



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL LICHFIELD

Upper St John Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS14 9EE

Tel: 01543 255714 | Web: www.keslichfield.org.uk

Email: office@keslichfield.org.uk

Headteacher: Ms J Rutherford BA (Hons)

Thank you for responding to our Parent and Carer survey at the end of last term. Please see a summary of the 317 responses received.

Survey Questions	% Agree	Don't know	% Disagree
My child is happy at this school	90%	1%	9%
My child feels safe at this school	92%	3%	5%
The school makes sure its pupils are well-behaved	81%	7%	12%
My child has been bullied and it was dealt with quickly and effectively* *73 parents responded to this question.	67%*	0%	33%
This school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	67%	7%	26%
When I have raised concerns, they have been dealt with properly** ** This was only answered by those who said they had raised concerns	85%	0%	15%
My child has SEND and the school gives them the support they need to succeed. *43 parents responded to this question	33 responses		10 responses
The school has high expectations for my child	85%	7%	8%
My child does well at this school	89%	3%	8%
The school lets me know how well my child is doing	87%	1%	12%
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	92%	1%	7%
There is a good range of extra-curricular clubs and activities at this school	79%	13%	8%
The school strongly supports my child's wider development	71%	17%	12%
I would recommend King Edward VI School to another parent	93%	0%	7%

The survey offered you the opportunity to leave further comments (and asked that you did if you disagreed with any questions). We have spent time reading through all feedback provided and would like to provide some further information below to respond to the key themes of comments left.

Curriculum

The school curriculum is broad and balanced and in Key Stage 3 students cover the full breadth of subjects available ensuring that no areas are ignored. We are proud of the fact that time for the Arts is not reduced, and students get a good grounding for subjects taken at Key Stage 4 and beyond. In year 9 students choose options and have the opportunity to refine their curriculum based on their experiences in Key Stage 3. Some parents and carers commented that they are unsure about the curriculum content covered in each subject. This information is currently located on our new look school website under [Curriculum Overview - King Edward VI \(keslichfield.org.uk\)](https://www.keslichfield.org.uk/curriculum-overview). For the launch of our new school website, we refined how curriculum overviews are displayed to you. You will find a full curriculum overview along with more specific details on the Intent of the curriculum.

There were also queries about the overall structure and content of the curriculum. As above, this is shared on the school website; in the curriculum breakdown you will see that there is the opportunity for students in all year groups to study a wide range of subjects. As a local authority maintained school we have core subjects that must be included in the curriculum to year 11, this is set out in the [Year 9 GCSE Options – King Edward VI \(keslichfield.org.uk\)](https://www.keslichfield.org.uk/year-9-gcse-options) section of the website with information on core and optional subjects. All students have two hours a week of PE in years 7-11 and we ensure that through PSHE and Religious Studies, all students consider the British Values of democracy, individual liberty, the rule of law and mutual respect & tolerance. Further information can be found on our website: [British Values – King Edward VI \(keslichfield.org.uk\)](https://www.keslichfield.org.uk/british-values)

Parents' Evenings and reporting at King Edward VI School

Parents' evening takes place once a year for each year group. When planning where these take place, we look at a student's overall journey through school, when parents would appreciate feedback, and try to balance this with contact throughout students' time in school. For instance, in year 11 and 13, parents evening is in the Autumn term so that discussions linked to mock exams or UCAS applications can take place. In year 9, the parents evening is in the Spring term so that there can be conversations linked to the options process. This may mean that a parents evening feels earlier in the academic year than might be expected, however the overall impact is to ensure that parents and students can respond to any feedback with the teacher who has shared the feedback.

Teachers often teach multiple classes, and this can mean that it is not possible for all parents to be seen as part of the parents' evening process. There is a waiting list on the booking system and contact is made with any parents or carers on the waiting list following the evening. As with anything in school, please contact the school if you have a question about your child's progress. Although the appointments can feel short, there is a balance to ensuring that as many parents as possible are seen. Some parents have asked about the possibility of returning to face to face appointments. Overall, this approach was felt to be more stressful, with concerns about others listening to conversations, and that when appointments over-ran this meant that parents were concerned about missing other appointments.

Lastly, to ensure that parents' evenings are as effective as possible, you are able to raise a question with teachers before the evening via the booking system.

GO 4 Schools Survey

Many thanks to those of you who completed the additional survey on GO 4 Schools, we received 203 responses. Now that we have been using some parts of the system for nearly two years, it is pleasing to see that a significant proportion of parents/carers (82%) are accessing it at least weekly, with 28% using it on a daily basis, and that the full range of information from attendance and behaviour to reports, targets and progress data is being accessed.

