

PARENT PERSPECTIVE 2017-18



The Information below is a response to the Parent Voice surveys conducted earlier this year.

If you would like to get a bit more involved, please join the Selkirk High School Parent Partnership-

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If you'd like to contribute your views, please just phone up to make an appointment- you don't have to wait for Mr Bryson's occasional Saturday drop-in!

The information below forms a small but significant part of our drive to continually improve the school. A more comprehensive overview of the School Improvement Agenda will be shared with parents in the SHS Christmas Newsletter.

<i>What You Said</i>	<i>What We're Doing</i>
<p>Communication about Learning could be improved at SHS</p>	<p>S5 Pupil leaders and Parent representatives have held the first of their meetings looking at how we communicate about Learning at SHS. Progress has been made in the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents Evenings: A new approach will be trialled for the next parents' evening- S1 in February 2018. This will be a 'Learning Conversation' rather than a traditional Parents' Evening and we will be expecting pupils to take centre stage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pupils will lead presentations and explain displays about their learning. -Literacy/numeracy workshops will be available to parents to explain how we teach certain key skills. -The usual 1:1 conversations with parents will be held. 2. Course Organisers: A clear, 'jargon-free' explanatory outline of all courses offered at SHS from S1-S6 will be made available to pupils and parents. 3. A Timetable of Revision Opportunities will be made available to Parents asap. 4. Home Learning: A working Group has been set up to examine best practice regarding the most effective styles of homework and the most effective way to communicate this to parents. We need to do this well and get this right for the long term.

Parents identified 'Respect' as the most important educational value; some parents expressed concern about bullying.

1. We are continuing our **Values In Action** (VIA) Programme of Assemblies and events exploring issues of Respect. A significant feature of these assemblies and events is that they are led and co-designed by pupils.
2. Pupils have created a '**Charter In Action**' which sets a high standard of Respect, Responsibility, Relationships and Resilience for pupils and teachers at SHS.
3. We are making **Pupil Leadership** a key feature of our educational provision at SHS. We aim to provide everyone with leadership opportunity in order to develop confidence and to promote positive behaviour and encourage positive peer pressure. Not only are we enhancing the roles of Pupil Council and House Captains etc, we are launching a pupil mentoring initiative from February with our partners Humanutopia who visited our S3 and S4 in October with impressive impact. In 2018, S4 pupils and the majority of S3 will be involved in mentoring pupils from younger years- possibly P7 included- to counter peer pressure and encourage Values In Action. We are also looking at enhancing the curriculum to develop pupil leadership opportunities for 2018-19.
4. Staff are engaged in the highly-regarded '**Growing Confidence**' **Professional Development Programme** which explores the importance of positive relationships and working with parents/carers to understand the backgrounds of students. It also focuses on the biological changes which take place as the teenage brain develops. This is aimed at developing positive relationships between staff and pupils at SHS- already a strength- but will also contribute to the effectiveness of our support of young people whose anxieties often manifest in negative behaviour. Parents will have an opportunity to get involved with this if they wish- watch this space!
5. **Positive Behaviour:** The Pupil Council are looking at developing the way we celebrate success in the school to ensure effort and positive behaviour is consistently rewarded. On the other hand, we are adopting a zero tolerance approach to bullying and negative behaviour. Pupils who are persistently unable to demonstrate respect for others will experience 'restorative days' away from their peers in order to focus on personal development- and we are committed to getting it right for these individuals. Part of this process will require parental involvement as well as presentations to those affected as appropriate and weekly behaviour targets will be set for pupils.

A number of parents felt that their views are not always taken into account when we make changes at the school.

1. **The Selkirk High School Parent Partnership** is working hard to ensure we represent our parents. The surveys conducted this year and the areas for development identified in this document are an initial response to this need. However, we are keen to ensure all voices are heard and are looking at ways to involve/engage a wider cohort of parents.
2. The Selkirk High School Parent Partnership is keen not only to take into account parent perspectives, but also to **engage with parents in the improvement process**: ensuring that progress is made in the areas identified in this document is a significant part of this and we are looking at ways to include parents as we strive to deliver on these commitments. An example of this is the parent/pupil focus group which has been created to look at how we communicate with parents about learning. A second group, looking at the 'cost of access' is also currently being set up and interested parents are invited to get in touch.
3. We are looking to increase **opportunities for parents to get involved** across a full range of school activity should they wish. We are grateful to parents who already contribute enormously to the sporting and academic opportunities available to our young people as well as the events we engage in such as Remembrance Assembly, Values In Action Day and SHSPP fundraising events such as the pop-up shop, Fun Run etc.
4. The school is embarking on an ambitious **3 Year Plan** for Improvement which includes developing a united approach to the curriculum from 3-18 across the Selkirk cluster of schools. We are establishing an exciting approach to P7-S1 Transition and parent feedback is explicitly reflected in the renewed emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy as well as Teamwork and working with others.