

**REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE –
19 APRIL 2004**

REPORT ON: PARENTAL SURVEY 2003

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 277-2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report informs Councillors of the results of the second Citywide survey of parental opinion that was carried out in Dundee's schools.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that members of the Committee:

2.1 Note the contents of this report.

2.2 Instruct the Director of Education to communicate the results of the Citywide parental survey to all educational establishments, congratulating them on the positive results obtained.

2.3 Instruct the Director of Education to carry out a further Citywide parental satisfaction survey in February 2006, and report the results to the Education Committee.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The financial implications of the survey were contained within the existing Education Department budget.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Parents will be empowered to participate in decision-making.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 These proposals will support schools in promoting equality of opportunity across the City by engaging parents in active dialogue.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 The first citywide survey of parental opinion was carried out in Dundee City in September 2001. The results of that survey were reported to the Education committee in June 2002. (Report 545-2002)

- 6.2** Report 545-2002 instructed the Director of Education to carry out a second survey of parental opinion during the school session 2003/04, and report the results of this to the Education Committee.

It was again decided that this survey should be based on the questionnaire for parents that is used by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) when undertaking inspections of schools. The use of this questionnaire allows the Department and schools to benchmark their results against national average responses to these questions. (The national baseline scores are recorded in this report, and are also available on the HMIE website – www.hmie.gov.uk)

HMIE have updated the questionnaire that they use since the 2001 parental survey was undertaken, and therefore direct comparisons between the 2001 results and 2003 results are difficult to make.

19,000 questionnaires were issued to schools for distribution in November 2003.

7.0 CURRENT SITUATION

- 7.1** There are just over 19,000 pupils attending Dundee's schools. Therefore it is fair to assume that this equates to approximately 12,000 families

- 7.2** 5306 questionnaires were returned by parents. Based on the information in 7.1 above, the department estimates that this equates to a return of approximately 44%, which is high for this type of questionnaire with such a large distribution.

- 7.3** The returned questionnaires have been entered into a database and analysed within the Education Department. The overall results are now available.

- 7.4** In line with the system operated by HMIE on reporting results, the total number of responses stating that parents "strongly agree" and "agree" with the statements are added and the total number of responses stating that parents "strongly disagree" and "disagree" with the statements are added. These are then divided and an overall percentage is reached.

- 7.5** The results of the survey are printed below. The results continue to show very high levels of parental approval with the service provided by the Education Department.

It should also be noted that the National Baseline figures for parental responses to this questionnaire recorded by HMIE are all less than the approval level of those parents who responded in Dundee. This is an improvement since the first parental survey was carried out.

PARENTAL SURVEY 2003 - RESULTS

		Agree	Disagree	% Agree	National Baseline % Agree
1	My child enjoys being at school	5064	222	96	95
2	My child finds school work stimulating and challenging	4985	261	95	92
3	The school has a good reputation in the local community	5013	227	96	92
4	Teachers are good at letting me know my child's strengths and weaknesses	4717	498	90	86
5	Teachers in this school set high standards for pupils' attainment	4929	221	96	93
6	School reports give me helpful information about my child's progress	4917	208	96	94
7	The school encourages my child to work to the best of his/her ability	4999	220	96	92
8	Staff make me feel welcome in the school	5102	141	97	96
9	Parents' evenings are helpful and informative	4957	151	97	96
10	School buildings are kept in good order	4810	397	92	83
11	The school has explained how I can support my child with his/her homework	4462	638	87	85
12	I have a clear idea of the school's priorities for improving the education of pupils	4284	849	83	77
13	My child is treated fairly in school	5025	216	96	95
14	The school deals effectively with inappropriate behaviour	4557	519	90	88
15	The school makes it clear to parents what standard of work it expects from the pupils	4616	508	90	89
16	There is a mutual respect between teachers and pupils at the school	4806	357	93	91
17	Staff show concern for the care and welfare of my child	5012	213	96	95
18	The school is good at consulting me on decisions which affect my child	4563	524	90	86
19	If I raise a matter of concern the school will do something about it	4665	376	93	92
20	The school is well led	4973	203	96	93

HMIE use words to describe numbers and proportions. The words used are:

Almost all	Over 90%
Most	75% - 89%
Majority	50% - 74%
Less than half	15% - 49%
Few	Up to 15%

Using these words it is correct to say that in 18 of the statements, "almost all" parents approved. In the other two statements "most" parents approved.

In the 2001 parental survey "almost all" parents approved of 13 of the statements, whilst "most" approved of the other 7 statements.

All Education Department staff should be congratulated on providing a service that attracts such high levels of approval from users.

These results have been considered by the department's Senior Management Team, and have been shared with Head Teachers, School Board chairpersons and parent representatives. Schools have been asked to look at ways in which these results could be improved in the future. The results will also be used as part of the department's European Foundation of Quality Management (EFQM) self-assessment, and will be used to inform the future service planning.

8.0 PROPOSAL

It is proposed that:

- 8.1** The Director of Education be instructed to carry out a further Citywide parental satisfaction survey in February 2006, and report the results to the Education Committee.
- 8.2** The Director of Education be instructed to communicate the results of the Citywide parental survey to all educational establishments, congratulating them on the positive results obtained.

9.0 CONSULTATION

- 9.1** Before the questionnaire was distributed, School Boards, parent representatives, Head Teachers, staff and the Teaching Unions were consulted on to the format and timing of the survey. This report has been subject to consultation with the Chief Executive and the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Assistant Chief Executive (Management).

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education

25 March 2004
Date