

## Q1 CULTURE

Ottawa-Carleton District School Board  
Building Brighter Futures Together @OCDSB

### Q1 What are some things that the OCDSB is doing well to support learning and well-being?

**The office staff at our school are excellent. They are so dedicated and know all the children.** We feel part of a school 'family' and trust the staff to help or follow up as required.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

4.2 ★★★★★ (25 👤)



**No Bullying Policy** It keeps the school a safe and peaceful place for everyone.

*Students Grades 9 to 12*

4.2 ★★★★★ (16 👤)



**Teaching kids to be proactive and help others in their community and beyond**

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 2*

4.1 ★★★★★ (22 👤)



**Building a community with the school, taking a stand on bullying.** I have a child who suffers

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

4.1 ★★★★★ (18 👤)



**Creating welcoming environments** students who feel welcome will be inspired to learn

*Community Members*

4.0 ★★★★★ (25 👤)



**Letting the students know everyone is welcome** It is important because a child can't be successful if they are not included.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 1*

4.0 ★★★★★ (24)



**Teaching inclusion and acceptance.** Because the world needs more kindness.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

4.0 ★★★★★ (24)



**Considering kindness as an important learning outcome** Improve quality and inclusion

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

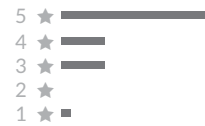
4.0 ★★★★★ (22)



**Supporting social integration and positive relationships, through countering bullying and promoting constructive intra-student relationships** To help create productive members of society and good and responsible citizens.

*Secondary Parents and Guardians - 4*

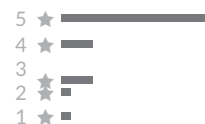
4.0 ★★★★★ (22)



**Canadian anthem at start of day** We are lucky to live in a country where we are free and can vote so our anthem is an opportunity for students to be reminded of our great country.

*Secondary Parents and Guardians - 1*

4.0 ★★★★★ (21)



**Educating kids about dealing with bullying.** Teaching kids how to handle difficult situation at young age is practical. They need to know it's not all fun and games everyday.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

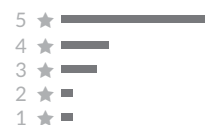
4.0 ★★★★★ (21)



**We appreciate that OCDSB is hard on bullying in school. Children are being taught to be inclusive and kind** Key skills for happy productive adults

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 2*

4.0 ★★★★★ (21)



**The board definitely has an air of inclusion.**  
Kids are not always the kindest to each other so it is crucial that every child knows they are welcome in the classroom.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

4.0  (20 )



**Anti bullying campaign** It's important not to be mean to other kids but kids need to be taught how to constructively communicate what bothers them about another kid

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

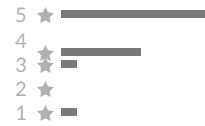
4.0  (18 )



**Building a climate of respect and tolerance**  
Children feel accepted as they are

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

4.0  (16 )



**Teach Canadian Values** Volunteering, fundraising, anti-bullying, safety and concern for others

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

4.0  (12 )



**Supporting inclusive, supportive learning environments that are actively against bullying.** So that all children feel safe and welcome, and so that they know if they are mistreated by others there will be repercussions.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

4.0  (9 )



**Anti bullying** To feel comfortable with talking to someone about the problem.... my son is a prime example he was bullied we took it to the principal delta with it

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.9  (25 )



**Anti Bullying** Great initiative and timely. Momentum needs to be sustained.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 2*

3.9  (22 )



**Anti bullying program** I believe its important because there are so many children who do get bullied and think they have no where to turn with this program they are able to

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.9 ★★★★★ (22 👤)



**Preventing bullying,**

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 2*

3.9 ★★★★★ (22 👤)



**The principles are visible in the school, are quick to communicate via email, and are nice.**

They're available for discussion, they listen, they foster an environment of listening.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.9 ★★★★★ (22 👤)



**The school is making great effort to support multicultural community.** The kindergarten classes have invited parents from different cultures to introduce their holidays. Students have chance to understand other cultures.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 2*

3.9 ★★★★★ (21 👤)



**Anti-bullying policy, with zero tolerance does help reduce exposure to bullying but does not help it. Continual learning about different types of bull ing, and in older kids, cyber-bullying should be important with the continual exponential growth of technology and its use in everyday life.**

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

3.9 ★★★★★ (19 👤)



**Anti-bullying program**

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 2*

3.9 ★★★★★ (17 👤)



**Concern for student wellbeing & supports as well as caring & committed staff who contribute many hours outside of the classroom.** Students cannot grow/perform at their best. Teachers who care can have a significant & positive influence on all students.

