



# fossoway school council

Friday, 7 May 2010

Dear Parents,

## **Parents night feedback**

Thank you to all of you who filled in the feedback forms that were available during the recent parents' nights. We've done some analysis of the results, and enclose one of the summaries. These look at the overall approval/disapproval ratings for each question, and we've coloured them green and red, to make it easy to see what's going on.

We asked you for your opinions on two things, the Education City homework module and the Sharing the Learning folder:

### **Education City**

The first questions were really about finding out how much you know about Education City and its use. We're pleased to see that your children have been talking to you about it. They're all using Education City in the classrooms, and most of them will have had some homework modules to complete. We were then interested in your opinion of the tool as something to get you more involved, and if it helped develop your child's skills. Most of you had positive responses to this. However, 10% thought that it wasn't helping with homework skills. Whilst this isn't a core objective, we would like to think it makes homework more exciting for the pupils.

### **Sharing the Learning**

We were pleased to see positive opinions on the folder contents, and not overly surprised at the responses for "My child was interested in sharing the folder". One of the key questions, about understanding how your child works in school, had 21% giving a negative response. We'll take that view forward with the school and see what can be done to improve this.

### **Comments**

Many of you left comments, and we've taken some of the main questions and given some answers on the next sheet. Your opinions are valued - we're pleased to see that the majority are positive, but the negatives are just as important, it shows what we need to target next. Staff would like to continue with the folders as a way of sharing learning with you and based on the comments you gave, will look to see how they can be improved.

Fossoway School Council



## **Questions and Answers: Education City and Sharing the Learning**

### **Why are we using computers for our childrens' learning?**

Computers are an important part of our world today and likely to be more so in 15 years time when our children will be going out into the world, looking for a job. They need to be taught the skills today for the world in 15 years time. It is for this reason that the use of technology is such an integral part of learning.

### **Education City doesn't get the children to use pen and paper?**

Agreed the homework module does not involve written work but it is all part of the learning process, consolidating and reinforcing written classroom work.

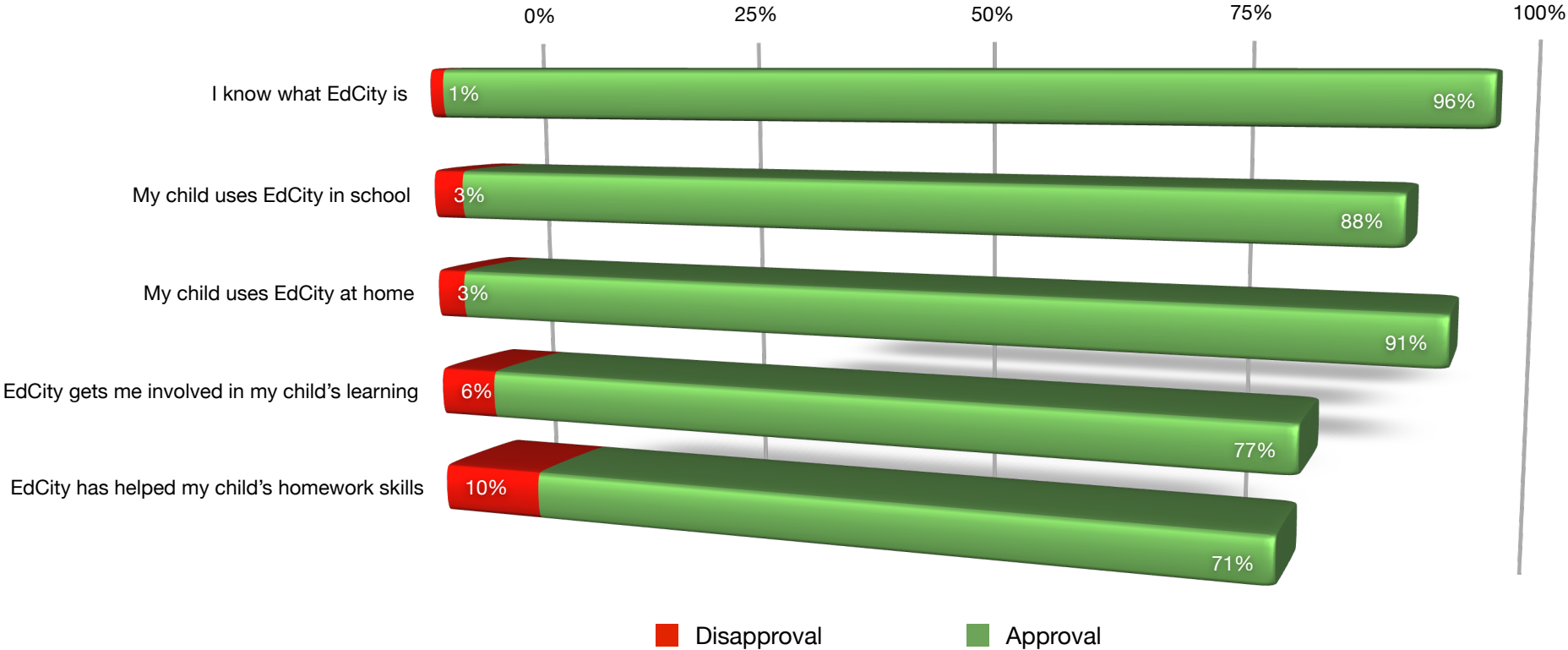
### **Education City could be more challenging?**

