



Fast Track Project 2010-11: Wokingham



Final Project Report
March 2011

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarises a DfE funded Fast Track project to develop a service specification and action plan for holiday provision in the north of Wokingham, to meet the needs of working parents and their children.

The report presents the process and results of parent questionnaires issued through schools in two areas of the Wokingham Borough which had previously been identified as lacking comprehensive childcare provision for children of school age.

The data analyses presented in the appendices to the report indicate that there is indeed demand for provision. However, there are challenges to meeting that demand. In the urban part of the area, the challenges focus on the identification of appropriate premises. In the rural area to the north of Wokingham, the challenge is to provide a service which both meets local needs, and also draws on sufficient demand to ensure that the provision is sustainable.

The family stories shared through the questionnaires serve as a reminder of the uniqueness of each family's circumstances and of differences between localities.

This suggests there are two possible approaches to the development of new childcare places. The first is to take a very localized approach based on school-based and childminder provision to meet local community needs, and offering localized flexibility – this would appear to be the way forward in Winnersh. The second – or possibly parallel approach – is to develop comprehensive wrap-around provision in a centralized place, and this may be appropriate in North Wokingham, in order to access potential demand from all of the communities in the area.

A regular strategic meeting between the Wokingham childcare team manager and Extended Services adviser should be considered a priority for future development of childcare provision, to ensure that resources are focused on the needs represented by parents and carers.

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1. Introduction

4Children is pleased to present this report to Wokingham Borough Council Children's Services as a result of Fast Track support funded by the Department for Education (DfE) towards ensuring access to sufficient good quality childcare for school aged children.

2. Background

Following a Fast Track project in 2009-10, two gaps in childcare provision for school age children were identified in the Borough:

- The Winnersh area.
- The rural area to the north of the borough.

In 2009-10, a questionnaire was designed and issued to parents and carers through Winnersh and Bearwood Primary Schools (Appendix 1). The 2010-11 Fast Track project commenced with the analysis of these questionnaires. In the second phase of the project, the questionnaire was re-designed for use in the rural area with specific reference to holiday provision.

The aim of the project was to ascertain the views of parents and carers as to the need for future childcare, in order to assess demand and develop services which meet the needs of local families. Although analysis of current provision had identified gaps, it was important to establish the level of demand before proceeding to develop additional childcare services.

This information will also contribute to Wokingham Borough Council's 2011 update to its Childcare Sufficiency Audit.

3. Data Collection

3.1 Desk Based Research

This section consists of an edited version of a report provided for the early years team in 2010. The data derives from a review of data provided by FIS, together with the Childcare Assessment 2008, and the Wokingham Borough and other websites. This report focuses on the north of the Borough as a description of the Winnersh area is included in the 2009-10 Fast Track report.

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Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) is a unitary authority, primarily urban, close to the M25 and with direct rail links to London and Reading. The line runs through Winnersh, and there are two stations in the town, suggesting that there is a commuter population travelling to both London and Reading. The second station serves Winnersh Triangle, a large business complex. The Winnersh conurbation is situated either side of the busy A329, which runs from Wokingham to Reading.

The area to the north of the borough is more rural in nature, and this part of the project grew out of a concern that children living in the rural areas of Wokingham Borough should be able to access the range of provision available to those in the urban areas. In particular, the childcare team identified an issue around access to holiday provision in the rural north of the Borough. A successful holiday project led by the Sports Development Team closed, following concerns raised by community members, and left a gap in local services. The Play team delivers mobile activities during the holiday period at various locations, but this does not include an all day offer. The early years team therefore perceived a gap in provision which needed further research.

Wokingham's Childcare Assessment 2008 highlighted gaps in provision across the Borough. It did not specifically refer to gaps in holiday services, but more generally indicated a need to monitor the need for childcare for school aged children in most areas, including the north. Figure 12 of the Assessment showed that 43 providers in the north neighbourhood area offered holiday provision at the time of data collection for the assessment – although not divided by types of provider, this will include full-time nurseries, and the majority must be childminders. It does not, therefore, clarify the access available for school aged children.

Children's Services are delivered in 7 children's services areas, each one with 'integrated early years education and childcare, schools, youth services, leisure and recreation, health services and community policing by 2010'(CYPP 2006-09). The north children's services area is largely coterminous with 5 wards: Sonning, Charvil, Twyford, Hurst and Remenham, Wargrave & Ruscombe. The table below shows data derived from national data sources for these 5 wards, sourced from neighbourhoodstatistics.gov.uk.

	Twyford	Hurst	Remenham, Wargrave & Ruscombe	Sonning	Charvil	Wokingham Borough
Total no. of children	1,105	675	1,145	665	740	33,920
Children under 5	335	185	260	170	190	8,525
Children 5-10	340	220	330	185	250	10,655
Children 11-15	275	195	385	215	195	9,800
Children 16-19	150	75	170	95	105	4,945
No. Families claiming child benefit	640	370	595	365	405	18,805
All households	2,446	1,081	2,251	1,117	1,077	57,272

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Households with no cars	290	51	198	104	68	5,281
Lone parent households	69	35	61	58	38	2,152
Income Support Claimants – Lone Parents	15	10	Not provided	10	0	620
Average Weekly Household Income Estimate	830	1,050	1,030	870	1,030	Not found; 660 for South East

This data shows that there are relatively small numbers of children in this area, particularly when it is noted that these numbers are spread across the rural areas. This suggests that it would be impossible for each community to support an after-school club, and therefore that a stand-alone club would probably need to draw on the whole of this population, or at least on more than one ward. There are very small numbers of lone parent households, and a total of 35 of these are claiming income support. The great majority of households have at least one car, and average weekly income is considerably higher than the average across the South East of £660. However, it is also clear that small numbers of benefit dependent families are to be found within these communities.

(Please note that due to the time lag of census and other data collection methods, this data will be several years old by the time it is published.)

Employment rates are considerably higher than the national average, but data does not yet evidence the impact of the current economic environment. It is possible that higher than average incomes in this area put less pressure on women and therefore that more choose to stay at home for a period with their children, but it is equally possible that the higher income suggests professional working women are contributing to two income households. A question on household employment has been included in the parent/carer questionnaire.

The website welcomehome.co.uk quotes the average house price for properties in Crazies Hill, Wargrave and Twyford as £346234 which is £135656 above the national average house price.

The railway station at Twyford links the village immediately to Reading and on into London, providing easy access for commuters. Twyford is also the terminus for the line to Henley on Thames, which stops at Wargrave. The A329 links Wargrave to Wokingham (8.5 miles), travelling through the communities of Hurst and Twyford.

3.2 Fieldwork - Part 1: Winnersh area

A questionnaire was issued to parents through the two primary schools in the area - the Winnersh Primary School and Bearwood School in 2010. Responses were collated into

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reports which were submitted to the schools and to the Borough early years and extended services officers.

90 completed forms were returned to Winnersh School and 92 forms to Bearwood School. The analyses of these questionnaires are attached to this report as Appendices 2 and 3. Although the numbers of forms returned were similar, the responses were distinct to each school community, confirming the view of Council officers that provision should be developed at both schools, but following a different development trajectory.

At Winnersh School, the demand for formal childcare provision to support working parents was clear from the results of the questionnaire. Indeed, it was clear that many parents felt they had waited too long for this provision. The process of responding to parent demand in order to develop school-based childcare, and specifically to identify appropriate space for a provision to serve the families of Winnersh school is continuing at the time of writing (March 2011), facilitated by the early years and childcare team.

At Bearwood, the headteacher had already commenced plans for a drop-off service. The questionnaire results confirmed that a phased approach towards wrap-around care is appropriate. It was not clear that there was an immediate demand for provision to enable parents to work, but the school is committed to gradually developing a service based on an analysis of the success of the drop-off provision.