*Secondary Staff*

3.9 ★★★★★ (17)



**Anti-bullying assemblies and open discussions** makes sure kids are aware this is not acceptable and something they can talk about

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.9 ★★★★★ (16)



**as a Bell High School student from a different country, OCDSB board is really good at making students feel accepted and supported and comfortable.** students usually feel homesick and that effects in their studies and on their personality, so having a welcoming and friendly environment is important

*Students Grades 9 to 12*

3.9 ★★★★★ (15)



**Doing well: prevention of bullying, peaceful and progressive learning, arrangement of transportation**

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 2*

3.9 ★★★★★ (12)



**The implementation of the emotional values. Emphaty, Kindness, Talking Remember every one that we have the same feelings in different moments. That we are not extrange. We are important, Teachers, parents and kids,**

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 1*

3.8 ★★★★★ (23)



**An inclusive and anti-bullying environment. Even "oddball" kids want to go to school.**

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 2*

3.8 ★★★★★ (22)



**Encouraging an accepting, inclusive environment.**

*Secondary Parents and Guardians - 4*

3.8 ★★★★★ (22)



**Anti-bullying** Fostering good communication on school activities

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

3.8 ★★★★★ (21 👤)



**Anti-bullying message/zero tolerance is clear.** Creates a safe, welcoming environment where students feel supported

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 2*

3.8 ★★★★★ (21 👤)



**School wide assemblies regarding topics of focus** All kids are hearing the same message

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

3.8 ★★★★★ (21 👤)



**The OCDSB tries to emphasize the importance of building relationships with our students. If the students feel comfortable, they have a higher trust and respect for the staff in the school.**

*Secondary Staff*

3.8 ★★★★★ (21 👤)



**I like the anti bullying and inclusiveness efforts** Because of students feel safe and welcome they will learn

*Secondary Parents and Guardians - 1*

3.8 ★★★★★ (20 👤)



**Lots of anti bullying material- my kids feel safe** Focus on a safe and inclusive environment.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 2*

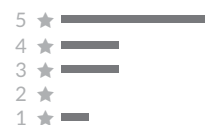
3.8 ★★★★★ (20 👤)



**helping student to accept bullying is not acceptable**

*Elementary Staff*

3.8 ★★★★★ (20 👤)



**Teaching major values like compassion, empathy, courage, humility, truth, and honesty**

*Secondary Staff*

3.8 ★★★★★ (19 👤)



**Listening to students** Students know what the issues really are and have creative ideas & solutions

*Secondary Staff*

3.8 ★★★★★ (18)



**Inclusiveness is one of the very important aspects that the board has achieved so far. As well as the services that were provided by the board to the new comers/ refugees.**

*Secondary Parents and Guardians - 1*

3.8 ★★★★★ (17)



**Treats everyone equally** It helps kids thrive and feel they are important

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.8 ★★★★★ (17)



**proud community supporting safe, fun, active lifestyle playing after school, good academic learning, school staff that care and know parents and chat in playground, great community spirit and nice place to live and learn**

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.8 ★★★★★ (17)



**Schools have been focusing on character traits such as: Honesty, Helpfulness, Sharing, Taking initiative etc and that is great. There has also been growing efforts to raise awareness about bullying and how to handle it. Which is also great.**

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

3.8 ★★★★★ (14)



**Continuing to teach about anti bullying** It unfortunately happens all too often still

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

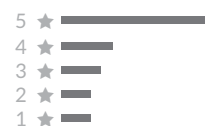
3.8 ★★★★★ (13)



**friendly and welcoming schools** makes kids feel comfortable

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 2*

3.7 ★★★★★ (29)