Unsurprisingly, the app is the most popular means of accessing GO 4 Schools due to the ease of use on mobile phones. We have followed up comments on the functionality of the app in comparison to the website and this is something that is in GO 4 Schools' future development plan. It is unlikely that we will see any changes imminently however, as their current priority is the launch of their Management Information System (MIS). In addition to this, we have queried with them the timing of behaviour notifications that are communicated each week. This is something that GO 4 Schools control and although the notifications are released from 4pm, it can take a number of hours before they are received by parents/carers.

Since completing the survey, Year 7 and 8 reports have been published, and we hope that parents/carers of students in these year groups have noticed the improvements that we have made to enable them to put their child's attainment into context by providing a 'progress indicator' for each subject based on external estimation data.

Thank you for the positive feedback on the quality, quantity, and usefulness of our communication to help develop your understanding of GO 4 Schools. A key priority in our implementation has been to ensure that our users are able to access and understand all the real time information available on GO 4 Schools. We will continue to use newsletters, emails and parent information evenings as communication methods and would also recommend the use of the GO 4 Schools webpage on the school website [GO 4 Schools - King Edward VI \(keslichfield.org.uk\)](https://www.keslichfield.org.uk) In addition to useful information about all aspects of GO 4 Schools, the webpage also contains copies of any letters that have been emailed to you.

Student assessment grades have been published on GO 4 Schools for the first time over the last year for students in Years 9-13. We would ask that you bear with us whilst colleagues become used to this new way of working, we anticipate further improvements in this area during the next academic year.

Responses to comments on the format of parents' evenings and the behaviour information available on GO 4 Schools can be found in the relevant sections of this letter. When communicating with school by email we do ask parents to use the office@keslichfield.org.uk email address to ensure that queries are dealt with by the most appropriate person. We hope that you will find the relaunched school website useful for other information that it was requested for GO 4 Schools to be able to provide, for example, school calendar and events and curriculum information.

We have taken all the feedback from the survey on board and will be taking it into consideration as we continue the implementation of our new system.

Personal Development

The vast majority of parents and carers agreed that the school supports their child's personal development. Parents and carers commented on the wide range of extra-curricular activities available for their child to participate in, and particular emphasis was placed on the breadth of opportunities within

sport and music. However, parents and carers commented that they are not always aware of the extra-curricular activities that take place, especially those offered outside of sport and music. We will continue to broaden the extra-curricular opportunities available for students with different interests, having introduced film club, coding club and chess club in recent years. We are looking at ways in which we can further promote and share extra-curricular activities, including the development of this section of our website [Clubs - King Edward VI \(keslichfield.org.uk\)](https://www.keslichfield.org.uk/Clubs)

As a school we are committed to providing opportunities for personal development across all areas. The number of available trips and visits has grown again this year with 58 taking place during this academic year. Students have had the opportunity to take part in school visits, such as the year 7 trip to Warwick Castle, the year 9 Ski Trip and a cohort of students in year 11 will be travelling to Eswatini in the summer to participate in World Challenge. We have also been able to benefit from a wide range of guest speakers to enhance our wider PSHE curriculum, such as the drama productions delivered by Loudmouth for Year 10 and 11 students. We will continue to seek possibilities for students to further develop as global citizens.

Behaviour

Over 81% of respondents felt that the school ensures that pupils are well behaved; an increase from the 2022 and 2023 surveys. We reviewed our Behaviour for Learning policy in summer 2023 and this has enabled staff to hold students accountable for poor behaviour, but it also allows us to provide supportive interventions in helping students to reshape their behaviour. Developing strong routines and building positive relationships have formed part of our continued CPD programme for staff this year; we consider it imperative that all staff know their students and also ensure that students have consistently positive learning experiences as they move from lesson to lesson, and lessons start promptly to avoid any congestion in the corridors.

Vaping remains an issue in all schools across the country and as a school we have adopted a proactive approach to this by carrying out regular searches for banned items, in addition to increasing the number of staff on duty at break and lunchtimes. This has resulted in a greater number of students feeling safe in school this year (95%).

We will be working on developing our behaviour curriculum in the Autumn Term, which will form part of our registration activities and help us to model the behaviours we expect to see from our students.

82% of parents/carers are now regularly using GO 4 Schools to track behaviour and reward logs, which is an increase from 2022/23. Generally, the overall feedback on the GO 4 Schools system was positive and parents/carers have found the system “informative”, “easy and straightforward to use” and “it is a great application to keep the link between school and parents”.