The tasks set are automatically ranged around the pupil's level, with some pitched at their level and some pitched lower and higher, just to keep them interested. The timer, is something we can't change though.

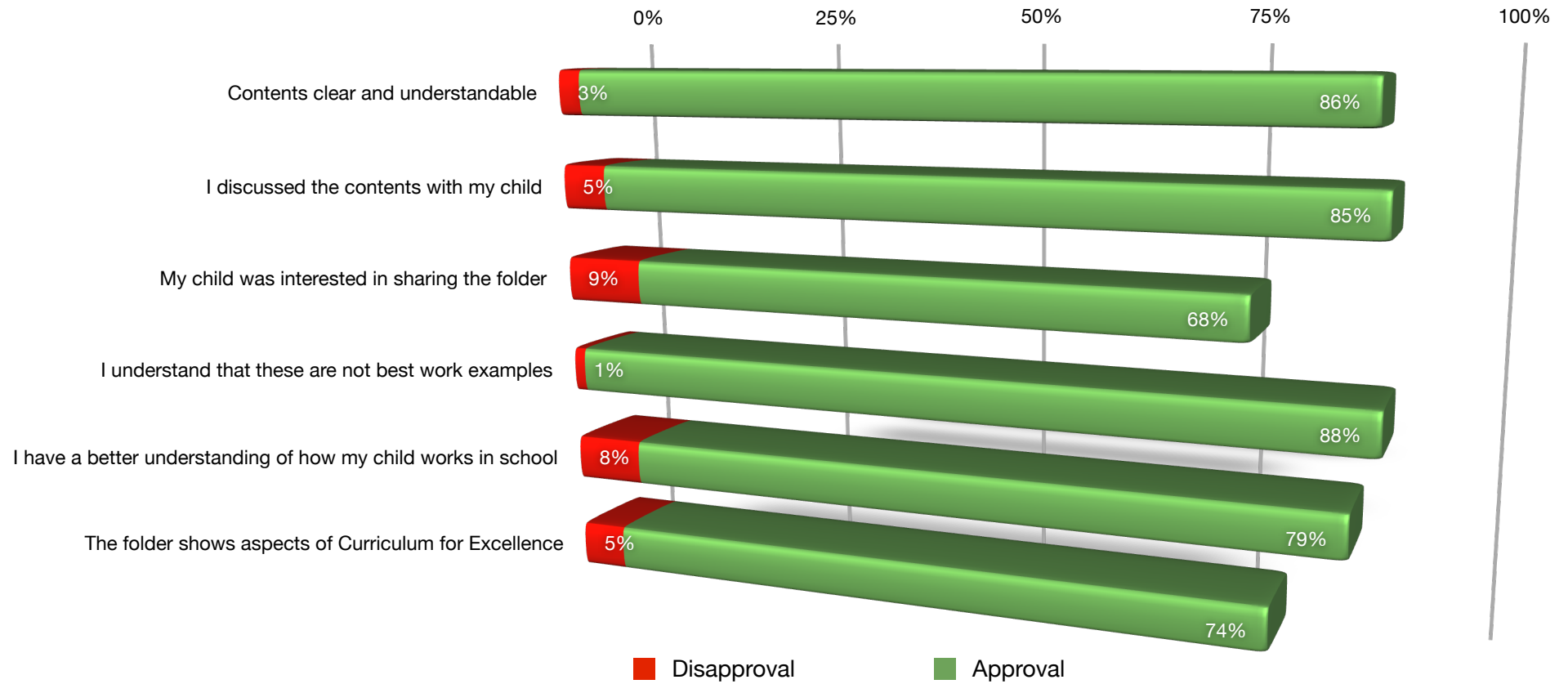
### **The Sharing the Learning folder must have taken a long time for teachers - shouldn't they be teaching instead of doing this?**

