



UNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

Annual Survey Findings & Feedback 2024

Thank you for participating in our Annual Survey 2024. Your feedback are important to us for school improvement.

About 52.5% of parents have responded and given favourable feedback. We are especially proud and heartened by your complimentary comments about the school and staff. We append **some verbatim across 6 levels** for your perusal.

Lower Primary

- It's been great till this day. Keep up with the good, amazing work 🥰
- Well done to UPS. Hope UPS can be one of the most excellent schools in the future.
- Wonderful teachers, good administration. Would appreciate if there can be more programmes to encourage children to eat healthily and take care of personal hygiene such as tooth brushing techniques to compliment education at home.
- We are thankful for the efforts that school teachers and staff spent on upbringing of my kid. We are grateful for the care and support in this journey.
- I would like to give compliments to my daughter's Form Teacher, Ms Jeswyn Sara, Mother Tongue Teacher Mdm Ma Yu, and Mdm Norsahida. I know from my daughter that all these teachers are very very good teachers, who are caring, and they teach with passion and love!
- Would like to compliment Mrs Lim (2E Form Teacher) for her patience and endless support to her student. Information about my child's progress/behaviour/class work are always up to date. My child is happy to be her student! #goodteachersarerare #keepitup 🙏❤️

Middle Primary

- My daughter is happy at school 😊
- I noted there was a request from parents for UPS to share more information on student leadership framework on its website in the 2023 feedback. This year, I observed UPS has added a new section on student leadership on the website. I would like to commend UPS for demonstrating its commitment in listening and responding to parents' feedback. This helps to build a strong and trusting relationship between UPS and parents.
- I have also noted that UPS has begun to present students with a UPS birthday card and a gift this year. I applaud this new initiative as it sends a strong message to all students that they are important and hence ought to be celebrated regardless of how they fare academically and behaviourally.
- Unity Primary is a great school.
- Best wishes to all staff for their cooperative behaviour and their work.
- Thank you, Ms Kash (P4F), Ms Wong (P6D), Ms Ow (P6CL4), Ms Yu (P4CL5), all the teachers and staff for supporting Constance and Cedric during their school and after school. Appreciate 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

- I would like to give compliments to my daughter's teacher, Mrs Veronica Tan and Mr John Lim both of whom are very professional and caring teachers!

Upper Primary

- To all Teachers and staff at Unity Primary school, you all have been great, it's a pleasure to work hand in hand in my child studies and development. Well done and keep progressing.
- Teachers in Unity are very professional, time to equalize the status of the schools in Singapore, defunct the ranking of schools in the society just because it is a neighbourhood school, it does not mean that the students will not be able to produce similar good results. The demographic of the parents has changed these days, and this has to be made transparent to avoid affecting students' emotion by having the thought that they are 2nd in class compared to the students in schools located in town.
- Thumbs up for my son's P6 teachers. They are working very hard to assist the P6 students to get improve their grades by providing extra remedial classes, additional worksheets and etc. Let's hope this year P6 cohort will get better results.
- Form teacher, Ms Wong is very helpful, approachable and friendly.
- I would like to express great thanks to Mr Teo (6F) form teacher of my son when he handled a f/ship matter that happened within a few students in 6F. Appreciated the way he handled the matter and care for his students. The matter wasn't blown up but was addressed within the students individually as well as a whole. Thanks.
- I like to give commendation to 2024 class 6F form teacher for doing extra mile to assist my daughter and myself. In particular, putting my daughter in "cool cafe" so that she does her homework. I am thankful to Mr Teo for his patience when handling my daughter and being understanding to my difficult parenting situation.

The school appreciates your recognition, understanding and encouragement of our efforts to support the students and staff in attaining the desired educational goals. We also hear your concerns and suggestions and assure you that we review and continually improve where feasible.

