

Brookside Academy – Parent Surveys 2026

Across-Academy Common Strengths

1. Children Are Happy and Enjoy Attending

Across Mainstream, Willows and Nursery, parental feedback shows exceptionally high levels of happiness:

- Vast majority of children described as *very happy or happy* by parents.
- Warm staff relationships consistently referenced as a key factor.
- Children speak positively about school/nursery and show pride in their learning.

2. Children Feel Safe and Well Cared For

- Parents across all settings praised the caring, nurturing environments this is in line with pupil surveys.
- Strong safeguarding culture and staff who know the children well.
- Nursery families highlighted quick settling and strong attachment to key workers.

3. Staff Professionalism, Warmth & Relationships

- Staff repeatedly described as *kind, welcoming, patient, skilled, and nurturing*.
- Parents across all settings appreciate approachability and responsiveness.
- Stability of staffing and strong leadership viewed as major strengths.

4. Quality of Learning, Curriculum & Support

- Mainstream: strong teaching, high expectations, positive behaviour culture.
- Nursery: praise for purposeful learning, early phonics/number work, hands-on experiences; early identification of needs.
- Across the Academy: children make progress and enjoy learning; SEND and ELSA support recognised as strong.

5. High Levels of Parental Recommendation – 226 returns across Nursery, Mainstream and The Willows

- Mainstream: 98% would recommend the school - 120
- Nursery: 100% gave high recommendation rates noted throughout comments- 86
- Willows 100% would recommend - 20

Common Development Areas Across the Academy

1. Communication Consistency

This is the *single most shared development area* across settings: - though still a very small percentage.

- Parents want more consistent quality of communication (emails, notice periods, updates).
- Nursery: more detail at handover, clearer routines, more frequent updates/photos.
- Mainstream: clearer information after incidents, fewer admin errors, improved notice for events/clubs.

2. Information About Daily Experience

- Parents want more clarity about what children do each day (e.g., learning, friendships, behaviour, meals, toileting, play).
- Particularly significant for non-verbal younger children and those with SEND.

3. Behaviour / Playground Safety (Mainstream) & Handover Safety (Nursery)

- Mainstream: small concerns about boisterous playground behaviour and follow-up communication.
- Nursery: busy end-of-day transitions make detailed communication difficult; some requests for clearer queuing systems and better sheltering in wet weather.

4. Consistency in SEND Processes and Expectations

- Mainstream: some parents reported delays or inconsistent communication around additional needs.
- Willows/Nursery: early identification praised, but parents want more detail in developmental updates.
- Academy-wide challenge due to significantly above-average levels of need and national system pressures.

5. Practical / Operational Improvements

- Nursery: entrances, signage, menus, wet-weather shelter.
- Mainstream: systems such as club bookings and event scheduling.
- These are “small but visible” areas that shape family experience.

Overall Picture for Governors

The Academy’s core inclusive culture is extremely strong; children are happy, safe, nurtured, and taught by dedicated, professional staff. This strength is consistent across Mainstream, the Willows and Nursery.

The key development theme is “communication consistency”, appearing in every survey. This includes quality, timing, detail, and follow-up across all settings. Addressing this will refine an already strong provision and strengthen parental confidence further. Though it is a tricky area with some parents saying we communicate too much and others saying we don’t communicate enough. As well as others praising us for our communication.

The surveys indicate a highly positive parental view of Brookside Academy. Families value the ethos, relationships and leadership, while also giving clear and actionable insights into how communication and operational systems can be strengthened going forward.