

Parent Survey – Report for Parents and Carers June 2025

Each year the Exe Valley Federation asks parents and carers to share their views in a number of ways – through the parent forum, in parent meetings and by responding to a detailed annual questionnaire. Below is a summary of the responses to the annual survey. Thank you to everyone who responded to the annual questionnaire – your views are very important to us and help us to shape our Federation Development Plan for next year.

Name of school	Parent responses 2021	Parent responses 2022	Parent responses 2023	Parent responses 2024	Parent responses 2025
Brampford	19	31	3	8	14
Cheriton	22	30	7	4	7
Newton	29	34	8	8	5
Sandford	62	44	12	4	5
Silverton	40	24	6	3	16
Thorverton	23	21	6	2	12
Whimple				6	9
Total	195	184	42	35	68

1. What has gone well for your child this year and how have you seen them flourish at school?

Parents responses covered positive progress in phonics, reading and writing, for the younger classes in particular. Many responses explained how children have grown in confidence and feel supported in a nurturing and caring environment. Responses also gave positive feedback on school trips, residential, sport events music and other extra-curricular opportunities, and how the Federation is supporting personal development generally.

2. We know that promoting personal development through educational visits, outdoor learning, sport and music are highly valued by parents. Has your child taken part in these activities this year and how have they benefitted from them? Do you think this has improved this year and how can we enhance the wider curriculum offer made by our schools in the coming year?

A majority of parents reported a positive experience in terms of personal development. Specific mention of Lord's Meadow sessions, outdoor learning and forest school, music and dance lessons and performances, theatre trips, The Exmoor Challenge, and educational visits/trips. Some parents raised the potential to increase the number of sporting opportunities. In addition, several parents raised the challenge of funding more extra-curricular activities.

3. This year, we organised residential visits for Year 3 and 4 at the YHA in Okehampton and Year 5 and 6 are going to Ultimate Adventure. If your child took part in a residential visit since last year's survey, what did they gain from the experience and is there anything you would like us to consider for next year?

The children who attended these trips thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to further their independence, learn through new experiences and make friends from other EVF schools. Some parents reported that there was some apprehension from both parents and children ahead of the events but were pleased they participated, and it was a very positive experience overall.

4. Looking after our planet is an important part of our federation's vision for active global citizenship. Has your child talked about ways in which they can engage with challenging climate change and caring for the world around them? In what ways could we develop this in future?

Parents indicated that their children have a good understanding of the environmental challenges we are facing as a society, and the role that we all need to play in looking after our local environment and community. Some parents suggested that more use could be made of the school grounds, such as developing wildlife areas.

5. We are always looking to improve communication between home and school. How effective do you find this and are there any ways in which we can improve this in the coming year?

Parents are generally satisfied with communication from school, and several pointed out that communication has improved in the last year or so. The newsletters are proving popular and contain the right mix of information. Some parents suggested that utilising school noticeboards more at some schools would be beneficial. Some parents suggested that they would like a bit more feedback from teachers on individual progress throughout the year.

6. Finally, how do you think the Exe Valley and Moorsway Federation can develop in the coming year? How can we improve our provision in 2025/6 and how would you like to see it evolve in the future?

Parents' suggestions included:

- Developing and sustain the federation-wide sporting and culture events, including sporting competitions and festivals musical performances, concerts and shows
- Retaining the 'village school' ethos of each school, in the context of the growth of the Federation over the last few years.
- Managing the small number of children with additional needs and accessing additional funding to improve SEND provision