



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

1 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

May I begin by saying I hope you and your families are well and healthy during this uncertain time.

It can be very confusing for parents seeing and hearing all the conflicting advice and guidance regarding what you should or should not be doing. I wish to reassure you that, as a Trust, we have been meeting regularly with all our Headteachers, supporting them and your schools as we respond to the plethora of advice and guidance coming daily from the Government.

At a time of huge worry, I want to give you the following message, which I have also given to our staff: this virus is a temporary thing. Your health and the health of your children is the most important thing; that is, and ALWAYS will be, our priority.

I would also like to share the following messages with you:

Firstly, all teachers, support staff, TAs, cooks, technicians, cleaners, and Governors want schools to be open; but ONLY when we know we have managed the risks and can open confidently. That may mean staggered starts, breaks, smaller class sizes, social distancing, and one-way systems; school may appear very different to the children and I would ask for your support in explaining to them why this is. Your Headteacher will communicate with you regarding the exact arrangements for your school.

Secondly, a huge thank you for your support of our schools and staff. Our schools have remained open for vulnerable children and those of key workers throughout the Easter break, May half-term and Bank Holidays.

It is important that we support you, our community. It has not been easy home schooling for such a length of time, and I know many of you will want your children back in school. We want this too of course but, to reiterate, this will only be when we feel it is the right time to do so.

Many of you took part in our Trust survey, conducted amongst parents, pupils and staff, exploring your views on distance learning and wellbeing. We are extremely grateful to those of you who took the time to complete the survey, your feedback is very much appreciated and valued. Please see below highlights from the Trust-wide view on what parents from across all our 25 schools have said:

Family Survey:

Strengths - Top Three Results (Positive Responses):

- How easy or difficult is it to contact the school if needed?
- How suitable to your child's age and abilities are the technologies used by the school for remote learning?
- How clear is the work which the school sets for your child?



Areas to Develop - Top Three Results:

- How optimistic or pessimistic do you feel about your child's progress at school during the remote learning period?
- How much do you feel like a part of the school community at the moment?
- How often do technical issues disrupt your child's learning

Pupil Survey (Primary):

Strengths -Top Three Results (Positive Responses):

- How safe do you feel at home?
- How clear is it to you how to stay safe online?
- How often have you been in a situation online that made you unhappy?

Areas to Develop - Top Three Results:

- How easy or difficult is it to work with your classmates these days?
- How often does your teacher mark your work these days?
- How often do you feel you have been given too much work these days?

Pupil Survey (Secondary):

Strengths -Top Three Results (Positive Responses):

- How clear is it to you how to stay safe online?
- How safe do you feel at home?
- In these past few weeks, how often have you been in a situation online that made you unhappy or uncomfortable

Areas to Develop - Top Three Results:

- In the past few weeks, how often have you felt overworked?
- In the past few weeks, how often have you felt anxious or stressed?
- How frequently do you receive teacher feedback on your work at home?

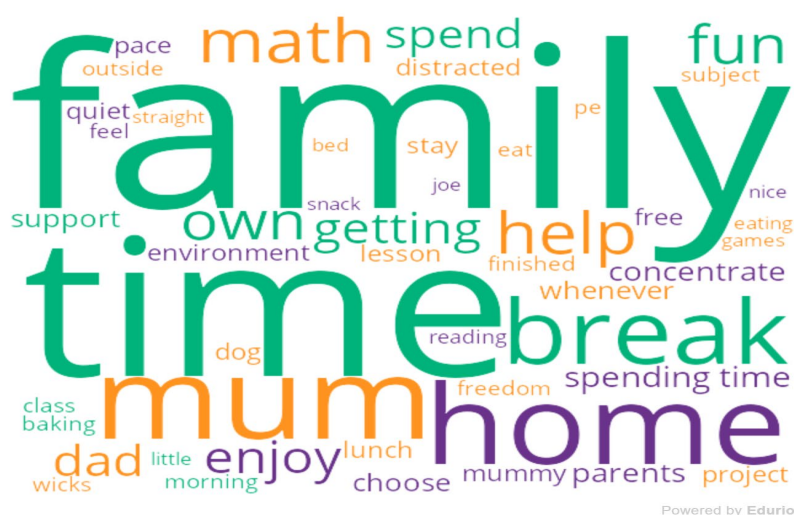
As you would expect, there is a lot more detail underpinning this data and we will be looking at areas where we can improve what we are doing, both at Trust and school level. Your Headteacher will have the results from your school and will be asked to share the headlines with you.

Please see inserted below a word cloud taken from the pupils' survey, which shows what they most enjoy when learning from home, I thought you would appreciate seeing this:



26) What do you enjoy most about learning from home?

257 responses



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I have also included a link here to my CEO parent video update:
<https://www.youtube.com/StRalphSherwinCMAT>, which you may wish to watch.

These are difficult times for us all, but together we will get through this. I wish you and your families every blessing and pray that our Patron, St Ralph Sherwin, together with the Saints of all our schools, keep our community safe at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Sean McClafferty
CEO