**Inclusivity** Everyone is valued and respected

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 1*

3.7 ★★★★★ (25)



**Anti-bullying and building a culture of diversity** Again, it's important to ensure our schools embrace diversity and educate about the impact of bullying

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 1*

3.7 ★★★★★ (24)



**I believe OCDSB is helping teach students to be better citizens.** This is extremel important as we need a public institutions to promote shared experiences, help build character, and teach roles and responsibilities

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

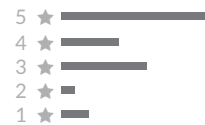
3.7 ★★★★★ (24)



**Anti bullying strategies** Children should be taught how to intervene and support each other. Walking away/ not getting involved does not stop bullying.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.7 ★★★★★ (23)



**1) Anti-bullying messaging** It's important to start early given the rise in mental health challenges in youth these days.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 2*

3.7 ★★★★★ (22)



**Bringing in guest speakers for school assemblies** At school assemblies, there are a variety of different guest speakers available to talk about important and relevant issues.

*Students Grades 9 to 12*

3.7 ★★★★★ (22)



**Recognizing student achievements and kindness (my kids' school has an 'aPAWS' award: teachers nominate kids who are kind, helpful, etc.)** it makes kids feels good about themselves and encourages a positive, kind atmosphere; all kinds of achievement are great

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.7 ★★★★★ (22)





**Teaching kindness and respect**

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 1*

3.7 ★★★★★ (22 👤)



**Anti bullying campaigns Teaches kids empathy and inclusion**

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

3.7 ★★★★★ (21 👤)



**Hired a new director who has a demonstrated good track record on creating inclusive schools.**

*Secondary Parents and Guardians - 4*

3.7 ★★★★★ (21 👤)



**There are several good initiatives or campaigns promoting health in terms of acceptance of others with differences and avoiding bullying and doing the right thing for themselves and others.**

*Elementary Staff*

3.7 ★★★★★ (21 👤)



**providing good environment to the student to express themselves**

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

3.7 ★★★★★ (21 👤)



**Anti-Bullying strategy is important But I'd like to see an evaluation of this program - has it been effective at reducing instances of bullying/harm? If not, it needs to be rethought.**

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

3.7 ★★★★★ (20 👤)



**The Link programme when my son joined his High School was very good. It made him feel comfortable when he started High School.**

*Secondary Parents and Guardians - 1*

3.7 ★★★★★ (20 👤)



**Building inclusiveness into our schools**

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

3.7 ★★★★★ (19 👤)



**I think the school community at John McCrae has don a lot to ensure that when the grade 9's first enter the school they are partnered with a Link Crew member who helps mentor and transition the grade 9s to a new learning environment. This program should be encouraged and expanded in others schools.**

*Secondary Parents and Guardians - 3*

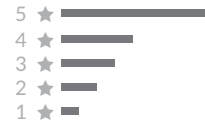
3.7 ★★★★★ (19)



**Leadership** It's important to have a Director that is passionate about the organization, the students and quality of service provided in the classroom.

*District Office and Centrally Assigned Staff*

3.7 ★★★★★ (18)



**Keen to keep bullying to a minimum** Safe environment

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.7 ★★★★★ (17)



**Providing an open and accepting learning enviroment** Helps reduce bullying within the school environment

*Secondary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.7 ★★★★★ (17)



**Safe learning environment, emphasis on prevention of bullying** Bullying reduces education experience for everyone, students as well as their parents do not feel safe with the student going to school

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.7 ★★★★★ (17)



**Inclusive learning environment** We live in a multi-cultural city

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.7 ★★★★★ (16)



**Office staff do their job well.** This keeps the school organised

*Community Members*

3.7 ★★★★★ (16)



**Teachers are doing well with fostering positive relationships between students and discouraging bullying behaviour.** All children should feel welcome and safe where they learn.