For more detailed information regarding rewards and behaviour events, we encourage parents to access our current behaviour policy which is on our website: [Microsoft Word - Behaviour-Policy-July 2023 \(keslichfield.org.uk\)](https://www.keslichfield.org.uk/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20Behaviour-Policy-July%202023) Pages 9 and 11-12 provide further information on level 1,2 and 3 categories of behaviour and what bronze, silver, gold and platinum events are awarded for.

When any student receives a negative log, all staff are expected to have a conversation with the student about why they are receiving it. We reinforce this with staff through regular briefing updates and CPD sessions.

It is possible to disable the daily notifications from GO 4 Schools, which inform parents if their child has received a negative behaviour event however, we consider it important to notify parents if their child has a negative event, as we value your support in having purposeful discussions with your child at home regarding their behaviour.

We aim to develop the system further in the Autumn Term using the feedback from the recent survey. To provide further clarity to parents we will make the subject area visible when positive and negative behaviour events are logged. We are also reviewing all the current categories on GO 4 Schools to make these more descriptive and easier to understand for staff and parents.

We will also be working on our punctuality strategy and how we can provide more detail using GO 4 Schools if your child is late to school.

If you require any detailed information regarding your child's behaviour, attendance and progress, please contact the relevant tutor via Office@keslichfield.org.uk in the first instance.

Bullying

Bullying behaviour unfortunately exists in all schools across the country; at King Edward VI, we continue to adopt a zero tolerance of any form of bullying behaviour and harmful language and any reported incidents are logged and carefully monitored with appropriate action taken.

Many respondents in this year's survey felt that, if their child had been bullied in school it had been dealt with quickly and effectively. This figure is almost 10% higher than in 2022, which is really pleasing. In support of this, we were awarded a bronze award in September 2023 by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, for the preventative work we have done in school to tackle bullying behaviour. We also held our first parent focus group in April 2024 on the subject of bullying where some really useful discussions took place.

We have developed the role of the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors this year and increased our team from 5 to 14 Ambassadors across Year 7-10. All students completed training in March 2024 with the Diana Award initiative, to help them to carry out their whole school role successfully. We meet regularly and are in the process of developing several whole school initiatives to help to support all members of our school community. This includes developing clear lines of communication for both our students and parents about reporting bullying behaviour. Our ambassadors recently presented their ideas to staff, the Senior Leadership team and our Governors and they will be sharing regular updates with parents/carers through our safeguarding newsletter.

One final reminder is that parents/carers and students can report any bullying directly to antibullying@keslichfield.org.uk. This email is accessed daily by our Deputy DSL. (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Sixth form

Thank you for the many positive comments about our Sixth Form provision. Students have many opportunities for wider social and personal development in the Sixth Form. This can be subject based such as the Maths Challenge and Science Olympiads or through Young Enterprise, the House system, becoming a Prefect or even a member of the Senior Five. There are many sports activities to be involved with at various levels, including supporting younger students. We are proud of the volunteering students

take part in at Saxon Hill and in the wider community. Post-18 options, whether that be university, apprenticeships, the services, a gap year, or employment, are all shared with students. Through registrations, PSHE, assemblies, and a dedicated post-18 morning, we then share all options with students so they can make an informed decision about their next steps. Students who would like an individual appointment to discuss their options can seek advice from our independent careers advisor - Bob Keen. Mrs Baker, who oversees Careers in school, their form tutor, subject staff, and achievement team are all available to support students with their post-18 options. If you would like further information on post-18 options, please see the Careers section of the Sixth Form part of our website, where there are three information padlets. [UCAS and Post 18 Options - King Edward VI \(keslichfield.org.uk\)](https://www.keslichfield.org.uk/UCAS-and-Post-18-Options-King-Edward-VI) We were delighted to be able to take Year 12 to the post-18 convention at the NEC on Tuesday 25th June to enable them to explore their options further.

Future plans

It was lovely to read so many positive comments, particularly about the strong community ethos of our school. Our aim has always been to provide students with a broad and rich curriculum, both inside and outside of the classroom and it is wonderful to read that so many of you recognise this. The many positive comments and praise for our dedicated and hard-working staff team were also much appreciated. We are always looking for ways in which we can further build upon what is working well to develop opportunities for our students. We are currently in the process of finalising our School Development Plan for next year and beyond and all comments left in the survey have been considered. We fully intend to repeat this process during the next academic year, and it is likely there will be opportunities throughout the year to provide your views on specific areas. In the meantime, we always welcome your thoughts, please don't hesitate to contact us at office@keslichfield.org.uk.