

## General Questionnaire to Parents/Caregivers



### Executive Summary

#### Commentary:

As part of our schools self review process we surveyed our school community in Term 3 of 2015.

We consider the review process to be a valuable part of our continuing growth and certainly in line with our Vision Statement.

*"Quality learning for all in a caring community"*

The focus of our review is "the child." **We value the opinion of our parents.** It is important for us to know the areas where we are performing well and also the areas that we need to sharpen up in. ***With an eye to the future we were also interested in knowing of any innovations that our parent body would like us to develop.***

This questionnaire was given out to every family on our school roll.

2 out of 10 hard copies were returned

29 out of 69 electronic copies were returned

In total 39% of our school families completed this survey

At the completion of collating this 2 hard copies were returned.

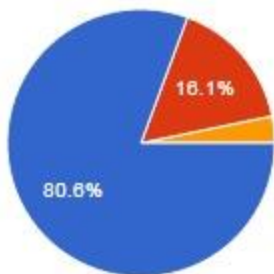
Kim Waite, Principal

#### 1. What Year level is your child/children in this year?

|                    |    |       |
|--------------------|----|-------|
| New Entrant/Year 1 | 5  | 16.1% |
| Year 2             | 11 | 35.5% |
| Year 3             | 8  | 25.8% |
| Year 4             | 3  | 9.7%  |
| Year 5             | 11 | 35.5% |
| Year 6             | 4  | 12.9% |
| Year 7             | 5  | 16.1% |
| Year 8             | 5  | 16.1% |

#### 2. Toko Schools Vision - "Quality Learning For All in a Caring Community" describes the general culture of our school.

96.7% of respondents Strongly Agree or Agree with the above statement.



Blue: Strongly agree

Red: Agree

#### 2a. Do you have any additional comments to make:

A forward-thinking rural school supported by a caring community in which the parents are generally willing to lend a hand for the school when they can. Toko school culture is good even extending to making new students feel welcome. Awesome, varied and practical ways/ activities to learn

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- To continue to demonstrate our school vision statement in how we act and behave at Toko School.

**3. If you were asked to describe the strengths of Toko School to a work colleague or friend what would you say?**

Learning outcomes, IT, sport. Excellent school. A very good school send your child there. Good community education. Excels in every aspect of developing my child. Continues to grow. Forward thinking school, with excellent staff and learning experiences for the children. Positive friendly welcoming environment. Caring, supportive in an authentic environment. Excellent and varied opportunities for each child's educational and life's experiences. Sociable/caring/children's best interests. The school has embraced technology and appears to be utilising it well as a teaching tool setting up our children well for the future. The way the school has become involved in the enviroschool initiative is commendable and is providing some valuable real-world learning experiences for our children. The school is fabulous for providing opportunities for students to extend themselves and develop their leadership potential i.e. Speech Board; the senior school facilitating the assemblies and each class having the opportunity to showcase their learning for the rest of the school at assemblies. Enviro school, sporty, great community, fantastic parents! great teachers. Great country school, great community. The children all help each other, backed by the staff. Embrace new initiatives like the enviro schools. Very well resourced. A pleasant place to visit always get a friendly welcome from students and teachers. Achieve great results  
Very Friendly Place, helpful people. Friendly country school, Great teachers, enviro school. Technology smart. Community, kids of all ages interact with each other. Great attitudes, team atmosphere, great support for kids. Hard working teachers providing many opportunities for the children. Family like atmosphere where all chn can mix and learn together. Friendly welcoming. Children drive their learning. Great child input with all the enviro learning. Good community spirit. A great country school, with great families and great teachers.  
Great feel to the place. Environment friendly, Speech Board, Great friendly country school. Toko School has a positive and supportive learning environment

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- To continue to demonstrate our school vision statement in how we act and behave at Toko School.

**4. If you were asked to describe what could be improved at Toko School to a work colleague or friend what would you say?**

Uniforms. Maybe it's time to look at a school uniform. The children always look smart when they travel away wearing their took tops etc  
Happy with it as is. Better resources ie swimming pool is always great but not essential. Closed community. Children that are not doing so well, seem to get more help than those that are above standard, why is it so bad that children that can do harder work not doing it? Better monitoring of exits after school. Can't think of anything. Catering for individual children's needs and zoning the school.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- To survey the community for views about implementing a school uniform.

