



Council of International Schools Survey 2024

The Friends' School participated again in 2024 in the Council of International Schools format 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. In 2024, the School conducted a number of other surveys in relation to the implementation of the new Middle and Senior School campuses. This may have impacted the response rate for 2024 data collection. Given the School has used this format for 10 years, it is expected in 2025 that we will use a new format, which helps obtain more qualitative feedback and data.

Participation is shown in the table below. Since 2020, the School has not included alumni in the survey, as the data was not being suitably utilised and the questions did not suit our community or strategic priorities.

	Year					
Respondents	2004	2022	2020	2018	2016	2014
Students	243	413	402	783	855	807
Faculty / Staff	62	127	134	219	124	132
Parents	246	434	391	707	472	580
Board	5	9	7	11	13	13
Alumni/ae		-	-	598	629	517
Total (without alumni/ae)	556	983	934	1720	1464	1532

The survey is completed biennially to benchmark The Friends' School community responses from one data collection to another.

In 2024, the School also included a number of additional questions with respect to child safety and safeguarding information. The response information has been shared with relevant staff and is another important source of information as we continue to ensure our School is a safe and welcoming environment for all.

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

Data from the survey indicate The Friends' School has improved in a number of areas measured by the survey since it was last completed in 2022. Some areas for improvement identified in previous surveys continue to be part of the Board of Governors' Strategic Areas of Priority. This includes work on enhancing the understanding of how to access information regarding child safeguarding.

Section 1: School Guiding Statements

- The data indicated that 77.84% of students agreed with, *I am familiar with my school's Purpose and Concerns Statement*, compared to 72.8% in 2020. The School will continue to focus on growing the affirming response level to closer to 80%+ over the next period.
- The data also indicated a strong response from parents' understanding that, *I was provided with adequate and accurate information regarding the school prior to sending my child there*, with 94.87% of parent respondents agreeing with this statement, compared to 95.3% in 2014.
- 74.29% of students indicated that they agreed with, *'I know where to find a description of my courses of studies if I wish to refer to it.'* This is compared to 82% (2022), 78.4% (2020) and 71.3% (2014) agreement in past years. Some work is required with respect to course information and references.
- 100% of staff agreed with, *"The school's Purpose and Concerns Statement is appropriate to this school."*

Section 2: Teaching and Learning



- Staff continue to place a strong emphasis on, *'I encourage the development of critical thinking and problem solving skills in my students'*, with 96.88% in agreement with this statement. This compares well with previous surveys.
- Students strongly (85.71%) agreed that *My classes challenge me*, compared to 85.5% in 2014 and 86.7% in 2022.
- Students believed strongly (94.86%) that they *"believe that my teachers are knowledgeable about their subjects"*. This was up slightly from 2020 (93.3%).
- 89.8% of students agreed that *'General advice, guidance, and counselling are available to me at school,'* compared with 88.6% in 2020 and 89.26% in 2022.
- Parents believed that, *'The school's curriculum and programs reflect what the Purpose and Concerns Statement says the school is trying to do,'* with 86.34% in agreement, compared to 91% in 2020.
- Parents strongly supported (93.68%) the statement *My child's classroom has sufficient learning materials*, compared to 83.3% in 2016.

Section 3: Governance and Leadership

- Regarding the statement, *"The classroom student/teacher ratio is adequate to provide meaningful learning experiences for students"*, the School continued with affirmative feedback from staff, with 90.62% of staff agreeing, compared to 88.2% in 2016.
- An increase to 96.88% of staff believe, *"that the school's governing body and management act legally and ethically."*, which is comparable to recent years.
- The parent's response to, *'I am satisfied with the school leadership'*, was down slightly from 84.1% agreement in 2020 to 81.82% in 2024.

Section 4: Faculty and Support Staff

- 91.35% of parents agreed with *I am satisfied with the qualifications of the teachers in the school.*, compared to 90.3% in 2020 and 73.5% in 2016.
- 90.1% of parents agreed with, *'I believe that this school is a good match for my child's needs and strengths*, which remains steady from responses in recent years.



- 85.71% of students agreed that *I believe that my teachers are knowledgeable about their subjects*, compared to 93.3% in 2022.
- Staff (94.12%) indicated, *“Appraisals of my performance are conducted fairly and in writing”*, which was similar to 2022 (93.41%) and 2020 (95.9%)

Section 5: Access to Teaching and Learning

- 100% of staff agreed that *“Guidance counsellors respect student confidentiality”*.
- Students (85.71%) 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.
- 86.67% of staff agree that, *“There are opportunities for high ability students to extend and enrich their learning in my class or elsewhere in the school”*, compared to 85.9% in 2022 and 88.8% in 2020.
- 92.02% of parents agreed that *“Teachers are available to help my child”*, which was positive compared to the 2020 level of 88.7%.

Section 6: School Culture and Partnerships for Learning

- 100% of staff agreed, *“I am encouraged by the school to view each student as a whole person”*, compared to 96.4% in 2016.
- Students believed (85.71%) 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 88.95% of students agreed, *The school helps me to understand and respect differences and to appreciate diversity*, which was comparable to other surveys.
- An area of growth is that in the latest survey 90.70% of students agreed, *The school provides opportunities for students to learn leadership skills*, compared to 86.1% to 2022.

Section 7: Operational Systems

- The staff response to, *“The school’s information and communication technology systems support my efforts in my work,”* was 97.14% in agreement, compared to 86.67% in 2022.



- 70.59% of staff agreed that, *“I have adequate equipment and storage space for my teaching needs”*, which increased from 68.6% in 2022, 60.8% in 2014, and 56.5% in 2018.
- Pleasingly, 94.18% of parents agree *The school is financially secure and operates in a financially responsible manner*, compared to 82.5% in 2016.
- 89.09% of student agreed with, *“ I know what to do if there is an emergency at my school.”* This result was similar to recent years results and slightly higher than the 2018 (86.7%) feedback.

ChildSafe Questions

In 2022, the School also included a number of additional questions with respect to child safety and safeguarding information. This information was again surveyed in 2024 and has provided a benchmark and a range of follow-up actions and activities. Some results include:

- 57.14% of students agreed, *‘I know how to access the School’s Child Safeguarding information’*. This is up from 36.49% in 2022. Clearly, we must continue to educate and provide resources and support for students in this area.
- 71.43% of students agreed with the statement, *‘Child safety is the number one priority of the School; I believe this statement to be true.’*
- 85.71% of students believe, *‘I have at least one trusted adult who I can turn to when I need support.’*
- 97.91% of parents supported the statement, *‘I trust the school’s emergency procedures, such as for evacuation, and I trust that my child is safe on campus.’* This result is similar to recent responses and an increase from 2016 (90%)
- 73.40% of parents agreed with,, *‘I know how to access the School’s Child Safeguarding information and inform the School of a Child Safeguarding Concern,’* which is up from 2022 (70.2%)
- 100% of staff agreed with the statement, *‘I have read and understand the School’s Child Safeguarding and Mandatory reporting policies.’*

Strategic Priorities



The Friends' School is committed to ongoing improvement and development of the learning experience and continued health and safety 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.