3.3 Part 2: North Wokingham

The questionnaire was amended for use in the rural area, in order to address the rural context and focus on holiday provision, as requested by the early years and childcare team. The results of this questionnaire were analysed at school level, and collated into a report on the rural area. These reports are attached as Appendices 4 to 10, and key findings from those reports are summarized below.

4 Summary of Findings

4.1 Winnersh

Reports were issued to the early years and childcare teams and the Winnersh and Bearwood Schools, summarizing the results of the questionnaires in May 2010 (see appendices 2 and 3). Since the survey was completed, the Wokingham childcare team have supported Winnersh School to continue the process towards developing wrap-around provision.

4.2 North Wokingham

The initial aim was to present a single analysis of the parent questionnaires across the rural area. However, towards the end of the project, the Childcare Manager requested school level reports on behalf of each of the 6 schools participating in the survey. The individual reports show the importance of considering results at the school level (see Appendices 5-10), as there is considerable variation in the results for each school community, reflecting the very local nature of small rural communities. It is important to acknowledge that needs in each of these communities are not identical. However, it is also important to acknowledge that sustainable holiday provision will need to draw on more than one school community to ensure there is sufficient take-up. This is particularly clear when looking at the number of weeks that parents are likely to make use of provision.

A total of 122 respondents across the north Wokingham area (see Appendix 4) indicated that they are interested in accessing childcare provision during the school holidays, with a further 73 indicating they would be interested 'Eventually', within the following timescales:

- Within a year – 54
- Within 3 years – 44
- More than 3 years - 2

Interest was spread fairly equally across the week, and a total of 59 respondents indicated that they are interested in provision for the whole week. A large majority of respondents were looking for whole day provision. Across the north area, a total of 54 respondents indicated that their need for provision in the summer holidays is for 4 weeks or more. School level analyses show that the number of parents seeking holiday provision in the summer for more than 4 weeks is very small in each individual school. This highlights the dilemma of trying to provide appropriate sustainable holiday provision in small rural communities – most parents want local provision, preferably at their own school, but numbers are not high enough at each school to guarantee sustainability. Therefore providers must consider centralized provision in the area, or move around the locality, as with the current mobile provision. Any potential provider will need to tackle this challenge creatively.

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The North Wokingham summary provided at Appendix 4, together with the school level analyses, demonstrates that there is a clear need for additional childcare provision throughout the area. Although it is clear there is a demand for provision during the school holiday period, respondents also highlighted gaps in pre-school and before and after school provision, specifically to cover the hours of working parents who also need time to travel to work. The need is for an all day offer, rather than the shorter hours offered by the current mobile provision. However, the latter is highly valued by users, and therefore it is suggested that WBC officers consider how to combine the best of the play provision with a wrap around offer (see below).

5 Next Steps

5.1 Winnersh

The early years and childcare team continues to explore potential venues close to the school with existing childcare providers, as the school indicates that there is no? capacity on the school site.

5.2 North Wokingham

Appendix 4 summarises the findings of the parent questionnaires and includes possible next steps. Any future development should take account of the following issues:

1. Consultation

The project brief included actions to consult with other agencies, including youth services, sports development staff and existing childcare providers. However, this was not completed in the time available. It would provide a richer picture than that obtained from the parent questionnaires only. It is also important that as part of the development process, there should be longer conversations or focus groups with parents to ensure that the provision is developed in an inclusive way to meet the needs of families.

2. Childminders

The survey findings suggest that parents are failing to find childminder provision to meet their needs, particularly as their children reach school age, but also at the pre-school phase. Some local authorities are recruiting childminders specifically to provide holiday places for school aged children and training them in playwork through Skills Active. This encourages a facilitating approach, enabling access to a whole range of activities, rather than simply care within the childminder's home. For example childminders could provide a link service to the mobile play scheme, offering drop-off or pick-up.

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It may be appropriate to launch a recruitment and development process which uses a different term to describe childminders, for example 'Home Based Playworkers' or 'One Stop Holiday Scheme' etc, to change the image for older children. This may also provide business opportunities for parents who are looking to return to work in the area, but who are currently reluctant to travel to work due to their own family commitments.

3. Mobile Play Scheme

The quality and value of the mobile provision is repeatedly reinforced in parents' comments. However, the statistics of usage are not high. It is therefore suggested that the play scheme be extended by the addition of breakfast, lunch and tea, to be offered at a self-funding rate, thus offering wrap-around for those parents who need longer hours to enable them to work, whilst retaining the central 'play' service in the middle of the day. Link childminders could still offer pick up at the end of the day.

It may also be appropriate to think again about the value of offering this scheme from one location, rather than from several. In addition to charging for meal times, a small charge of perhaps £2-3 for all users could be considered in order to increase sustainability. However, any impact on inclusion would need to be considered carefully.

4. FIS

Respondents rarely mentioned the FIS, although it is likely that information they accessed via school, magazines and websites derived from FIS. However, it is clear that there is capacity to further advertise the FIS brand to ensure that parents know where to address queries.

5.3 Strategic Direction

The Fast Track project has been hampered by challenges faced by small teams, and this report is written in a context of reduction in government funding for councils. In this context, it is suggested that a regular strategic meeting between the childcare team manager and Extended Services adviser should be considered a priority for future development of childcare provision, to ensure that resources are focused on the needs represented by parents and carers. This regular planning and 'healthcheck' meeting will feed into the childcare sufficiency process.

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6. Project Outcomes and Conclusion

The aim of this project was to determine whether there was sufficient demand from parents and carers to justify a process of development of additional childcare provision in two areas of Wokingham. The analyses of the questionnaires suggest that there is indeed demand. However, the family stories shared through the questionnaires serve as a reminder of the uniqueness of each family's circumstances and of differences between localities.

This suggests there are two possible approaches to the development of new childcare places. The first is to take a very localized approach based on school-based and childminder provision to meet local community needs, and offering localized flexibility – this would appear to be the way forward in Winnersh. The alternative – or possibly parallel approach – is to develop comprehensive wrap-around provision in a centralized place, and this may be appropriate in North Wokingham, in order to access potential demand from all of the communities in the area.

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4. Do you use childcare for your school aged children during term time? Please tick all that apply and add any comment:

	/	Hours per week	Comment
Childminder Before School			
Childminder After School			
Breakfast Club			
Other Before School Provision			
After School Club			
After School Activities			
Friends or Family			
Other:			

5. Please tell us why you use childcare provision?

	/	Comment
Work Commitments		
Social time for child		
Other:		

6. How easy is it to find the information you need about childcare availability and quality? Please circle the response which applies.

Very Easy Mostly Easy Quite Difficult Very Difficult

7. Where do you find the most useful information?

.....

8. (a) To what extent, if any, have you experienced difficulty in accessing childcare in your area?

.....

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(b) What impact has this had on your family life or situation?

.....

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9. Are you interested in accessing childcare provision during the school holidays?
(Please circle as appropriate)

Yes No Eventually

10. If you answered eventually, when is that likely to be?

Within a year Within 3 years More than 3 years

11. If you answered yes, during which days, and at what time (eg. am, pm, all day), would you need childcare?

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri

12. What time would you need childcare provision to start and finish?

Start time.....Finish time.....

12. During which school holidays are you most likely to use childcare?

Spring half term Easter Summer half term

Summer holidays Autumn half term

13. For how many weeks would you expect to use provision in the summer holidays?
(Please circle as appropriate)

1 week 2-3 weeks 4-5 weeks The whole holiday

14. Would you be willing to travel into Wokingham to drop your child at excellent provision?

Yes No

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Appendix 2: Winnersh School

Winnersh Primary Parent and Carer Survey: Preliminary Report

Introduction: Family Information

Questionnaires were distributed through the 355 school pupils and the adjacent pre-school. 90 completed forms which had been returned to the school were analysed, representing 148 children, 38 of whom were 3 & 4, 61 were 5-7 and 49 were aged 8-11.