**5. Do you feel welcome on entering our school?**



96.8% of respondents feel welcome on entering our school.

**5a. Do you have any additional comments to make?**

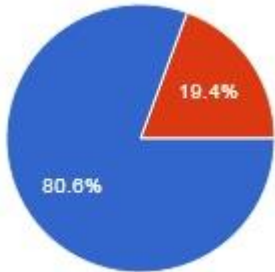
Toko School sign at the end of the school field needs a 'makeover', Principal is always welcoming. Some concern about the amount of sports exchanges the older children seem to be involved in. Toko school has a sports uniform, school polar fleeces and now school hats - could the possibility of having a school uniform be investigated i.e. simple toko polo shirt with black shorts, pants, or skirt. In all the changes of schools X has had we have finally found the perfect school. She has increased her confidence hugely in the few months we have been at Toko and we couldn't be happier with the planning, communication and environment at Toko. THANKYOU the staff have all been very welcoming

I am very happy with the school and communication between home and school is awesome. I always feel as if teachers and staff make the time for you when you come to school. X is not approachable. Such an amazing school.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- To continue to maintain a collegial, hard working, attractive and organised environment.
- To put a sign by the hall directing visitors to the office.
- To replace the school sign at the corner of the field.

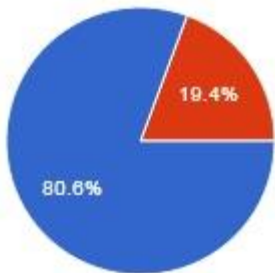
**6. How well do we communicate student achievement to parents? Do you feel that the information presented to you on your child's progress and achievement through three way conferences twice per year, Learning Journey Reports and Portfolios have been in plain language.**



100% of respondents feel we communicate student achievement to parents very well or well.

100% of respondents feel they have an opportunity to play a supporting role in their children's education.

**7. How well do we communicate information to parents? We use the newsletter, class notices, our school website and class pages. We also hold various parent meetings throughout the year e.g cybersafety, literacy, numeracy etc.**



100% of respondents feel we communicate information to parents very well or well.

100% of respondents feel they have an opportunity to play a supporting role in their children's education.

**8. How could we improve the way we report to parents and give out information so parents feel more informed?**

I often miss information given to youngest child as he doesn't give it to me.... perhaps email could be more appropriate. Sometimes there is jargon in the reports which needs to be put more simply. Happy with everything at present.

96.8% of respondents agree with the one off Activity Fee set each year.

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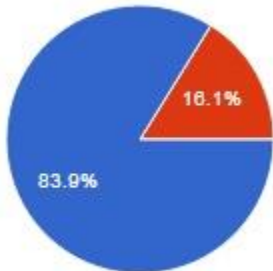
96.8% of respondents agree with the one off

Maybe it could be e-mailed to class parents if there is something happening in the particular class that involves some parental input or help that would make it more certain that the parents involved are informed. Send home more info with children. Doing very well as is Reading the homework books daily for comments made by parents, as this is a way I communicate when I don't get to school ( so maybe a signature next to my comment, so I know it's been seen?). Just some general comments about distributing information - I am still adjusting to the new website (think I preferred the old one). Be mindful that not everyone is on Facebook so I trust that all information is posted onto the website before Facebook (the website should be first point of call for up-to-date/relevant information). I like how all interested parties (grandparents/the wider community can be request a copy of the newsletter and the courier is delivered to the rural community termly)

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- To ensure all information is communicated including the organisation and expectations via the newsletter in advance and more than once.
- Seek ways to encourage a greater attendance at parent information workshops and Community Meetings held throughout the year.
- Seek ways to encourage a greater use of electronic communications e.g school website, FaceBook and electronic newsletters.
- Ensure that all communication is sent home only on a Thursday so parents know to check book bags. There are occasions particularly at Year 7 & 8 where this is not always possible.

