

Reception Transition Survey Results – November 2015

An online survey of parents and carers with children entering reception for the first time was conducted at the beginning of November 2015. There were 13 responders out of a total number of 29, providing a response rate of 45 per cent.

Summary

The responders were overwhelmingly positive in reporting their experiences of the steps taken by the school to smooth the entry into Reception by their children.

The written responses to answers 5-7 contain some interesting comments and suggestions for improvements (these have been noted in full below). The home visits and half-days were well received. A few responders noted that more and timely feedback in the first weeks would have been beneficial.

Details

Question 1 - Did you find the induction evenings useful in June and July?

All responders answered “yes”

Question 2 - Do you think your child benefited from the play mornings in the Summer term?

Eleven of the responders answered “yes”. The other two noted that they did not attend.

Question 3 - Do you think your child benefited from the half days at the start of the school year?

All responders answered “yes”

Question 4 - On a scale of 1-5 how well do you think your child has settled into St Michael's? (1 being most settled)

This question may have confused some responders. Generally, the higher number would represent the more “positive” result. However, this question was presented in reverse.

Six responders answered “1” with four responding with a “2” – with 10/13 reporting that their child was very settled. Three responders answered “5”. All of these responders answered “yes” to questions 1-3 but did not offer any responses to questions 5-7.

Question 5 - Was there anything that you thought worked well and really helped your child in their transition?

Ten responders provided the following verbatim feedback:

Good links with the nursery meant the preschoolers had the opportunity to visit the school many times before they actually started in September. Home visits worked really well this year - 2 adults visited, one talked to me about my child starting school while the other 'engaged' my child in meaningful activities. It was great and very informative. We very much liked the 'quick' start - 2 half days and then in. Worked really well for our child.

Home visits helped by bringing someone into their environment. It also allowed us to answer questions on a 1-2-1 face to face basis

Home visits got Joey really excited about starting school, it also helped getting to know the children before the term started

I was a bit sceptical about the home visit, but actually it was quite valuable as she then knew two adults who she could go to.

Home visit after nursery time spent with school children worked really well and build enthusiasm and excitement.

Being at the pre school helped with regular visits to the school. Home visit was good too.

Home visit really helped. My child started on a Friday morning so was nice to have the weekend between - think mid week starts are good to minimise the tiredness/overwhelmingness of it. Nursery had the prospectus so could talk to him

The biggest help for my child's transition was having an older sibling already at the school. Being familiar with the setting made it very easy. Play mornings in summer term & visits to school with the nursery were good too.

Home visits were very good gave my son a chance to meet his teacher before he started.

The home visit was very helpful

Question 6 - Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

Six of thirteen responders offered the following verbatim feedback:

No - but thank you it's been a great start to reception.

For us the transition was very smooth, no problems at all. Although, I think that some children may benefit from a few more half days at the beginning of the term.

I'm really happy with st Michaels !

Parents arranged a couple of play dates - these really helped too - especially with those from nurseries other than St Michael's.

I'm not sure that starting the youngest last is the best idea. The youngest ones had quite a lot to deal with when they started- especially those who didn't already have friends from the feeder nursery - I personally feel that it would have been better for the younger, less boisterous or quieter ones to start first but I appreciate that this would be very challenging to organise.

Having a class picture with names as my son was initially worried that he didn't know everyone's names.

Question 7 - Is there anything you feel that could have improved the transition process?

Eight respondents provided the following verbatim feedback:

No - we were very pleased with the whole process

*No, I felt I had opportunity to question and my son was given the opportunity to feel comfortable with this new experience.
Thank you*

Feedback about how the child has settled in as the children are reluctant to share?

I don't think I'm alone in not finding out anything about the school day from my child! It was really helpful to have access to the school menu online as that at least gave me something to talk about in the first few weeks. It might have helped to be registered to Fronter earlier and to get an end of week summary to help us discuss the school week. Also, I believe there are sometimes notices up by the main entrance about what is happening- I didn't know that until half term week as reception drop off parents don't go up there. It might also be useful now to know how often Fronter is updated so that I know when to check it for updates.

It is a very welcoming school. I do think slightly better communication about meetings for parents in first few weeks would help. For example Parent Mail or text reminders about Phonics and Maths workshops. The Teddy Bear day and after school event early in the term was great.

No very happy

No, for us, this time around, everything was fine.

My son settled in so way I can't think of anything else.