The majority of respondents lived within the school's postcode area RG41 5... Less than 20 respondents lived outside this postcode, indicating that this is a very local school community, and this is reinforced by the indication that a large majority of respondents indicated that their children walk to school (113 children). 74 children travel to school by car on some days. One family travel to school by train.

No information was provided by parents and carers to indicate that their children had specific requirements which needed to be considered. However, written comments highlighted the importance of considering the needs of siblings of different ages, with one family indicating that their children had been allocated different primary schools, leading to travel by taxi.

Current Childcare Arrangements

	Before school	After school	School holidays
Child-minder	13	28	13
After school club		2	5
After school activities	1	19	5
Friend/family member	13	25	23

The above table summarises respondents' current use of childcare, showing that care by family and friends is still the most widely used category of childcare. Comments made in this section of the questionnaire show that a further 12 respondents indicated that they make use of activity and sports clubs during the school holidays, but do this not only for childcare reasons, but also for the children to enjoy the activities and company of their peers. Those using activity clubs after school also value them for the social opportunities they provide. For example, I parent commented 'If there was space I might infrequently use an after school or breakfast club, but not on a regular basis. I like the current arrangements of various after school activities which allow my child to learn new skills/sports'. Two families have an au pair/nanny to cover their childcare needs, but many more describe how they share childcare responsibilities outside the school day between parents and with the help of family and friends. Examples are given below:

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- My mum has kids on a Wed and childminder on Thurs or Fri.
- Will be difficult once back @ work, probably rely on family.
- My husband and I try to share the school holidays.

Almost all respondents indicated that they use childcare in order to be able to work, and some described the impact of childcare arrangements on the decision to seek work and on working patterns:

- One of us has to come home early from work & log in from home.
- Come back early from work.
- Currently I work school hours (term time) so I only need care for my youngest who is at nursery/preschool.
- Not working at present due to lack of childcare provision in this local area.
- Both parents work – one full-time and the other self-employed but seeking employment part-time. If this happens, a breakfast club may also be useful.
- At present I have no need for before and after school care, but if you did provide it then I would really consider going back to work.
- It's having the option that influences working decision. In other words, one parent is avoiding jobs that start/end at certain times because school clubs like this are not available. Chicken v. egg.
- At the moment I have chosen to wait to return to work due to the severe lack of adequate childcare in the local area. On talking to other Mums it seems apparent that this is an issue for them too.

Others currently continue to use nursery provision for their youngest children, but recognize that they will not be able to do this over the longer term. For these families, a child entering school full time represents a particular challenge as they have been used to using childcare for a longer period in the child's early years:

- Nursery after school and holiday club in school holidays.
- Currently returning to nursery but will change to childminder in Sep once child full-time.
- Youngest child currently in nursery 8-6 but will join school in Jan.

Some parents are not happy with their current complex childcare arrangements. Some described existing childminder arrangements as complex, highlighting school pick up arrangements, holidays and sickness, while others describe their childminding arrangements as 'convenient'. Some respondents also acknowledged that their family 'juggling' is not an ideal solution:

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- I am a working parent. I use a childminder but it's a very complex arrangement as she doesn't drop off or pick up from Winnersh Primary. I rely on friends to act as a taxi service from school to the childminder...– I feel that we desperately need a breakfast & after school.
- Prefer after school clubs as the children get social interaction. Child minders get sick and need holidays.
- If childminder sick/hols etc. difficult to cover this would be guaranteed cover for child except holidays/inset days.
- We have 3 children and it's a logistical challenge to manage. We are lucky that we have been able to adapt working hours to suit and cause minimal disruption and stress but if this facility were provided it would be a considerable help.

Future use of childcare

53 of the 90 respondents indicated that they are currently interested in using a breakfast club or after school club, with a further 23 indicating they would be interested 'Eventually'. 48 respondents were interested in accessing a breakfast club and 72 interested in an after school club for the reasons summarized in the table below:

To gain employment	18
To help present employment	53
To extend working hours	29
To undertake training	5
Social group for child	18
None of the above	1

23 respondents indicated that they would like to use a breakfast club 5 days per week, and 30 respondents would like to use an after school club 5 days per week. Other use was spread across the week as shown below:

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	5 DAYS
Breakfast	9	9	13	9	8	23
After School	14	17	20	16	11	30

Not sure – 6

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Preferred times were as shown below, and suggest that the need is for clear before and after school clubs open from 8am-6pm, rather than for a shorter drop-off and pick-up service:

Breakfast	7.30	8.00	8.15
Start	14	27	9
After School	4.00	5.00	6.00
Finish	5	26	41

Respondents' preference is for provision on the school site, as shown below, although there is interest in the option of a walking bus to off-site provision. One respondent indicated that s/he didn't know what a walking bus is, and it is possible that good dissemination of information would encourage parents to use provision with this service available. The number of respondents interested in using childminders is perhaps surprising small, but this should be sign in the context of the number of children already using childminders as shown above.

School Premises	76
Off-site with additional charge for transport	20
Off-site with walking bus	32
Home-based childminder	10

Most parents agreed that the average costs for Wokingham provision which were provided in the questionnaire were 'reasonable', with several commenting on the importance of quality, and the need for provision to facilitate inclusion in after school activities. The need for a sibling discount was also highlighted in order to make the provision affordable for families with several children. Respondents also wanted clarification on the length of sessions. Examples of comments are included below:

- £7-10 is reasonable and would enable children to take part in after school sporting activities, which is difficult at the moment as most finish at 4.30pm.
- Most important consideration is child's welfare. She loves company of other children, so flexible on cost if it meets our combined needs.
- Anything would be considered as getting any employment around children is difficult at present.
- The cost would depend on hours available and what the before/after school club offer (breakfast/light snack) also what facilities they have for the children.
- It would be good if the school held after school homework club and I would be happy to pay £5 each child.
- I would pay up to £10 a session depending on what it included. I would really benefit from an after school club as it would save me money & encourage my daughter to integrate with other children in a similar situation to her own.
- Trusted flexible arrangements rather than permanent arrangement hopefully structured

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use of time between play, activities, fun etc. Please start!

- If the children are staying at school and being supervised by trained staff I would be happy to pay up to £10 per session.
- Before & after school clubs would open a lot more opportunities for parents, like myself, seeking employment that fits with school pick up / drop off requirements.

Some parents had positive ideas to contribute, or strong views on how provision should work:

- I would be more than happy to pay up to £5 per hour (ideally with a sibling discount for more than one child. Would someone like Premier Sports offer extended after school clubs like they do in school holidays? If they did 3.15-5.45 they could do different activities for 1-1.5 hr, and then have snacks/rest time half way through.
- £3-5 = reasonable; £7-11 excessive, considering that there will be a larger number of children and free premises at a school.
- Our last school had breakfast club £2 for morning.
- Clubs on school premises shouldn't cost more than about £4 per session.
- I would be happy to pay the (£7-11) cost of an after school or before school club as there are not enough 'suitable' childminders with drop offs and pick ups from Winnersh that suits may family's needs. Childcare provision in Winnersh Primary has been long awaited and much needed. I would be very disappointed if Winnersh Primary felt it was unable to provide a service that has been much needed. As the school has not responded to requests in the past positively many parents having 'given' up approaching the school for such a service, so this questionnaire provides a glimmer of hope. I hope that this is something that Winnersh Primary School is seriously considering rather than paying 'lip service' to the governments agenda by asking for parents' views and needs. I would be delighted to provide any further information regarding my experiences of the felt needs of working parents with children at Winnersh Primary.
- Important it is run by the school/council & not outsourced so that any profit goes back to school/council
- I consider under £10 an hour acceptable and would prefer it to be based around structured activities ie. Sport, languages, crafts etc to assist in learning development and growth for the child as well as making it more enjoyable.

