



Guardian Angels' National School School Self Evaluation – Cycle Three

The impact of Covid-19 on children's learning – parents' perspective

June 2023

The parents of the children in Guardian Angels' National School were sent out a survey online with questions on how they felt Covid-19 impacted their children's learning and overall wellbeing. The school received back 127 responses which are summarised below.

The first question asked for the main ways in which Covid-19 impacted their child. 33.9% said it had little impact on their child/children. 21.3% said it mainly affected their reading and writing. 22.8% said it mainly affected their Gaeilge. 15% said it affected their level of maths. 37.8% felt it had impacted their social skills and friendships. 14.2% said it impacted their willingness to attend school.

Question two asked the parents if they felt that Covid-19 had an impact on their children's wellbeing. 44.9% said no, 37% said yes and 18.1% were unsure.

The third question asked for those who selected yes for question two to elaborate. 33.3% said that their children's anxiety levels were most affected. 27% said their children have difficulty with social interactions. 11.5% have a loss of interest in school/hobbies. 15.9% have a fear of catching Covid-19 and 1.6% were more confident engaging in schoolwork when not in the classroom.

Question four asked parents if they felt Covid-19 had impacted on their child's motivation to learn. 74.8% said no. 15% said yes and 10.2% did not know. Of those that said yes, 39.3% said their children were less motivated across all activities and tests. 25% were less motivated to read and write. 10.7% were less motivated to get involved with sports and art and 7.1% were less motivated in maths.

Parents were also given the option to add an additional comment. 39 parents left a response. These varied in content. Some parents mentioned that they saw gaps in their children's learning and it took time to catch up. Others said they were still trying to catch up. A number of people mentioned their children suffered from anxiety from being away from their peers for so long. Some also stated that the experience was positive for them, allowing for more family time at home and for a change in the learning experience. Many of the comments also praised the school for how remote teaching was handled, with some comments suggesting more could have been done such as more live classes. Overall this survey suggests that Covid-19, while having had a negative impact on some, did not have a huge impact on the majority of the children of those surveyed. A large percentage felt that Covid-19 had not had a lasting impact on their children's motivation to learn.