**9. Toko School provides opportunities for me to play a supporting role in my child/ren's education.(e.g. parent help, sports events and home learning etc).**

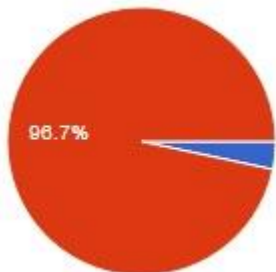


100% of respondents feel they have an opportunity to play a supporting role in their children's education.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 100% of respondents feel they have an opportunity to play a supporting role in their children's education.
- To continue invite parents regularly to share children's achievement and progress, concerns and successes.
  - To continue to keep parents informed about the school and how they can assist at home.

**10. Does your child have special needs you think are not being met?**



96.8% of respondents agree with the one off Activity Fee set each year.

|     |    |       |
|-----|----|-------|
| Yes | 1  | 3.3%  |
| No  | 25 | 96.7% |

96.8% of respondents agree with the one off Activity Fee set each year.

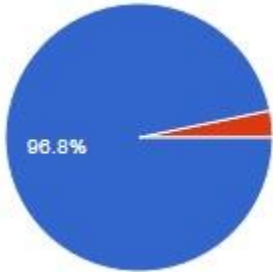
**10a. If you answered YES please explain.**

Mmm

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- To continue to track and monitor children through our schools Special Needs Register.
- To continue to maintain strong links with outside agencies.

**11. Activity Fee - At present our families pay \$70.00 per child for the year. This contributes towards the costs of all the extra's children receive throughout the year including bus travel, swimming lessons, cultural visits etc. Do you agree with this one off payment each year as opposed to the school asking for money each time an event/activity occurs?**



96.8% of respondents agree with the one off Activity Fee set each year.

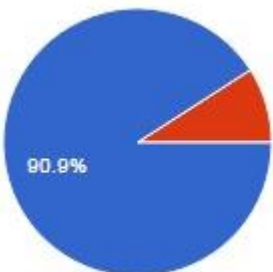
**11a. If you answered NO to question 11 what would you change?**

96.8% of respondents agree with the one off Activity Fee set each year. 96.8% of respondents agree with the one off Activity Fee set each year. Pay per event. It's much easier for us to pay a lump sum than try and look for coins. I don't have a problem with the fee, but feel they do ALOT outside of school. and my kids go to swimming all year round so I don't see the need to hire a swimming instructor. I feel like I am subsidising lessons for those that can't afford, or can't be bothered. so happy with this. I am happy for pay an activity fee so long as my child is receiving the same opportunity to participate in the activity that is being reflected in the activity fee i.e. if I am paying a component for swimming lessons then my children should have equal access to the instructor not subsidising lessons for others

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- To continue with the activity fee in its current form.

**12. Transition to school - If you child has started school for the first time in the last 12 months how would you rate our transition to school procedures?**



100% of respondents feel the transition to school procedures are Excellent or good.

**12a. Do you have any additional comments to make about our transition to school procedures?**

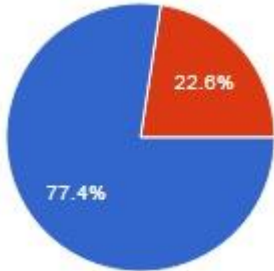
96.8% of respondents agree with the one off Activity Fee set each year. 96.8% of respondents agree with the one off Activity Fee set each year. Letting new parents know about little thing like swimming every day. We have only started at Toko at the beginning of Term 3, so have not yet received reports etc. We do enjoy the class blog and having e-mails sent to us when it has been updated. Also a fab way for family overseas to keep in touch with children's activities etc. Valued the Mutukaroa meetings and goal setting. The Mutukaroa meetings have been excellent - you get a clear picture of where your child is at and some goals that you can work on with your child - encourages education to become a partnership between home and school.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Ensure that our New Entrant Parents are given our New Entrant Information booklet on enrolment and via our website and that they feel informed about our new entrant procedures and transition.

- Include regular information in the newsletter about swimming .
- Include information about swimming in our Introductory Book
- To continue with the Mutukaroa programme for children 5 – 7 years old and update school documentation to reflect this.