Many respondents emphasized the importance of provision which facilitated access to after school activities, rather than reducing this in any way. This is clearly important in a school which offers a wide range of such activities. There is also an emerging theme of the importance of good information about childcare and the different options, including activity clubs, childminders and more traditional after school clubs, and the detail of pick up, holiday and sickness arrangements,. Helpfully, the school website currently highlights the contact details of the Family Information Service, and it would be useful to build on this to ensure parents have excellent information, particularly in the context of interest generated by the survey.

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Holiday Provision

The questionnaire asked separately about interest in holiday provision. 43 respondents indicated they were interested in using such provision, 25 responded 'no' and 20 'eventually'. The spread of days was as shown below, indicating that interest is spread fairly equally across the week and that 27 respondents are interested in provision for the whole week:

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	ALL 5
AM	2	2	3		2	2
PM		1				1
All day	10	12	17	14	9	27

Not sure – 5

When asked what time they would need the childcare provision to start and finish, all except 2 respondents were looking for whole day provision, mostly from 8am to 6pm, with only 8 seeking care prior to 8am. The table below shows which holidays respondents were interested in, although it should be noted that only 8 indicated they would use childcare for the whole of the summer holidays – 6 respondents wanted 1 week only; 31 wanted 2-3 weeks, and 14 wanted 4-5 weeks: this raises some issues with regard to sustainability.

Which school holidays are you be most likely to use?

Spring half term	25
Easter	41
Summer half term	28
Summer holidays	55
Autumn half term	26

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Appendix 3: Bearwood School

Introduction: Family Information

Questionnaires were distributed through the 218 school pupils. 92 completed forms were returned to the school, representing 150 children, including pre-schoolers, from 86 families (after identifying duplicates). The age breakdown was as follows:

3 & 4 year olds – 38, 5-7 year olds – 53, 8-11 year olds - 59.

The majority of respondents lived within the school's postcode area RG41 5... Only 12 forms were returned by respondents living outside this postcode, indicating that this is a very local school community. 97 children walk to school, with 91 travelling by car on at least some days, suggesting that a switch between car and walking might depend on parental responsibilities and work patterns. No children travel to school by bus.

Four respondents indicated that their children had specific requirements to be taken account of in any childcare development, due to Autism, Aspergers, ADHD and ASD.

Current Childcare Arrangements

	Before school	After school	School holidays
Child-minder	3	2	4
After school club	2	7	1
After school activities		10	2
Friend/family member	19	27	27

The above table summarises respondents' current use of childcare, showing that care by family and friends is still the most widely used category of childcare and that formal provision is used very little. A further 3 respondents indicated in the comments that they make use clubs during the school holidays, and 2 respondents were childminders themselves, taking care of their own children alongside those from other families. However, use of childminders is low, suggesting there may be room for further childminding development work. Two respondents indicated that their use of activities was for the benefit of the children, not in order to work, and this theme of the importance of retaining out of school activities recurs in comments made throughout the questionnaire.

One family has an au pair to cover their childcare needs, but others describe how they share childcare responsibilities outside the school day, working flexibly and managing responsibilities between parents and with the help of family and friends. Examples are given below:

- Ourselves, if work interferes, then friend.
- I have been working from home which has assisted in not having to arrange childcare. We try and work around the children.

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- I work 4 evenings a week so my partner/ children's father looks after them.
- I don't have any (childcare), I take my children to school, go to work, then pick them up.
- I'm a housewife and full-time Mum
- I work from home so don't need any childcare.

Almost all respondents using childcare indicated that they use provision in order to be able to work, and one respondent indicated that decisions regarding work are dependent on the provision of childcare:

- I have given up work, as cost of childcare doesn't make it a viable option. However, if the school provided appropriate care I may be able to rethink.

This issue of balancing pay and childcare costs is raised again by respondents when commenting directly on possible charging levels.

Future use of childcare

Only 11 respondents indicated that they definitely intended to use the new morning drop-off service at the school, but 27 indicated that they 'possibly' might, suggesting that there is considerable opportunity to develop this provision gradually, as success leads to further engagement of families still thinking this through.

28 respondents would be interested in a one-hour drop-off service, with a further 6 responding possibly/eventually.

30 of the 86 families indicated that they are currently interested in using a breakfast club or after school club, with a further 25 indicating they would be interested 'Eventually'. From the total of 55 responding Yes or Eventually, 30 respondents were interested in a breakfast club and 53 in an after school club for the reasons summarized below:

To gain employment	14
To help present employment	26
To extend working hours	18
To undertake training	9
Social group for child	24

3 respondents also indicated that childcare would provide a support to other family members undertaking childcare responsibilities, including enabling other school runs.

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12 respondents indicated that they would like to use a breakfast club 5 days per week – this is comparable with the 11 who definitely intend to use the new drop-off service. 23 respondents would like to use an after school club 5 days per week. Other use was spread across the week as shown below:

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	5 DAYS
Breakfast	2	4	3	4	3	12
After School	6	12	11	9	3	23

Not sure – 5

Preferred times were as shown below, and suggest that the need is for longer hours than would be provided by drop-off and pick-up service. **However, this data should be treated with caution, bearing in mind that nearly half of those wanting to use childcare want to do so 'eventually':**

Breakfast	7.30	8.00	8.15
Start	16	10	2
After School	4.00	5.00	6.00
Finish	11	15	20

Respondents' preference is for provision on the school site, as shown below (this figure is higher than the total of respondents indicating Yes or Eventually when asked if they are interested in accessing childcare, indicating some inconsistency in responses), although there is interest in the option of a walking bus to off-site provision. The number of respondents interested in using childminders is surprisingly small, again suggesting that there is potential for promotion of childminding services:

School Premises	59
Off-site with additional charge for transport	13
Off-site with walking bus	29
Home-based childminder	6

Costs

Due to the clear importance of this issue to respondents, all direct comments on charges for childcare are reproduced below. Respondents are clearly concerned about the average charges quoted in the questionnaire and also raise important issues about charging policies,

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suggesting that the charge for ad hoc use could be higher than that for regular booked use of the services, that it must be clear how many hours and what services (eg. food) are included in charges, how new provision relates to existing after school activities, and that a discount for siblings is essential for larger families. The majority suggest that a charge of £3-4 per hour would be acceptable.

- £3-4.00 would be reasonable for an hour as the service would be based at the school. Also, there are free after school clubs on offer for an hour.
- £5 per hour but depends on affordability for different people. Personally cost isn't an issue but to assist low income families would need to be low or subsidized.
- The costs are fair. There is a lack of childminders.
- £3-4 per hour would be reasonable if using everyday or more if you only use occasionally.
- All of the above seem reasonable depending on facilities like being fed, safe environment.
- £11 session would be in my opinion too expensive. Reasonable prices per session would be £5 maximum – the children are in a safe environment playing. They are not being tutored as a group, hence £11 would be unrealistic. A drop-off/in service would be ideal – safe playing environment with refreshments provided from home.
- £3 per hour.
- A one hour pick up service at £3 as I have 4 children to pay for.
- £3-4.
- £8-9.
- We currently pay £4/hour.
- If an after school club costs from £7 and a childminder costs from £3, I would prefer the childminder. I don't think an after school club should cost more than £3 per hour. What's the point in leaving a child with whoever when it costs as much or more than you would get paid in your own job?
- £7-11 is not unreasonable cost, however, the cheaper the service the more likely it is that I would use it more.
- £3-5 because the £7-11 can be more expensive for those like myself who have two or more children and can get help with child tax credit.
- I feel between £3-5 would be appropriate as more children = more profit, compared to childminder. However, if activities provided would consider cost slightly higher.
- Hourly wouldn't want to pay more than £5.
- £8-9 depending on facilities and food.
- I think £3 is reasonable because most people have more than 1 child and more than that and the costs would quickly mount up.
- £5-6 is acceptable but from £7 onwards is over-priced, too expensive.
- Being on a low income, I feel the prices are quite high even if they're averagely priced. It would depend on what job I eventually go back to (after having my baby) as what I would sort for childcare.
- To make it worthwhile to increase my hours I would not want to pay more than £10 a session, but it would depend on whether food was provided and the hours taken.
- £3-5.
- A one hour pick up service at £3 as I have 4 children to pay for.
- We use after school clubs partly because they are free. If you start charging I can not

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say whether we would continue to use the service. I pay for nursery lunch club because I can afford to. Any additional costs for after school activities, currently offered at no charge, would be unwelcome.

