up and homework that can be shared at home
- Get back to basics - reading, writing & maths
- Doing a great job

Summary:

These results are generally very positive. The first section shows a high number of students knowing what they're learning and wanting to discuss it at home.

While most parents are confident discussing their child's learning with the teacher, there is a suggestion that teachers are not always responding to parent knowledge. One item that Maidstone takes from this is the need to consider how parents transition into Intermediate - we do a lot of work for the transition of students and could do more to make parents feel a sense of belonging and being welcomed.

These results indicate that students like coming to school and programmes are generally suited to their needs. Comments suggest a strong desire for relevant learning contexts that students can relate to. There were several opinions expressed with parents preferring the 'old' style of learning where students are in desks directed by the teacher with a focus on reading, writing and maths. Other parents embraced the idea of students selecting topics and following their passions. We can't argue with the need for smaller class sizes, and a zero tolerance for bullying!

A huge thank you to the parents who responded to the survey. This survey will probably be repeated next year and i'd encourage you to participate as we do listen and respond.