School planning and operations take into consideration:

- National imperatives and policies
- National curriculum and desired student outcomes
- School direction and focus
- Distinctiveness of student and staff profile
- Benefits to and well-being of whole student population
- Resources like funds, manpower, physical facilities which impact feasibility, scalability and sustainability

The following serve to provide clarity on certain matters and address some issues raised this year:

1. Student Learning

a. School should implement more remedial lessons even for the P1.

Remedial classes are organised to provide learning support to students performing below grade level and help them consolidate basic knowledge, master learning methods and improve learning effectiveness to prevent ongoing learning gaps. **They are not extension of learning or supplementary lessons.** Based on the needs of each student and class, not all students require remedial lessons.

Remedial lessons do not commence in Semester 1 for P1 as the students have just started their primary education and need time to transit before their learning needs can be ascertained for additional support.

Parents are strongly encouraged to monitor their children to ensure that they reinforce their learning at home so that there will not be any arising gaps of skills and knowledge requiring remediation.

- b. There is insufficient homework to occupy my child after school.*
- c. There should Chinese homework given to the students daily.*

Homework can be any meaningful tasks assigned to students by teachers to reinforce learning and carried out during non-school hours. It should help to develop good study habits and foster independent learning. As the learning is progressive and cumulative, teachers calibrate it against student readiness and task requirements to ensure meaningfulness. Focus on the actual learning and quality vis-à-vis quantity.

Students are usually given homework at least once a week and may include tasks like SLS assignments, workbook, revision of textbook, reading of storybooks/ newsletters & writing practices, etc. Work requiring the guidance of the teachers will be given in class and returned to the students for revision upon completion.

Parents can do their part at home to provide a conducive study environment as well as inculcate the responsibility and discipline for self-directed and reinforcement of learning.

- d. Review HBL assignments. Students shouldn't be assigned tasks with components that require them to take pictures and upload them online. Not all students have smart phones. Assign tasks that students are able to complete independently.*

Online assignments for HBL are generally assigned via SLS and students can complete them independently. Should students encounter any technical challenges, they have been taught to request for staff assistance via a helpline. If students have concerns about the use of ICT tools like smartphone or iPad, they can approach their teachers to make other accommodations or alternatives.

2. Home-School Partnership

- a. We appreciate more Parent-Teacher Meetings and feedback about our children.*

As many parents are working and/or have busy schedules, the school has strategically structured Parent-Teacher Conference (PTC) thrice a year for purposeful School/Teacher and Parent engagement. Beyond these sessions, teachers and parents may connect with one another via the other official platforms such as phone, email, student handbook, etc. As good practice, teachers have been providing updates to parents at appropriate junctures. We encourage parents to do likewise and contact the teachers at appropriate timings should you need to discuss or require assistance/ information about your child.

- b. Would like to have Parent-Teacher Meeting face to face.*

For the convenience of both working and non-working parents, the school conducts PTC via a hybrid model. Based on feedback, majority of the parents prefer online meetings and hence, by default, PTC will be online. Parents who prefer to meet the teachers face-to-

face can contact the teachers to arrange for one. Likewise, should our teachers wish to meet some parents face-to-face, they will inform the parents accordingly.

3. Communications

- a. Please provide hardcopy of information related to important days and dismissal timings.*

The Calendar of Events is on the school website for parents' retrieval and access. Please log on and refer to it. You can also download a copy on your smartphone or other electronic devices.

Termly Letter to Parents highlighting key events and dismissal timings in addition to the link to Calendar of Events is also sent out. These letters are uploaded to the school website. We encourage parents to read all correspondences carefully and retain the critical information pertaining to their child.

4. Student Behaviour and Well-Being

- a. My child's school bag is very heavy. Is there something the school can do about this?*

Students are to pack their bags according to their daily timetable and avoid bringing all their books, materials and non-essential items to school every day. They can also keep books they do not require in the lockers assigned to them. We seek support from family to ensure their children exercise responsibility and pack their bags daily. Parents can also alleviate the burden by getting lightweight schoolbag and stationery items for their children.