- £3 I find reasonable as I have 4 children and if I were to use your service would cost me £60 p.w. for 1 hour per day. I could not afford that in one go so I would probably have to pass on this occasion.
- £3-5.
- I would find charges similar to those paid to childminders reasonable. I would only need to access after school care so my 2 1/2 year old can finish his paid for nursery session without me having to collect him early which I currently do in order to be at school on time for pick up. As my children's 'childminder' I can't afford to pay much as I'm already paying for my youngest nursery fees.
- £3 if needed regularly; £5 max on ad hoc basis.
- £4 for a one hour pick up service is reasonable – this is the average for childminders.
- £3 reasonable considering families have to budget.
- Depends on frequency of use.
- £3 cause if anymore it will mean for me it won't make it worthwhile.
- I would be happy to pay £7-11 per session for the after school club – this would also be a huge help if children could do their homework.

These comments together highlight the challenge of developing provision which is accessible by large families and those on limited incomes, whilst also ensuring profitability, encouraging wider use by keeping costs at an acceptable level.

Holiday Provision

The questionnaire asked separately about interest in holiday provision. 24 respondents indicated they were interested in using such provision, 42 responded 'no' and 16 'eventually'. The spread of days was as shown overleaf, indicating that interest is spread across the week, but slightly lower on Monday and Friday, and that 21 respondents are interested in provision for the whole week:

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	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	ALL 5
AM	2	4	4	3	1	1
PM	2	2	2	1		2
All day	3	5	6	3	4	21

Not sure – 4

When asked what time they would need the childcare provision to start and finish, the majority of respondents are looking for whole day provision, starting from 8.30 or 9am, with only 3 respondents looking for provision prior to 8am. The table below shows which holidays respondents were interested in, although it should be noted that only 5 indicated they would use childcare for the whole of the summer holidays – 3 respondents wanted 1 week only; 22 wanted 2-3 weeks, and 10 wanted 4-5 weeks: this raises some issues with regard to sustainability.

Which school holidays are you be most likely to use?

Spring half term	8
Easter	22
Summer half term	11
Summer holidays	39
Autumn half term	9

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Appendix 4: North Wokingham Summary

North Wokingham Parent and Carer Survey: Preliminary Report

An Introduction to School Level Reports and Area Summary

This report provides an introduction to the report provided for each school. It combines the data from all reports, but does not repeat the comments made by respondents which can be read in the school level reports. Although the combined data in this report indicates that there is demand for additional childcare provision, it is clear that some parents are more able and willing to travel to access provision, while others can only access that which is very local. Many also value localized services which enable their children to spend time with children they already know. Several respondents commented on their preference for school-based provision.

This preference must be set against the numbers who indicate they are willing to travel into Wokingham for excellent provision. The latter suggests that there are marketing opportunities for existing provision in the north Wokingham area.

This report ends with points for further consideration, action and research.

1. Family Information

- 292 forms were returned to the participating schools.
- These represented 466 children, whose ages were as shown below:

Age	All	3 and 4	5-7	8-11
No.	466	88	215	164

Postcode:

The majority of respondents lived within the school's postcode ie. very locally.

Employment profile of parents:

- 263 parents work full-time
- 130 parents work part-time
- 53 are self-employed
- 70 describe themselves as full-time carers.

236 of the 292 respondents provided employment status for 2 parents, with the most common pattern being one full-time worker, and one part-time. However, responses showed that even where one parent was working part-time, childcare was still being used to provide cover for working hours, and several respondents commented specifically that annual leave did not cover all school holiday periods.

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The large number of families using family members and friends to provide at least some childcare cover suggests that many live close to their extended families, but other respondents emphasized the challenges they face without relatives who live close by.

2. Current Childcare Arrangements: School Holidays

	No.
Parents	249
Friends and Family	89
Holiday Play Club	56
Holiday Activities	65
Open Access/Mobile Play	16
Camp	4
Child-minder	18
Nanny / Au Pair	7

- How many indicated that the children spent the holidays entirely with parents? **42**
- How many combined parents with friends and family only? **32**
- How many indicated that they used two or more other sources of holiday provision in addition to parents? **115**

3. Current Childcare Arrangements: Term Time

171 of the **466** respondents indicated that they are currently using childcare term time childcare provision.

The breakdown of usage is shown below.

	No.
Childminder Before School	12
Childminder After School	20
Breakfast Club	9
Other Before School Provision	2
After School Club	82
After School Activities	87
Friends or Family	76
Nanny / Au Pair	4

Reasons for use of childcare:

122 respondents indicated they use childcare for work reasons.
62 for the child to socialize.

4. Childcare Information

How easy is it to find information?

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Very Easy	Mostly Easy	Quite Difficult	Very Difficult
29	130	45	8

Where do you find the most useful information?

Word of Mouth / Friends	School	FIS	WBC website	Internet	Children's Centre	Ads/ Magazines	Other
72	70	27	38	59	8	22	7

Only **27** respondents specifically mentioned the FIS service. However, it is possible that information found on the WBC and other internet sites and other sources derived from FIS, but was not identified as such.

5. Challenges in finding childcare and impact on family life

See comments in school level reports. These comments highlight challenges in availability and cost of provision, particularly where childcare is not available at the local school. Respondents commented on the impact of this on parents' work and consequently on family life.

6. Future use of holiday childcare

122 of the respondents indicated that they are interested in accessing childcare provision during the school holidays, with a further **73** indicating they would be interested 'Eventually', within the following timescales:

- Within a year – **54**
- Within 3 years – **44**
- More than 3 years - **2**

The spread of days was as shown below, indicating that interest is spread fairly equally across the week. **59** respondents indicated that they are interested in provision for the whole week:

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	ALL 5
96	108	111	103	77	59

A large majority of respondents were looking for whole day provision (more than 6 hours) within the hours of 8am to 6pm. The table below shows during which holidays respondents were interested in using provision.

Holiday	Spring half term	Easter	Summer half term	Summer holidays	Autumn half term
No.	58	92	69	171	58

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This clearly evidences that interest is highest in the summer holidays. However, from a business perspective, it is important to be aware that the large majority of respondents seem themselves as using provision for less than the full holiday period, as shown below:

No. of weeks	1	2 or 3	4 or 5	All
No. respondents	18	109	46	8

The final question asked respondents if they would travel into Wokingham in order to access excellent provision:

Yes: **110**
No: **81**

Those responding no to this question indicated that this was related to travel and time pressures, but also to a preference for the familiarity of local provision.

For Further Consideration:

1. Marketing Opportunities for Existing Provision

WBC could support a publicity campaign through the FIS, supporting existing holiday provision to advertise services based in Wokingham in the rural north of the Borough, as responses suggest there is a potential market for Wokingham based provision amongst families in this area.

2. Service Expansion Opportunities

WBC could support existing high quality provision to offer a local service in the North Wokingham area, ideally based in one of the schools, as an alternative to the development of provision managed directly by one or more schools. The data suggests that it would not be sustainable to develop provision in the smaller schools.

3. Opportunities for School-Based Provision

Many parents expressed a preference for school-based provision not just during holiday periods, but also adding breakfast and after school provision where it is not currently provided. Schools should consider working together to ensure that provision is sustainable.

4. Childminder Recruitment and Development

A recurrent theme in comments made is the shortage of childminder provision, together with frustration at the consequent possible routes for mothers to return to work. There is an opportunity here for WBC to encourage consideration of childminder registration for some parents wanting to return to work. Specifically, there is an opportunity to consider whether childminders can work together to provide 'club' facilities for small groups of children. This may be particularly appropriate in the context of North Wokingham's small rural communities.