*Community Members*

3.7 ★★★★★ (15)



**Giving senior students more responsibility in their schools.** Promotes confidence and independence.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.7 ★★★★★ (9)



**Encourages teachers to use new programming like anti-bullying and growth mindset** Allows for personal growth of students, more holistic approach to education.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

3.7 ★★★★★ (5)



**Inclusivity** Everyone is welcome

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 1*

3.6 ★★★★★ (25)



**Good emphasis on diversity and anti-bullying** Creating a welcoming school environment in which all can thrive

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 2*

3.6 ★★★★★ (24)



**I'm so grateful for the emphasis on inclusion and anti-bullying. When I was a child, teachers turned a blind-eye to what went on in the play yard.** A child's mental wellbeing is required in order for them to learn and reach their potential. Schools need to foster wellbeing during school hours.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 2*

3.6 ★★★★★ (24)



**Principal engagement** A good leader drives the whole school community forward. Innovates and excites.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

3.6 ★★★★★ (24)



**Zero tolerance for bullying** This has led to children feeling empowered to speak up when they experience it or when they witness it.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 2*

3.6 ★★★★★ (24)



**You are great at supporting students who are transitioning from grade 8 to grade 9. The Link crew idea is fabulous along with the activities.** Great for shy or introverted kids. Eases stress + anxiety.

*Secondary Parents and Guardians - 4*

3.6 ★★★★★ (23)



**support for parent councils** good for parents to be engaged in child's school environment

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 2*

3.6 ★★★★★ (23)



**Placing emphasis on character building, community and relationship building helps to build future leaders. I have seen this at Avalon School this year** It is important to develop the character of our children to ensure we are creating a future generation who have a sense of community and empathy.

*Secondary Parents and Guardians - 4*

3.6 ★★★★★ (22)



**Creating awareness about environment and its protection and discussing issues such as bullying.**

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 2*

3.6 ★★★★★ (21)



**The Board recognizes that our schools are community schools and have strong ties to their respective communities. Each has a duty to serve and does.**

*Elementary Staff*

3.6 ★★★★★ (21)



**A commitment to creating caring school communities.**

*Elementary Staff*

3.6 ★★★★★ (20)



**Ensuring that students have a voice** Reaching today's child requires them to feel like they are part of the process

*Secondary Staff*

3.6  (20 )



**Transition between my kids schools have often been well thought out. invited to school functions in the year(s) preceeding transition such as plays, Concerts, bbq etc. Helps them with stress before change. They are excited to attend the new school etc**

*Community Members*

3.6  (20 )



**Welcoming and supportive of the FMNI community** Everyone should feel welcome, and people (students, staff, the community) need to be a space for people to learn and ask questions about FMNI issues

*District Office and Centrally Assigned Staff*

3.6  (20 )



**I am not sure how to answer this question as it truly depends on the principal and environment at each school. To me, well trained and competent leaders i.e principals do the bulk of the work to make a great school.**

*Secondary Parents and Guardians - 4*

3.6  (19 )



**Student Success Needed to serve all learners**

*Secondary Staff*

3.6  (19 )



**Inclusion** For kids to prepare for life outside of school

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

3.6  (17 )



**Leadership programs for children, inclusion and cohesion politics** It fosters social skills and instills values necessary in today's society

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.6  (17 )



**committed school community** inspires everyone to do well

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

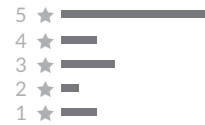
3.6 ★★★★★ (17)



**OCDSB has a well-developed and friendly community** It is important that such community exist so that we can help each other grow as people

*Students Grades 9 to 12*

3.6 ★★★★★ (16)



**Encouraging student voice** Providing updates at school council meetings

*Community Members*

3.6 ★★★★★ (14)



**LINK Crew** Helps to integrate 9th graders, giving them an easier time adapting to the high school environment and giving them leaders within the school to admire

*Students Grades 9 to 12*

3.6 ★★★★★ (14)



**Staff treat every student as a valued and empowered member of the community in each interaction.** Even when students are being disciplined, there seems to be a strong feeling of community and desire to work together to improve the team.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

3.6 ★★★★★ (13)



**Great job at teaching about different cultures** this reflects our values

*Community Members*

3.6 ★★★★★ (9)



**creating a nurturing and empathetic environment for the children** builds genuine self-confidence for the kids and makes them comfortable in their skin.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

3.6 ★★★★★ (6)