- b. The white school shoes get dirty very easily. Can the school shoes be changed to black?*

Students are advised to maintain personal hygiene and ensure a neat and smart appearance. School shoes are part of the school attire. The outfit ensemble is a crucial part of school identity and legacy. Changing the outfit ensemble has to take into consideration many factors such as views from key stakeholders, e.g. School Advisory Committee and Alumni. To help the student maintain a presentable student image, please clean their shoes regularly or purchase those that are easier to upkeep.

- c. The school toilets are dirty most times and poorly maintained.*

The toilets are washed twice daily and whenever they are unusually filthy and unsightly. Cleaners are required to meet the standard of cleanliness and audit checks on the toilets are done weekly to maintain sanitation compliance. In school, students are reminded to exercise consideration in view of the high-volume usage. Likewise, we seek parents help to guide their children to exercise care and responsible use of all school facilities, especially the toilets.

5. School Safety and Security

- a. Can Side Gate 3 be opened for student arrival and dismissal?*
b. Cars are seen parking along the service road at Side Gate 3 during dismissal time, while the narrow sidewalk/pavements are crowded with caregivers waiting to fetch their children. Many students have resorted to walking on the roads to bypass the vehicles. People and oblivious parents and students brush against vehicles which are trying to reverse or move out from parking in front of Side Gate 3 after fetching their kids.

Side Gate 3 is open for mass P3 to P6 dismissals at 1.30 pm daily and 3 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays when there are remedial/ supplementary lessons. The school is piloting the use of the turnstiles, including at Side Gate 3, only for ad hoc dismissals after curriculum hours for P4 and P5 students.

School has on numerous occasions advised parents to be considerate road users and adhere to the safety regulations stated in our Termly Letter to Parents. We have highlighted the issues to the traffic police and Town Council and will work closely with the relevant authorities to step up patrolling and enforcement. We seek everyone's co-operation and understanding to comply with the requirements and do their part in ensuring the safety of the children.

Students have been reminded not to dash across the road or block the pathway. We urge parents to remind their children to be safe and considerate pedestrians.

- c. *Vehicles turning right after exiting school during arrival time. Flow of traffic entering and exiting the school is being blocked by cars turning right after sending their children.*

Traffic often comes to a standstill blocking vehicles from entering and exiting the school car park because many vehicles are still making right turn at the traffic junction despite several school advisories. The LTA has been informed and will be monitoring the situation. We appeal to all drivers to be mindful, observe the rule and not make the right turn upon exit from 6.45 am to 7.45 am and 1.45 pm to 2 pm.

6. Canteen Food

- a. *The school canteen food is not appetizing, lacks varieties and insufficient canteen operators resulting in long queue during recesses.*

Based on Health Promotion Board (HPB) Healthy Meal School Programme (HMSP), vendors can only sell regulated food like brown rice, wholemeal bread, fruits, meat, vegetables, snacks and drinks with healthier choice symbol to ensure that students eat healthily and have a balanced diet. Please note that the vendors need to maintain a good balance between healthy diet and varieties vis-à-vis costs.

The school will continue to stagger the recesses by levels to cut down on the long waiting time and ensure students have sufficient time to buy their food and eat during recesses/lunch breaks. The challenge that the school faces is the shortage of canteen operators. We are looking for operators to fill up the vacant stalls and provide options. If you know of suitable operators, please encourage them to approach our Operations Manager.

7. Co-Curricular Activities (CCA)

- a. *Can the school provide more CCA?*

The school provides varied CCA to cater to the different segments, needs and interest of the student population. There are Sports & Games, Visual & Performing Arts, Clubs & Unformed Groups CCA. School reviews the offerings annually to ensure that CCA are relevant and appealing to the general population of students as well as critical mass to yield meaningful learning and economy of scale.

- b. School should recognize students who are doing well in CCA at national and international level.*

The school acknowledges the achievement of students in activities organised by national sports bodies and/or associations. These student achievements will be affirmed and acknowledged during school assemblies and their achievements recorded under Holistic Development Profile in the students' report books. Outstanding and deserving students are eligible for School Awards given out at the end of the year.