5. Open / Mobile Provision

This is clearly very popular and highly regarded amongst those who have previously used it. However, the data from this survey suggests that usage represents only a minority of potential demand. WBC could consider how this provision could be extended to offer the option of all day provision. For example, breakfast, lunch and tea could each be offered at an appropriate cost to extend the current play offer into a wraparound facility.

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Appendix 5: Colleton

Colleton Primary Parent and Carer Survey: Preliminary Report

1. Family Information

- 67 forms were returned to the school office.
- These represented 114 children, whose ages were as shown below:

Age	All	3 and 4	5-7	8-11
No.	114	19	48	47

Postcode:

The majority of respondents lived within the school's postcode area RG10 0.. Only 8 respondents lived outside this postcode.

Employment profile of parents:

- 69 parents work full-time
- 42 parents work part-time
- 8 are self-employed
- 13 describe themselves as full-time carers.

62 of the 67 respondents provided employment status for 2 parents, with the most common pattern being one full-time worker, and one part-time. However, responses showed that even where one parent was working part-time, childcare was still being used to provide cover for working hours, and several respondents commented specifically that annual leave did not cover all school holiday periods.

Additional needs:

Two respondents highlighted their children's special needs and difficulty in finding childcare to meet those needs. In addition, the preference for siblings to be cared for together was highlighted, with one respondent commenting:

'flexibility to have childcare available for all under 11 years (ie. same venue) would be very helpful.'

The large number of families using family members and friends to provide at least some childcare cover suggests that many live close to their extended families. One family emphasized the benefit of the children spending time with their grandparents. However, several respondents drew attention to the difficulty of managing the work and care of their children when they have no wider family nearby. A number of comments on this are provided in section 5 below.

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2. Current Childcare Arrangements: School Holidays

	No.	Comments re usage
Parents	54	
Friends and Family	18	Ranged from 1 week during the holidays or 3 hours 1 day per week to 8 or 9 hours 3 days per week.
Holiday Play Club	19	
Holiday Activities	11	Varied from occasional days to 5 days per week. Notes indicate varied definition of 'activities'.
Open Access/Mobile Play	5	
Camp	0	
Child-minder	3	These families also use childminders in term time. No comments added by families at this school re the availability of childminders in the area, suggesting this is not a preferred or obvious option.
Nanny / Au Pair	2	1 parent indicated this option was pursued at the pre-school stage due to a lack of other provision.

- How many indicated that the children spent the holidays entirely with parents? **29**
- How many combined parents with friends and family only? **5**
- How many combined care by parents, friends and family and other provision? **10** indicated that they used two or more other sources of holiday provision in addition to parents.

Perhaps most significantly, only **19** indicated that they use formal childcare in the form of holiday clubs or childminders, with **2** more families employing nannies in their home.

Only **4** families indicated that they used provision outside the Borough, aside from travel with or to visit family.

3. Current Childcare Arrangements: Term Time

56 of the 67 respondents indicated that they are currently using childcare term time childcare provision. Note that **24** respondents indicated that they use more than one of the following types of provision. Appended comments suggest that while for some this is a preferred approach (for example building inter-generational relationships), for others it is a considerable source of complexity and stress.

The breakdown of usage is shown below.

	No.	Hours/Week	Comments
Childminder Before School	5	3-5 hrs / week	4 respondents used 5 hrs.
Childminder After School	4	2-10 hrs / week	
Breakfast Club	9	0.5 – 3 hrs /week	1 respondent - occasional
Other Before School Provision	1		
After School Club	31	2.5-18 hrs / week	3 respondents - occasional
After School Activities	19	2 – 6 hrs / week	Drama, Sport, Dance
Friends or Family	19	Included occasional, regular school pick up	Value of family, but also pressure
Nanny / Au Pair	2	Up to 50	

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Reasons for use of childcare:

40 respondents indicated they use childcare for work reasons.

13 for the child to socialize.

5 focused on child development, exercise and the development of social skills.

4. Childcare Information

How easy is it to find information?

Very Easy	Mostly Easy	Quite Difficult	Very Difficult
9	34	11	0

Where do you find the most useful information?

Word of Mouth / Friends	School	FIS	WBC website	Internet	Children's Centre	Ads/ Magazines	Other: Library
19	25	6	11	11	3	8	1

It is noticeable and perhaps disappointing that only 6 respondents mentioned the FIS service. However, it is entirely possible that information found on the WBC and other internet sites and other sources derived from FIS, but was not identified as such.

5. Challenges in finding childcare and impact on family life

The following are quotes from comments made by respondents. These comments covered the range of childcare availability, including pre-school provision, and the impact of children's changing ages and of trying to find provision which works for families with children of different ages. Several respondents also commented on the cost of provision.

Very difficult to find affordable childcare in Twyford area during holidays...Daughter attends (provision in another area)...where she does not know anyone...
I have used a carer in my home because it is very difficult to find clubs etc for under 5s. Now my child has reached 5, intend to change. It worked very well but is a relatively expensive option.
Difficult to find childcare when daughter moves to secondary school where no after school club.
Limited full day care
Added cost...added pressure on family and children with complex childcare arrangements especially in summer hols.
...costly...
...very expensive...
Local, low cost all day care (needed) which caters for all ages.
Found only option to guarantee childcare was to employ a nanny.
...impossible to find childcare which opens early eg. from 7am.
1.care that is close to where I live so that I don't have to travel miles out of my way to drop off.

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2.also, cost – a big factor when it can cost as much as half a day's pay.
Finding cost effective care, I can't afford to lose half days pay, nor can I afford not to work. Only earning just above the minimum wage for an adult makes you shop around for care.
Juggling work/childcare is difficult & often stressful. Reliant on family help with childcare due to hours worked and SEN accessibility.
Needs also cover pre-school children. I (as many other parents) have children at school and not yet – flexibility to have childcare available for all under 11 years (ie. same venue) would be very helpful.
looking for childcare which has some educational aspect ie. not just sports and play,
...we need a holiday club in Twyford or Charvil.

Several parents indicated that they fitted work around childcare availability:

I can only rely on family per childcare support, which limits my working hours.
Had to rearrange working hours to work part-time – drop in salary.
Book days off work, but don't have enough vacation days to cover.
Meant we had to take a lot of time off separately...would rather have time off together to do things as a family.
I had to take time off anyway, when (children were) unwell.
...the public provision does not provide care that is compatible with working parents. Eg. nurseries that close at 4pm and during holidays.
I quit work and stay at home as any provision provided is still quite a lot of money to pay.

Comments were also made on the availability of more informal provision and activities:

Not interested in holiday unless fun/social club like one held at the Colleton last summer (free provision).
Informal drop-in childcare is sparse. Summer scheme last year was excellent and popular and would be really beneficial.
Limited activities within walking distance.
The playscheme that ran last summer at Colleton was fantastic, as it allowed the children time with their friends and parents a little free time during the 6 week break.
I was disappointed in the choice of holiday clubs that WBC offered in 2010.
Day care which is not all sport, but a mix of play, crafts and sports so the child can choose what they do.

- 2 respondents indicated they would be interested in cover for inset days.
- 2 respondents also commented on the difficulty of finding provision to meet the needs of their children who have additional needs.

The existing provision at Colleton was considered 'excellent... Very convenient breakfast club at school.'

The need for flexible back-up provision was also noted:

many parents need some flexibility & have to travel outside the borough & many don't have family back-up options.
Occasional and emergency childcare difficult
Lack of emergency childcare has made working very stressful

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6. Future use of holiday childcare

33 of the 67 respondents indicated that they are interested in accessing childcare provision during the school holidays, with a further **10** indicating they would be interested 'Eventually', within the following timescales:

- Within a year – 16
- Within 3 years – 5
- More than 3 years - 1

The spread of days was as shown below, indicating that interest is spread fairly equally across the week. **19** respondents indicated that they are interested in provision for the whole week:

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	ALL 5
25	30	29	29	23	19

When asked what time they would need the childcare provision to start and finish, **60** of the 67 respondents were looking for whole day provision (more than 6 hours), mostly within the hours of 8am to 6pm, with only 3 seeking care prior to 8am, although several indicated they may not need these hours every day. The table below shows during which holidays respondents were interested in using provision.