**13. Teachers are approachable and take the time to listen to any concerns or questions I have about my child.**



100% of respondents Strongly Agree or Agree that teachers are approachable and take the time to listen to any concerns or questions.

**13a. Do you have any additional comments to make?**  
 When I have approached my child's teacher about anything, I always get a good positive result. Teachers are fantastic and actually know the children as the individuals they are. Wonderful teachers. Best teacher parent communication we have ever had!!

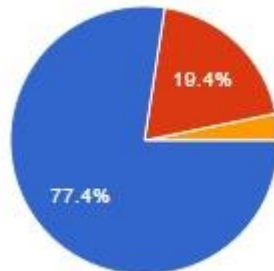
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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- To continue to demonstrate our school vision statement in how we act and behave at Toko School.

**14. Teachers are committed to providing the best possible educational outcomes for my child/ren.**



96.8% of respondents Strongly Agree or Agree that Teachers committed to providing the best possible educational outcomes for the children of Toko School.

96.8% of respondents agree with the one off Activity Fee set each year.

**14a. Do you have any additional comments to make?**  
 I love that my child is given curriculum to challenge all his skills, more individualized to his needs. Generally yes they do but sometimes I don't think sporting activities are taken seriously enough. Sometimes being fair is not fair and kids who don't excel at academic subjects but excel at sports activities are not given their chance to shine.

96.8% of respondents agree with the one off Activity Fee set each year.

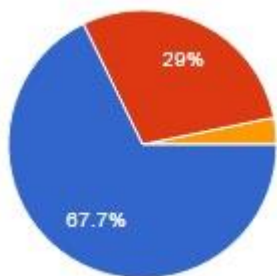
96.8% of respondents agree with the one off Activity Fee set each year.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- To continue to meet the learning needs of all students at Toko School.

96.8% of respondents agree with the one off Activity Fee set each year.

**15. Leaders are committed to providing the best possible educational outcomes for my child/ren.**



96.8% of respondents Strongly Agree or Agree that Leaders are providing the best possible educational outcomes for the children of Toko School.

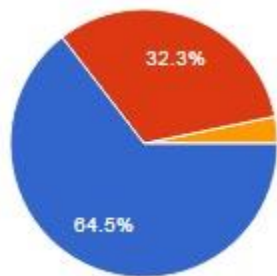
**15a. Do you have any additional comments to make?** 96.8% of respondents agree with the one off Activity Fee set each year.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- To continue to support the staff to meet the needs of all learners at Toko School.

96.8% of respondents agree with the one off Activity Fee set each year.

**16. The Board of Trustees are committed to providing the best possible educational outcomes for my child/ren.**



96.8% of respondents Strongly Agree or Agree that the Board of Trustees are providing the best possible educational outcomes for the children of Toko School.

96.8% of respondents agree with the one off Activity Fee set each year.

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**16a. Do you have any additional comments to make?**

Board members don't really consult well

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- To continue to communicate via the newsletter school reviews that occur termly encouraging community input.
- Seek ways to encourage a greater attendance at parent information workshops and Community Meetings held throughout the year.

**Please add comments below if there is any further feedback you would like to give to the Board of Trustees?**

On the whole I think the school goes out of its way to build a culture of "family" both within the school and with the wider school community. I have some concern about the amount of sports/cultural exchanges the older children seem to be involved in. Toko school has a sports uniform, school polar fleeces and now school hats - could the possibility of having a school uniform be investigated i.e. simple toko polo shirt with black shorts, pants, or skirt. Grandparents day has been a wonderful initiative - the children love to show off their school. Top athletes at cluster athletics are recognised in each year level are recognised but this is not done for cluster swimming - where is the consistency? If you are having championship races at school swimming then the winning swimmers should be swimming in these races not sharing it around among swimmers (pc?) - (My apologies if this isn't the correct forum to express this but we do not have an opportunity to feedback with regard to cluster school sports events). Uniforms?? Just remember that making the parents feel welcomed is as important as making the kids feel welcomed.