



Council of International Schools Survey 2020

The Friends' School participated again in 2020 in the Council of International Schools survey and invited students, parents/guardians, staff and the Board to respond. The survey results provided an opportunity to compare with the School's inaugural participation in 2014.

Participation is shown in the table below. In 2020 we decided to not include alumni and the data was not being suitably utilised and the questions did not suit our community or strategic priorities. We will look to enhance response rates in 2022.

	2014	2016	2018	2020
Number of Respondents	934	2318	2093	2049
Students	402	783	855	807
Faculty / Staff	134	219	124	132
Parents	391	707	472	580
Alumni/ae	-	598	629	517
Board	7	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 2018. Some areas for improvement identified in previous surveys continue to be part of the Board of Governors Strategic Areas of Priority. The School looks forward to implementing its planned Campus Redevelopment Phase One in 2021/22.

Section 1: School Guiding Statements

- It was pleasing that 79.4% of Friends' students agreed with, *I am familiar with my school's Purpose and Concerns Statement*, compared to 73.4% in 2014. The trend and aim for this awareness and understanding to grow and be enhanced continues as a school focus.
- The data also indicated a growth in staff belief that, *Students at all levels are experiencing internationalism and interculturalism through the formal curriculum and activities offered at the school*, with 91.8% of parent respondents agreeing with this statement, compared to 85.8% in 2014.
- 95.9 % of parents agreed with the statement, *I was provided with adequate and accurate information regarding the school prior to sending my child there*. This continued to be a positive endorsement from 95.3% in 2014.

Section 2: Teaching and Learning

- Students strongly agreed that *Teachers use information technology to assist students in learning or understanding new topics* with 95.3% in agreement, compared to 90.8% in 2014 and 90% in 2016.
- Parents agreed that *I believe my child is developing critical thinking and problem solving skills*, with 95.1% supporting this statement in 2020, compared to 93.2% in 2016. 99.1% of staff agreed that, *I encourage the development of critical thinking and problem solving skills in my students*, which grew slightly from 98.3% agreement in 2018.
- Students strongly (86.8%) agreed that *My classes challenge me*, compared to 85.5% in 2014.
- Students indicated (85.3%) that *What I learned in my classes last year is helping me this year*, compared to 79.5% in 2018.
- Parents strongly supported (94.6%) the statement *My child's classroom has*



sufficient learning materials, compared to 83.3% in 2016.

- It was pleasing that the student response to *I feel my work is assessed fairly* has increased from 86.1% in 2014 to 89.6% in 2020.

Section 3: Governance and Leadership

- Regarding the statement, *The governing body provides the School with sound direction, continuity and effective support*, the School continued with positive feedback from staff, with 88.1% of staff agreeing, compared to 81.7% in 2016.
- An increase to 81.4% of staff feel *The School's financial resources are appropriately allocated*, from 68.3% within the School in 2014.
- It was pleasing to note that the parent's 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 86.7% from 77.5% agreement in 2016.

Section 4: Faculty and Support Staff

- 90.3% of parents agreed with *I am satisfied with the qualifications of the teachers in the school.*, compared to 73.5% in 2016.
- 90.5% 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 93.4% in 2018.
- 93.4% of students agreed that *I believe that my teachers are knowledgeable about their subjects*, compared to 95.4% in 2018.
- Staff (95.9%) indicated, *Appraisals of my performance are conducted fairly and in writing*, compared to 93.8% in 2014.

Section 5: Access to Teaching and Learning

- 85.1% of staff agreed that *I know where to refer exceptional students to accommodate their talents and interest*, compared to 83.1% in 2018.
- Students (90.8%) indicated that *The school provides me with support if I need help with my English or with another language of instruction*, compared to 85.1% in 2014.
- Also positive is that 97.5% of staff agree that *Guidance counselling is available to students for a variety of student needs*, compared to 95.3% in 2014 .
- 92.6% of parents agreed that *I am comfortable with the school's attention to health*



matters, which was positive, but slightly below the 2018 level of 95.7%.

Section 6: School Culture and Partnerships for Learning

- Staff agreed (at 99.2%), *I am encouraged by the school to view each student as a whole person*, compared to 96.4% in 2016.
- Students believed (93%) with the statement, *The school provides opportunities for me to participate in community service activities*, compared to 91.6% in 2018.
- Also very positive for Friends' was that 92.3% of students agreed, *The school helps me to understand and respect differences and to appreciate diversity*, compared to 91.5% in 2016.
- An area for growth is that 89.6% of students agreed, *The school provides opportunities for students to learn leadership skills*, compared to 91.5% in 2018.

Section 7: Operational Systems

In the past we reported that improving the School's facilities was a pressing area, and while the Campus Redevelopment Stage One has been started since this survey, its full impact has not been experienced by students and staff.

- 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 61.1% in 2020.
- Similarly, 71.3% of staff agreed that *I have adequate equipment and storage space for my teaching needs*, which increased from 60.8% in 2014, and 56.5% in 2018.
- Pleasingly, 96.9% of parents agree *The school is financially secure and operates in a financially responsible manner*, compared to 82.5% in 2016.

Board of Governors Strategic Priorities

The Friends' School is committed to ongoing improvement and development of the learning experience for students, staff and families. 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's Strategic Plans and key improvement initiatives.