Holiday	Spring half term	Easter	Summer half term	Summer holidays	Autumn half term
No.	16	25	17	45	15

This clearly evidences that interest is highest in the summer holidays. However, from a business perspective, it is important to be aware that the large majority of respondents seem themselves as using provision for less than the full holiday period, as shown below:

No. of weeks	1	2 or 3	4 or 5	All
No. respondents	6	21	14	4

The final question asked respondents if they would travel into Wokingham in order to access excellent provision:

Yes: **24**
No: **23**

Those responding no to this question indicated that this was related to travel and time pressures, but also to a preference for the familiarity of local provision.

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Appendix 6: Crazies Hill

Crazies Hill Primary Parent and Carer Survey: Preliminary Report

1. Family Information

- 22 forms were returned to the school office.
- These represented 35 children, whose ages were as shown below:

Age	All	3 and 4	5-7	8-11
No.	35	9	17	9

Postcode:

17 respondents lived outside the school postcode RG10 8...

Employment profile of parents:

- 21 parents work full-time
- 11 parents work part-time
- 2 are self-employed
- 6 describe themselves as full-time carers.

2 respondents volunteered the information that they are single parents; 1 couple work full time from home. 18 of the 22 respondents provided employment status for 2 parents, with 9 having one full-time worker, and one part-time, 5 had one parent in full-time employment and one full-time carer.

2. Current Childcare Arrangements: School Holidays

	No.	Comments re usage
Parents	20	
Friends and Family	5	Between 1 and 6 days per week.
Holiday Play Club	4	
Holiday Activities	8	From occasional to 4 days per week.
Open Access/Mobile Play	4	Used regularly but only during 1 week.
Camp	0	
Child-minder	0	
Nanny / Au Pair	1	

- How many indicated that the children spent the holidays entirely with parents? **7**
- How many combined parents with friends and family only? **3**
- How many combined care by parents, friends and family and other provision? **4** indicated that they used two or more other sources of holiday provision in addition to parents.

It is noticeable that there is no use of childminders during holiday times.

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2 families indicated that they used provision outside the Borough aside from travel with or to visit family.

3. Current Childcare Arrangements: Term Time

10 of the 22 respondents indicated that they are currently using childcare term time childcare provision, and 5 of these indicated that they use more than one of the following types of provision.

The breakdown of usage is shown below.

	No.	Hours/Week	Comments
Childminder Before School	0		
Childminder After School	1	3 hours	
Breakfast Club	0		1 indicated would use if available.
Other Before School Provision	0		
After School Club	4	1 or 2 hours	
After School Activities	11	1 to 6 hours / week	Sports, Beavers
Friends or Family	8	From occasional to 8hrs	
Nanny / Au Pair	1		

Reasons for use of childcare:

9 respondents indicated they use childcare for work reasons.

10 for the child to socialize.

1 response indicated the importance of activities for exercise.

4. Childcare Information

How easy is it to find information?

Very Easy	Mostly Easy	Quite Difficult	Very Difficult
0	11	6	0

Where do you find the most useful information?

Word of Mouth / Friends	School	FIS	WBC website	Internet	Children's Centre	Ads/ Magazines	Other: Clubs
7	5	0	2	4	0	4	1

No respondents specifically mentioned the FIS service, although it is possible that information accessed elsewhere (eg. the WBC website) was sourced from FIS.

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5. Challenges in finding childcare and impact on family life

The following are quotes from comments made by respondents. These comments cover the range of childcare, including pre-school provision as well as care for children of school age. They highlight the impact of children's changing ages and of trying to find provision which works for families with children of different ages. There is though some inconsistency between those Several respondents also commented on the cost of provision.

Difficult to find reasonable rates...to warrant work. Child too shy to join without friends.
Don't work when he's off school work... feel guilty as should be with him.
When child was younger it was hard as there was a limited number of childminders with suitable availability.
Not a lot of option, what is available is very expensive.
We have no other family so are forced to be completely self-sufficient.
... not enough and not co-ordinated. Have to work beyond 3.20 school pick up. Want children to integrate with children outside school. Don't feel there is enough team sport at school.
No difficulty in finding childcare, just little point in using it as it's so expensive. Makes working part time pointless.
Meant that we have had to 'watch the pennies'. Quite frustrating.
I would like to see the school receive funding to set up after school clubs for working parents. Even 3 days a week would be helpful. The current playscheme WBC provide during part of the summer holidays is lovely but completely useless for working parents as the times are 10-12 then 2-4.
Share school run – 5 hrs per week – pay other person to take children to school.
losing nannies as children become older, quality of nannies wanting to look after older school age children is hard.
V.stressful. Mum who takes kids to school saved the day. Another Mum used to bring them home but this is harder to organise because after school activities of their own. Gained us 1.5 hrs of working day each doing shared school runs.
We also have a 12 year old. We have had limited success at <i>clubs named...</i> was a disaster as children not well managed & some were very rude... Staff too young to handle issues. Ideally would use good provision 5 days week. In reality we bribe them to go 2-3 days so we can crack on & then share the load the rest of the time. Work efficiency is greatly decreased in the holidays.
Before & after school childcare is most difficult to find and very expensive. It would be a lot easier if the school could provide it.
Had to work part-time instead of full time which means less income / opportunities.
A lot of difficulty, we really could do with Crazies Hill providing after school care. Alternatively we could do with before/after school care provided externally.
My husband has to go to work late during the week so I can get to work on time. I can only work 2 days a week and a friend has kindly agreed to look after my son, but will only be able to do it this year. (teacher)

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6. Future use of holiday childcare

7 of the 22 respondents indicated that they are interested in accessing childcare provision during the school holidays, with a further 5 indicating they would be interested 'Eventually', within the following timescales:

- Within a year – 0
- Within 3 years – 4
- More than 3 years - 0

The spread of days was as shown below, indicating that interest is spread fairly equally across the week. Only 3 respondents indicated that they are interested in provision for the whole week:

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	ALL 5
6	6	5	7	3	3

When asked what time they would need the childcare provision to start and finish, the 8 respondents who answered, all but 2 were looking for whole day provision (more than 6 hours), all within the hours of 8am to 6pm. The table below shows during which holidays respondents were interested in using provision.

Holiday	Spring half term	Easter	Summer half term	Summer holidays	Autumn half term
No.	2	6	3	12	2

This clearly evidences that interest is highest in the summer holidays?. However, from a business perspective, it is important to be aware that the large majority of respondents seem themselves as using provision for less than the full holiday period, as shown below:

No. of weeks	1	2 or 3	4 or 5	All
No. respondents	1	11	2	0

The final question asked respondents if they would travel into Wokingham in order to access excellent provision:

Yes: 3
No: 9

Those responding no to this question indicated that this was related to travel and time pressures, but also to a preference for the familiarity of local provision.

March 2011

Appendix 7: Polehampton Infants

Polehampton Infants Parent and Carer Survey: Preliminary Report

1. Family Information

- **61** forms were returned to the school office.
- These represented **98** children, whose ages were as shown below:

Age	All	3 and 4	5-7	8-11
No.	98	26	60	12

Postcode:

The majority of respondents lived within the school's postcode area RG10 9.. Only 6 respondents lived outside this postcode.

Employment profile of parents:

- 52 parents work full-time
- 21 parents work part-time
- 15 are self-employed
- 20 describe themselves as full-time carers.

