



## DILKES ACADEMY

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Headteacher: Mr R Latham BA (Hons), MA

2nd December 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

First, let me thank you for your continued support and understanding as we, as a nation and community, responded to COVID-19. I am very proud of the way our Dilkes Academy pupils, parents, employees, and community leaders are handling the demands we are faced with to protect everyone as we continue to educate and feed our students during the most unusual of circumstances.

I encourage our parents to frequently visit our webpage and follow us on our Twitter page @DilkesAcademy for up to date and accurate information. There are many false rumours being shared which leads to unnecessary confusion.

We would like to once again thank everyone who responded to our recent questionnaire during our very first virtual parent consultation days. We had a total of 124 questionnaires completed online. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to ensuring the best possible outcomes for your child/ren during these unusual times. We value your opinions, and staff truly appreciate your kind words. It's great to see that the work of all staff at the school, who go above and beyond to ensure that pupils are given the best opportunities, is being recognised.

It is pleasing to see that many of you have accessed our virtual parent/carer workshops. These workshops discuss the curriculum at Dilkes Academy as well as suggesting ways you can support at home. To find our workshops, visit our school website at [www.dilkesacademy.org.uk](http://www.dilkesacademy.org.uk) and click on the parents tab. You will find workshops added for this academic year as well as last year. In the spring term staff will be adding a further workshop looking at the teaching of mathematics.

I know several parent/carers have questioned when after school sport clubs will begin. We are constantly reviewing government guidance as well as our whole school risk assessments, which take into consideration the current local context as well as the safety of all stakeholders. We do hope that at some point in the new year we will be able to run some after-school sports clubs so please bear with us.

The table below shows the percentage of parent/carers who agreed or disagreed with each statement:

124 responses	Agreed
My Child Enjoys School	99%
The school keeps my child safe	100%
The school lets me know how my child is doing	96%
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	99%
The school has high expectations for my child	98%
The school helps me to support my child's learning	96%
The school meets my child's particular needs, including their special needs	98%
There is a good range of subjects available to	100%

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my child at this school.	
The school supports my child's wider personal development.	98%
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	97%
The school takes account of my suggestions or any concerns I may have.	94%
The school is led and managed effectively.	99%
Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at this school.	99%

### Just a few comments from parents/carers about the excellent features of Dilkes Academy:

I am hugely impressed at how quickly he has developed his writing and reading skills. It's amazing to see when he comes home all excited to show me what he learnt at school today. *(Reception)*

Very helpful, approachable, and friendly staff. I find it very easy to get information and feedback when needed. Also, my children are happy in school and seem to thrive under the guidance of teachers and staff. Thanks for all your hard work and care. *(Reception)*

I told a friend that my son gets a book home every week. She was shocked. Her daughter is in a school rated outstanding and she doesn't get that.

Dilkes is really majoring on academic success. *(Reception)*

The wonderful teachers, use of apps to keep parents informed of what goes on inside the classroom such as Tapestry and use of fun educational apps such as teach monster. *(Reception)*

It's a great school always has been to my knowledge. My son loves coming to school and his sister is also very excited about starting soon. He has learned so much already in the short time he has been there. Very happy. *(Reception)*

The teachers couldn't be better, they are great at making my child feel comfortable and happy and that's why he loves coming to school. *(Reception)*

Personally, I like the way the school motivate and teach competitiveness among pupils and the positive approach in general. *(Reception)*

The progress with my daughters writing reading & knowledge is amazing. Since September she is confidently reading and trying to learn new words every day. constantly making up her own maths questions and finding the answers. Absolutely amazed with how far she has come in such a short time. *(Year 1)*

As a family we are going through a difficult time at the moment and the school as a whole have been very supportive and helpful in any way they can. Thank you. *(Year 1)*

Miss Osborne is an excellent teacher. She has managed to get my daughter up to speed after the long break away from school and provides her with the support she needs. She always comes out of school and says she has had a "fantastic" day or "amazing" day and she says Miss Osborne is a "great" teacher. *(Year 1)*

The school is fantastic, my daughter is so happy and progressing well that's all I can ask for. *(Year 1)*

Good expectations and knowing what my child is capable of and helping them to achieve. *(Year 1)*

The teachers are Dilkes greatest strengths, all of them make an effort to make sure your supported and can help our child at home, they always answer questions and concerns we have. *(Year 2)*

It has been really unexpected times and the school have done great job at making my daughter feel safe and comfortable. We totally appreciate that they have missed out on so much and the teachers are working really hard to get the children back up to where they should be. (Year 2)

The teachers, my son has really improved on everything since starting year 2. His reading, writing and maths have improved amazingly and it's solely thanks to how the teacher is educating him. (Year 2)

Their way to teach children, overall education is great, keeping children and parents involved in learning new things. (Year 2)

I would like to start by saying that I am really impressed with the progress my daughter has made since returning into Year 3 and I would like to thank Mr Moughton and all the other members of staff involved in her learning for this year. (Year 3)

I would say that the teaching style at Dilkes is its greatest strength as my son really engages and remembers what he is taught the way in which he is taught fascinates me as every day he has something new to tell me. (Year 3)

Behaviour of children and the level of teaching. (Year 3)

Very impressed with the handling of COVID and the way the school adapted to home learning and the support from them school and the telephone calls from Mrs Nelder checking on how we were getting on and saying it was fine when we were having tough days and gave us ideas on how we could do things differently to keep the momentum going it was very much appreciated, we felt we were not alone. (Year 4)

Very helpful, approachable, and friendly staff. I find it very easy to get information and feedback when needed. Also, my children are happy in school and seem to thrive under the guidance of teachers and staff. Thanks for all your hard work and care. (Year 4)

We have noticed our Son has progressed well since starting year 4, he has achieved so much within himself. A big thank you to Mrs Nelder for helping and bringing out the best in him. 😊 (Year 4)

Dilkes have been amazing over the last 4 years. We wouldn't have got through it without the help from everyone. Now my daughter is a confident little girl. Thank you (Year 4)

Teachers who love what they are doing, and their sincere care to the children. (Year 4)

Communication - regular newsletters, messages on the school app, letters home, contacting the school. (Year 5)

Raised concerns with Miss Conway, was really impressed with how quickly she had actioned this. (Year 5)

Teaching staff - all have been great during my daughter's time at Dilkes. (Year 5)

Staff are very polite and hands on. (Year 5)

Thank you to all the staff who provide a safe and exciting place for my daughter to learn and to grow. She is challenged and inspired by the staff who are so supportive of her and us as parents. Thank you again for the hard work over lockdown, she found the distance learning easy to access, providing some normality in a crazy time. (Year 6)

The overall positivity from the staff. Clear communications and the online way of things are ideal for working parents to allow them to feel part. This has to be the best thing to of come from such a crazy year! (Year 6)

In such a varied year we feel the leadership team have and still are doing everything they can to allow our children to remain safe and still learn to their full potential. (Year 6)

Instilling in the children ability to work hard and explore other areas of building on their knowledge, as well as being well behaved. (Year 6)

As well as the positive comments we also value constructive feedback and take on board the suggested areas for improvement. Where we feel it is appropriate as a school we will act on these accordingly.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Latham', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr R. Latham  
Headteacher