



Council of International Schools Survey 2018

The Friends' School participated again in 2018 in the Council of International Schools survey and invited students, parents, staff, alumni and the Board to respond. The survey results provided an opportunity to compare with the School's inaugural participation in 2014, its second participation in 2016 and to also compare results against an aggregate of international schools around the world.

Within the Friends' community, 2318 people responded to the survey in 2018, an increase of 225 people to the number of responses received in 2016. Participation is shown below:

| Year | 2018 | 2016 | 2014 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|
| Number of Respondents | 2318 | 2093 | 2049 |
| Students | 783 | 855 | 807 |
| Faculty / Staff | 219 | 124 | 132 |
| Parents | 707 | 472 | 580 |
| Alumni/ae | 598 | 629 | 517 |
| Board | 11 | 13 | 13 |

The survey is completed biennially to benchmark The Friends' School community responses from one data collection to another. A particular focus is how we fared within our own community from one survey to the other.

Data were collected against seven sections:

1. School Guiding Statements
2. Teaching and Learning
3. Governance and Leadership
4. Faculty and Support Staff
5. Access to Teaching and Learning
6. School Culture and Partnerships for Learning
7. Operational Systems.



How Friends' Fared

Overall, data from the survey indicate The Friends' School has improved in many areas measured by the survey since it was last completed in 2016.

Some areas for improvement identified in previous surveys continue to be part of the School's Improvement Plan. The School looks forward to implementing its planned Campus Redevelopment Phase One in 2020.

Section 1: School Guiding Statements

- It was pleasing that 77.3% of Friends' students agreed with *I am familiar with my school's Purpose and Concerns Statement*, compared to 73.4% in 2014 and 75.7% average over the three surveys. The trend and aim for this awareness and understanding to grow and be enhanced continues as a school focus.
- It is gratifying to see that 88.3% of alumni agree with *I was aware of the major focus of the school's mission when I was a student there*, compared to 85.8% of alumni within the aggregate CIS school population.
- The data also indicated a growth in parents belief that, *Students at all levels are experiencing internationalism and interculturalism through the formal curriculum and activities offered at the school*, with 95.2% of parent respondents agreeing with this statement, compared to 94.5% in 2014 and 93.1% within the aggregate CIS school students.

Section 2: Teaching and Learning

As in 2014 and 2016, the results in this section revealed the School is doing a lot of things well.

- Parents agreed that *I believe my child is developing critical thinking and problem solving skills*, with 95.2% supporting this statement in 2018, compared to 93.2% in 2016 and 91.6% within the aggregate CIS school parent population.
- Students mostly (86.2%) agreed that *My classes challenge me*, compared to 82.1% of the aggregate; and 95.2% agreed that *The school provides me with adequate teaching resources*. (compared to 87.3% within the aggregate).
- Students indicated (84.1%) that *My school report card shows me where and how I*



need to improve, which has declined from 86.5% in 2016. This is already being addressed and rectified through a range of reporting changes. It is still above the schools aggregate of 83.7%.

- Parents strongly supported (96.6%) the statement *My child's classroom has sufficient learning materials*, compared to 83.3% in 2016 and 92.6% with the aggregate.
- It was pleasing that the student response to *I feel my work is assessed fairly* has increased from 86.1% in 2014 to 91.9% in 2018. The comparative aggregate score is 81.9%.

Section 3: Governance and Leadership

The Friends' School scored well in this section when compared to the aggregate.

- Regarding *The governing body provides the School with sound direction, continuity and effective support*, the School continued to compare well against the aggregate with 87.2% of staff agreeing, compared to the aggregate result of 79% and 81.7% with Friends' staff in 2016.
- The School's parent community also expressed support for the School's leadership in 2018, with 89.9% agreeing *I am satisfied with the school leadership*, compared to 87% of the aggregate.
- An increase to 76.9% of staff feel *The School's financial resources are appropriately allocated*, this is commensurate to the aggregate result of 74.7% and an increase from 68.3% within the School in 2014.
- It was pleasing to note that the parent response to *I receive updates about the discussions and decisions of the School's governing body that directly impact me and my child* has improved to 81.1% from 77.5% agreement in 2016. The aggregate result has remained steady at 77.3%.

Section 4: Faculty and Support Staff

As in 2014 and 2016, the School continued to score very well in this section.

- 93.4% of parents agreed with *I am satisfied with the qualifications of the teachers in the school.*, compared to 73.5% in 2016 and 90.7% with the aggregate.
- 93.6% of parents agreed with *I believe that this school is a good match for my child's needs and strengths*, compared to 90.4% in 2016 and 90.7% with the aggregate.



- 95.4% of students agreed that *I believe that my teachers are knowledgeable about their subjects* (compared to 90.9% for the aggregate).
- Staff (79%) indicated, *I regularly receive helpful feedback and supervision of my teaching through the appraisal process*, compared to 73.9% in 2014 and 72.5% in the schools aggregate.

Section 5: Access to Teaching and Learning

Once again, the School scored well against the aggregate in this section, but there is room for improvement.

- 83.1% of staff agreed that *I know where to refer exceptional students to accommodate their talents and interest*, compared to 68% for the aggregate.
- Parents strongly (94%) indicated that *Teachers are available to help my child*, compared to 92.1% in 2014 and 93.2% for the aggregate.
- Also positive is that 98.9% of staff agree that *Guidance counselling is available to students for a variety of student needs*, compared to the aggregate score of 89.7% and the staff's response of 95.3% in 2014 .
- With 95.7% of parents agreeing that *I am comfortable with the school's attention to health matters*, the School is just scoring above the aggregate at 93.2%, but below the 2016 and 2014 average of 96.1%.

Section 6: School Culture and Partnerships for Learning

Friends' scored better than the aggregate in most of these measures, marking this area as a key strength of the School.

- While 95% of the aggregate staff agreed *I am encouraged by the school to view each student as a whole person*, the response from Friends' staff was 98.4% (an increase from 96.4% in 2016).
- Friends' scored particularly well in the measure that *School programs provide opportunities for students to learn leadership skills and to participate in community service*, with 96.6% of parents agreeing, compared to 89.8% of the aggregate and 93.2% of school parents in 2016.
- Also very positive for Friends' was that 92% of students agreed *The school helps me to understand and respect differences and to appreciate diversity*, compared to 89% of aggregate students.



Section 7: Operational Systems

In 2014, we reported that improving the School's facilities was a pressing area, and while the Master Planning process has been completed since this survey, its implementation is yet to commence. The School has undertaken significant planning and development, with updates and announcements to the community about the pending facility works.

- The staff response to *I am satisfied with the physical condition of the school and its appropriateness for teaching and learning* has increased from 50% agreement in 2016 to 55% in 2018, compared to 85% of aggregate staff.
- Similarly, only 56.5% of staff agreed that *I have adequate equipment and storage space for my teaching needs* down from 60,8% in 2014, and compared to 78% of the aggregate.
- However, 95.6% of parents agree *The school is financially secure and operates in a financially responsible manner*, compared to 82.5% in 2016 and 91.3% for the aggregate.

School Improvement Plan

As part of Australian Government guidelines, The Friends' has developed and implemented a School Improvement Plan, commencing in 2017. While The Friends' School is committed to ongoing improvement, this activity will continue to be consolidated into one document for this specific purpose. The data provided by the School's participation in the Council of International Schools Survey is one key source of evidence to inform the School Improvement Plan.