

Lacon Childe School

Response to parent/carer voice - Autumn Term 2024

Gauging opinion from all of our stakeholders is a key factor in our drive to be a better school. Your opinions and feedback, both positive and constructive, will always be heard and taken into consideration as we review, evaluate and plan our next steps. As you know, earlier this term we sent out a parent/carer questionnaire (via a link in our heads update) which was open for three weeks. Thank you to those parents/carers who completed it. We had 63 responses.

The questions we asked and the percentage of parents/carers who agreed is below:

- My child is happy at this school - 72% agreed
- My child feels safe at this school - 84% agreed
- The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved - 64% agreed
- The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year - 60% agreed
- When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly - 51% agreed
- My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed - 24% agreed
- The school has high expectations for my child - 83% agreed
- My child does well at this school - 73% agreed
- The school lets me know how my child is doing - 70% agreed
- There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school - 86% agreed
- My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school - 92% agreed
- The school supports my child's wider personal development - 62% agreed
- I would recommend this school to another parent - 71% agreed

As you can see, there are a number of areas where we need to make improvements, please rest assured we are continuing to put plans in place to address these.

At the end of the questionnaire, we also gave you the opportunity to add anything that you would like to make us aware of. Thank you for the many positive comments, particularly those about our improved communication and the value of our weekly Head's update. We are glad you are finding it useful.

We have grouped the concerns you raised under the following headings and our responses are as follows:

Arbor

Lacon is part of the Shropshire Gateway Educational Trust and we made the move to Arbor as our Management Information System in line with our primary schools within the trust. Our previous contract was coming to an end and so working together is financially more sensible. Thank you again for your patience in our initial transition and for the teething problems we continue to experience. Over 6000 schools and 400 MATs use Arbor MIS, meaning Arbor is the UK's largest cloud MIS provider. Last term, 9/10 schools who moved MIS chose Arbor.

92% say they save time with Arbor compared to legacy systems, more than double compared with other cloud-based MIS providers

92% say Arbor has transformed the way they work for the better

We have a **99%** retention rate, a market-leading customer satisfaction score and are proud to share the top spot **as the UK's most-loved MIS**

All parents/carers can now access Arbor and we are currently seeing an average of 3,600 log ins each week. We have provided all students in the school with training on how to access Arbor but please do let us know if you are still experiencing difficulties. We are currently working with Arbor to try and make student

access easier, and to address how behaviour and achievements points can be represented differently so they are easier for you and your children to view and understand.

Homework

Regular homework is a priority at Lacon Childe as it serves as an intellectual discipline, consolidates learning and develops good study habits and routines. In addition, it fosters student initiative, independence, and responsibility, and brings home and school closer together. Forming strong study routines early will significantly reduce anxiety caused by assessments and terminal exams in the long term. Research shows that students who complete regular homework can go on to make an additional 8 months progress each year.

We firmly believe that getting into good study habits and building routines is the key to success and have provided students with a homework timetable to support this. Although homework will be set on weekdays we expect students to complete homework on school nights only (Sunday to Thursday) which means that no homework has to be completed on the weekend (homework set on Friday to be completed on Sunday). Building routines early on will ensure that foundations are secure, enabling all students to cope as homework demands increase in later years. When students' progress to Years 10 and 11, homework timetables vary according to the subjects they have chosen to study. However, we fundamentally believe that a range of revision strategies must underpin the approach to homework to enable students to select effective revision methods when approaching their end of unit assessments and examinations.

To support our students we have a staffed weekly homework club that is available in the centre; this is open to all students and provides them with a calm environment in which to complete their homework. It allows them access to books, computers and printers. Year leads will also be providing additional support for individual students where appropriate.

In addition, subject leads will be providing regular updates with regard to homework in their subjects, in the Heads update, the first of which was Sparx maths from subject lead Mrs Harding. No homework will be set w/b 16th December and w/b 6th January so students can enjoy a restful Christmas break.

Attendance

As the Department for Education state 'Improving attendance is everyone's business. The barriers to accessing education are wide and complex, both within and beyond the school gates, and are often specific to individual students and families. Good attendance begins with school being somewhere students want to be and therefore the foundation of securing good attendance is that school is a calm, orderly, safe, and supportive environment where all students are keen and ready to learn'. We are working hard to make the necessary improvements to achieve this.

Good attendance is important because:

- Statistics show a direct link between under-achievement and absence below 95%
- Regular attenders make better progress, both socially and academically
- Regular attenders find school routines, school work and friendships easier to cope with
- Regular attenders find learning more satisfying
- Regular attenders are more successful in transferring between primary school, secondary school, and higher education, employment or training.

Thank you for working with us to enable your child to be successful.

Morning Line Ups

Morning line ups provide the opportunity for all students to be greeted by their Year lead and ensure that they start the day ready to succeed. Good behaviour is the foundation of learning and we believe it is our responsibility to make sure there a calm and purposeful learning environment around the school that allows all our students to have the opportunity to learn. Our school uniform is central to Lacon's sense of community among students, staff and parents as well as the local community. When students wear a

uniform, as well as gaining a sense of pride, we find that wearing one improves behaviour and concentration. Line ups were the key to our calm and purposeful starts to the day during Autumn term 1 whilst also helping us to monitor standards of uniform. As the weather inevitable became wetter and colder during Autumn term 2 we have paused line ups and will go back to them later in the academic year when the weather improves.

SEND

Thank you to all parents/carers who attended the SEN interim reviews during the Autumn term; we had over 75% attendance. If you have any issues, or if your child isn't on the SEN register but you would like to discuss their progress or any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Stiles and his team. Alternatively, the SEND team run a regular drop-in session on Friday morning at school from 9am-10am if this is more convenient for you.

The importance of students feeling included and having a sense of belonging at Lacon is hugely important to us and an area we are currently working hard to improve. The house system is an obvious example of the belonging culture that we all share. We want all of our students to feel happy, safe and accepted.

Year 7 Transition

We will begin planning the transition process at the start of the Spring term for our new Year 7 cohort in September 2025. Thank you for your feedback listing the pieces of information that are useful and helpful to a child/parent new to the school. We will be revising our current handbook as a result and ensure we cover the key questions when we meet new students and their parents/carers on our transition days and evening in July.

Thank you for your continued support.