Evidence gathering is a huge part of the teaching job, and this folder is just a snapshot of what the teachers are doing all the time - the only difference is that parents got to see this particular folder.

# Education City



## Sharing the learning folder





## Comments received

- Dont' think that homework based around a computer screen at home is a goods idea. Supposed to be reducing the toxic influence of screens Homework folder a waste of teacher's time I don't need to police or see evidence of CfE - I see it at parent's evenings, open days, school visits and lots more. I trust school and teachers to educate my kids.
- Very happy
- I found the folder really useful and interesting
- Feel both Education City and Sharing the Learning folder are excellent - both allowing home discussion of work and a better understanding of my child's abilities
- Education City keeps my child interested. Curriculum for Learning is over complicated
- Education City and the Sharing the Learning folder are a fab way of getting an insight into what actually goes on at school instead of "nothing / fine"
- Education City is super for motivation but would like old fashioned pen/paper setting out too. Not challenging enough also. Folder - fabulous for current expectations. Well done Fossoway.
- Excellent presentation - really helped to understand the current education system as a whole and what the class are doing and my child on an individual level
- We had problems with logging on with Education City, so it did not work for us at home. The sharing folder was really great and enjoyed looking through it.
- I felt the folder was good to look through with the kids but felt that it was a lot of work for the teachers - is as much detail necessary? Will be a lovely record for future years to look back on.
- Education City is excellent in conjunction with written maths work.
- Time completing folder could be better utilised i.e. back to basics - reading, writing!! What the environment - all that paper!!
- The learning folder must make somebody somewhere happy!
- Education City - I think that this is more suitable for younger children. It is far removed from high School maths where maths has to be laid out on paper and workings shown. it is another tool for children to sit in front of a computer. Also the "timer" is very distracting for the child and could have negative effect (panic, rushing, not made the time etc.)
- The folder was fab but must have been so much work for the teachers! I TRUST you to educate my child in the best possible way. I KNOW how lucky we are to be here. I do not need proof - the proof is in my happy thriving children.
- Was not enough contribution of child work. Many of the pages only discussed Curr of Excel which is important but may have took up too much space in folder which could have shown more of what child capable of or what working on or towards.
- Nursery folder wasn't as useful as info on whiteboard and daily interaction with staff comprehensively covers activities taking place.
- So far the Education City homework has not been very challenging for the children/ I feel they're keen to do it so let's use the opportunity to stretch them! Additional work for school in preparing folder for each child doesn't match the benefit to the parents. We could find out this info direct form the teacher if we wanted it. Let teachers concentrate on teaching.
- Liked the folder but conscious it is more work for teachers. Just examples of work each week/fortnight would be helpful (though I liked the photos). The learning sheets that were brought home are good.
- If the sharing folder is onerous for the staff to provide/produce then I would be concerned that it takes away from teaching time. It as, however, a treat to see and share.
- Although it is lovely to see our children's work from learning objective through to evaluation, I am aware that this is a lot of work for teachers and seems to be primarily for parent's benefit.
- Great snapshot of different types of learning.
- It was excellent to see my child's work. Thank you.
- Love Education City.
- It was a bit waffly.
- Delighted to receive the learning folder. We get very little feedback from our sons on their school day