

Community Gathering Meeting - Thursday 20th November 2025

Questions Discussed	Responses	Actions/Suggestions
What helps you feel part of the school community?	<p>Attending Come & Read sessions in my child's year group and the weekly Celebration Assemblies are wonderful community events that make me feel part of our school community.</p> <p>Becoming a member of the Friends PTA group and a Class Rep really helped me get to know parents and made me feel part of our school community.</p> <p>I was not really aware what the Friends was about so felt reluctant when joining to offer help as was unsure what it entailed being a Class Rep. etc.</p>	<p>Mrs Walsh advised that a Friends AGM has been arranged (Spring 2HT) in order to attract more parents and give further information on the Friends. In addition, further information will be added within Starter Packs giving more detailed information for parents that would like to find out more. Mrs Walsh also advised that the Friends Summer Fair has now been moved to the beginning of September (instead of July) in order to welcome new families joining St Cross to our school community</p>
Are there any barriers that make it difficult for you to get involved in school life?	<p>Joining a new school can be very daunting as a first time parent. I would like to get involved, but find it quite daunting when established friendships between parents have already been made.</p> <p>It was felt communication could be improved within classes if regular Parent Meetings were held within school for parents to share and discuss ideas/helpful resources. Parents that have children in older years could also communicate with families in lower year groups and discuss relevant topics that they have already covered with their children.</p>	<p>It was suggested becoming part of the Friends or a Class Rep. to become familiar with parents within your child's year group and other Friends members.</p> <p>Mrs Walsh advised that at the beginning of each school year, Curriculum Meetings are held to explain topics/curriculum/homework expectations/weekly sign-posts etc. She was open to the possibility of having future class meetings for parents to share ideas/resources and would</p>
How well do you think the school celebrates the diversity of families and cultures?	<p>It was felt by one parent that their child did not feel proud of their own religion and was not confident enough sharing their faith within class .</p> <p>My child feels very proud and says 'that's our church' when walking past St Augustine's Church.</p>	<p>Mrs Walsh confirmed that all religions are openly discussed and in the past parents had held very informative assemblies and class talks regarding their religions/faiths. It was confirmed that in addition Black History Week, Judaism and other faiths being taught/celebrated as part of the curriculum, they are also shared within the weekly Celebration Assembly with the children. It was agreed that significant holidays/celebrations such as Chinese New Year, Diwali, Passover Festival (Pesach), Ramadam etc. will also be added to the School Calendar to make all families aware when other significant dates.</p>
How can we make new families feel more included when they join the school?	<p>The weekly assemblies are such a lovely addition and really make you feel included within the school community. It is great to celebrate and recognise all achievements of our children together, including non-academic areas such as sporting activities, music, dance etc.</p> <p>It was generally felt that new parents felt welcomed and included when joining St Cross and the introduction and Starter Packs/Website information was very informative. The weekly newsletters clearly detail the Calendar of Events and the link to our school website calendar too, which is so beneficial in keeping up to date with all events.</p>	<p>Again, Mrs Walsh was pleased to hear how well the weekly Assemblies are received by parents and how excited the children are to share news/achievements within the St Cross community.</p>
How well do you feel informed about what is happening in school?	<p>It was noted by one parent that not all schools issue 'weekly' Newsletters like St Cross or invite parents to assemblies, which is so lovely to be part of. They felt not all St Cross parents are actually aware of how well informed we are kept in comparison to other local schools.</p> <p>The curriculum meetings were very beneficial but sometimes children come home stating things that are happening in class, (such as Egyptian Day) before letters are issued to inform parents.</p>	<p>Mrs Walsh welcomed this feedback.</p> <p>Mrs Walsh confirmed that dates are often listed in advance to make parents aware but a letter/email with further details are issued nearer the time. In addition, at Curriculum Meetings at the start of the academic year, topics and events and trips occurring in year groups are discussed.</p>
What is the most effective way for the school to communicate with you (eg. Newsletter, App., Meetings, Social Media)?	<p>It was generally felt that the website, sign-posting, weekly Newsletters and Calendar of Events etc. keep everyone informed, in addition to the class Whatsapp groups. One parent had even linked the Calendar to their Alexa so events/updates are not missed!</p>	<p>Mrs Walsh welcomed this feedback and it was explained that although the Whatsapp Groups display the school logo, messages on these groups are not issued by school. Sometimes the information given can be conflicting and confuse some parents, so the school website/emails/newsletters should be the main source of communication.</p>
Do you feel you have opportunities to contribute to school life (eg. volunteering, sharing skills, attending events).	<p>It was felt that there are numerous events in school allowing parental help, such as Come & Read, Decorate the Classroom Day, Book Look etc. but maybe Parent Readers within class could be reintroduced.</p> <p>Parents are not fully included in conversations of school needs/works being carried out, and feel they would be happy to contribute more if aware. Even if basic resources are needed, such as paper/pens/glue etc.</p> <p>A parent had just attended the Warrior Workshop offered and found it so beneficial to share experiences/emotions with parents of both St Cross and St Augustine's schools. They said the workshop was so beneficial but being held in the school day time was slightly limited .</p>	<p>Mrs Walsh agreed that we could now reintroduce Parent Readers within school and a note will go out in the Newsletter regarding this.</p> <p>It was explained that due to the age of the school buildings, unfortunately, maintenance projects are ongoing. The new bathrooms and providing drinking water in all classes are current areas being updated, but are very costly. Providing a balanced level of information to parents regarding financial needs is hard when parents are often very financially strained themselves. It was advised that both the School Building Fund letter and a voluntary 'St Cross Wish List' link will also be published, should parents be able/wish to contribute.</p> <p>Mrs Walsh confirmed that the feedback received following this workshop which was held at St Augustine's School was extremely positive. Parents from both schools had the opportunity to meet and share ideas which was great. With regards to the meeting not being long enough, a further workshop will be set in the evening next time, allowing a longer duration.</p>
What kind of events or activities help you connect with other parents?	<p>Friends events bring families together within school. It was suggested that maybe a quiz/bingo night for parents would be a great evening to mix and socialise together.</p>	<p>Mrs Walsh would forward this idea to the Friends for consideration.</p>

<p>How well do you feel the school's Catholic values are reflected in daily life and community activities?</p>	<p>Extremely well, with Class Masses at church, Chaplaincy Team within school etc.</p>	
<p>Other Questions Raised</p>	<p>Suggestions</p>	
<p>Can PE lessons be mixed up and more varied as older children are bored and feels lessons are often geared to younger children, so lack enthusiasm/incentives</p>	<p>Could children possibly be given targets such as increasing the amount of laps they are able to walk/run. In addition this would release energy and possibly improve behaviour within classes.</p>	<p>Mrs Walsh agreed she would look into this but stated that you do have to gear the lesson to children of all abilities.</p>
<p>Attendance Incentives</p>	<p>A parent advised of a scheme run at a local Secondary School where children were given attendance incentives termly. This gave children goals to work towards and rewards if met</p>	<p>Mrs Walsh advised of our Studybugs Attendance system where alerts are sent for both declining and improving attendance.</p>