9 respondents provided employment status for only 1 parent; **52** of the 61 respondents provided employment status for 2 parents:

- **4** families have 2 full time workers in the family.
- **15** have 1 full-time worker and 1 part-time worker
- **18** have 1 full-time worker and one full-time carer.
- **13** have a different combination, often including at least one self-employed parent.

2. Current Childcare Arrangements: School Holidays

	No.	Comments re usage
Parents	48	
Friends and Family	19	From occasional to 8 hrs/day 5 days/week.
Holiday Play Club	9	Hours vary
Holiday Activities	11	Usually several days during 1 week.
Open Access/Mobile Play		
Camp	1	
Child-minder	7	
Nanny / Au Pair	1	

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- How many indicated that the children spent the holidays entirely with parents? **26**
- How many combine parents with friends and family only? **8**
- How many combine care by parents, friends and family and other provision? **8** indicated that they used two or more other sources of holiday provision in addition to parents.

Only **16** (ie. less than a third) indicated that they use formal childcare in the form of holiday clubs or childminders.

Only **6** families indicated that they used provision outside the Borough, aside from travel with or to visit family.

3. Current Childcare Arrangements: Term Time

37 of the **61** respondents indicated that they are currently using childcare term time childcare provision. **19** respondents indicated that they use more than one of the following types of provision. For many this is a considerable source of complexity and stress, as shown in some of the comments reproduced in section 5 below.

The breakdown of usage is shown below.

	No.	Hours/Week	Comments
Childminder Before School	3	2-4 hours	
Childminder After School	7	1-4 hours	
Breakfast Club	0		Several would use a breakfast club if available.
Other Before School Provision	0		
After School Club	19	1-12.5 hours	
After School Activities	17	1 or 2 hours	
Friends or Family	18	Occasional to 20 hours	Occasional use with work commitments
Nanny / Au Pair	0		

Reasons for use of childcare:

24 respondents indicated they use childcare for work reasons.

16 for the child to socialize.

Comments focused on sport and exercise, as well as time for parents to do other things, such as volunteering.

4. Childcare Information

How easy is it to find information?

Very Easy	Mostly Easy	Quite Difficult	Very Difficult
7	29	8	0

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Where do you find the most useful information?

Word of Mouth / Friends	School	FIS	WBC website	Internet	Children's Centre	Ads/ Magazines	Other
11	18	12	10	12	3	3	2

Although only **12** respondents mentioned the FIS service, it is possible that information found on the WBC and other internet sites and other sources derived from FIS, but was not identified as such. One respondent added the comment 'FIS – excellent'.

5. Challenges in finding childcare and impact on family life

Below are quotes edited from comments made by respondents. These comments covered the range of childcare availability, including pre-school provision, as well as that for school age children. A number of comments refer to the difficulty of accessing places in the after school club, and others refer to an apparent shortage of childminder places. Several respondents also commented on the cost of provision. Several note that provision has closed in recent years. Many suggest that they are unable to adopt their preferred work pattern due to childcare difficulties.

Before my son started school I needed a childminder and I really struggled to find one.
Had problems getting children into after school club as not enough spaces, demand too high.
No breakfast club available at school ...Not enough childminders
Private childcare (nursery) before children were school age was <u>very</u> expensive.
..a lot of stress...huge expense...
After school club at Juniors is oversubscribed. Almost impossible to get additional sessions at short notice.
Mum works part time with flexible hours...which I fit around whatever child care is available.
East Park Farm playscheme was great in the holidays as it was one of the few activities available that wasn't just focused on sport. When Ofsted rules meant it was open only to over 6s I was no longer able to use EPF as only one of the children could go. Now they are both 6+ and it's not operating any longer.
My children don't want to do sports all day everyday in the holidays...The August Bank Holiday week is always really hard. No one provides organised activities during this week.
...due to lack of breakfast club facilities, available childcare places, after school club places, financial restraints, I made the decision to leave my job and become a full time carer.
I left my job to become a full time carer, and although this has had a financial impact we are managing this and overall I feel it has had a positive impact on our family life. I think my children really benefit from having me at home with them.
I think childcare is heavily used in this area and there doesn't always seem to have enough places. Also it should be affordable.
Thankfully, we have parents that are able and are fit enough to take care of our children when we can't.
I intended to go back to work but there was no availability with good quality childminder.
It will be much harder for me to get back into work.
Childcare is very expensive....
I (mother) have given up work because the cost of childcare was taking 90% of my income.

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I wanted care to continue at East Park Farm but the summer camp seemed to move / stop?
...trying to find casual sessions for the kids has been tricky.
Local children's centre – no parking and difficulty accessing.
Still unsure about taking on work as difficulty finding out about childcare services for holidays.
Childminders are scarce. Before school care seems non-existent. I'm lucky to have a good friends network – but no family.
It's a juggling act...The children's routine is never straight forward. And there's a question mark as to whether it's really viable for me to work.
There used to be a holiday club based at Charvil that I used for my daughter who is now nearly 12. This facility was stopped and all that was available was a football based club. What is needed is general holiday clubs which provide other activities than sport.
The main responsibility is on the part-time worker, to work and handle the children during holidays and after school, proving quite difficult at times.
Most childcare needs to be booked well in advance of working requirements. Sometimes require a more flexible approach.
My self-employed business has to be done at other times like weekends.
Heavy reliance on grandparents...
If I was able to return to work/find work reasonably locally I would have to use childcare facilities heavily. I am a single parent with no family support locally ...
School has been good for after-school activities and care.
I have not been able to find anything for before school like breakfast club, and that creates difficulties sometimes.
Have to ask friends for help when stuck due to lack of childcare.

6. Future use of holiday childcare

27 of the respondents indicated that they are interested in accessing childcare provision during the school holidays, with a further **14** indicating they would be interested 'Eventually', within the following timescales:

- Within a year – **7**
- Within 3 years – **10**
- More than 3 years - **0**

The spread of days was as shown below. 12 respondents indicated that they are interested in provision for the whole week:

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	ALL 5
21	25	24	18	15	12

When asked what time they would need the childcare provision to start and finish, **24** of the respondents were looking for whole day provision (more than 6 hours), mostly within the hours of 8am to 6pm, with only **1** seeking care prior to 8am, although several indicated they may not need these hours every day. The table below shows during which holidays respondents were interested in using provision.

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Holiday	Spring half term	Easter	Summer half term	Summer holidays	Autumn half term
No.	14	21	14	40	14

This clearly evidences that interest is highest in the summer holidays. However, from a business perspective, it is important to be aware that the large majority of respondents seem themselves as using provision for less than the full holiday period, as shown below:

No. of weeks	1	2 or 3	4 or 5	All
No. respondents	4	27	9	0

The final question asked respondents if they would travel into Wokingham in order to access excellent provision:

Yes: **26**

No: **14**

Those responding no to this question indicated that this was related to cost, travel and time pressures; for those answering yes, this was still dependent on office location and longer opening hours to compensate for travel time.

March 2011

Appendix 8: Polehampton Juniors

Polehampton Junior School Parent and Carer Survey: Preliminary Report

1. Family Information

- **50** forms were returned to the school office.
- These represented **83** children, whose ages were as shown below:

Age	All	3 and 4	5-7	8-11
No.	83	7	26	50

Postcode:

The majority of respondents lived within the school's postcode area RG10 9.. **13** respondents lived outside this postcode.

Employment profile of parents:

- **51** parents work full-time
- **26** parents work part-time
- **8** are self-employed
- **6** describe themselves as full-time carers.

39 of the **50** respondents provided employment status for 2 parents, with the most common pattern being one full-time worker, and one part-time.

2. Current Childcare Arrangements: School Holidays

	No.	Comments re usage
Parents	44	Ranged from 0.5/week to all hours.
Friends and Family	14	Ranged from full-time care to occasional help.
Holiday Play Club	4	
Holiday Activities	9	May be couple of weeks or days spread through the holidays. Includes both family outings and activities used as childcare.
Open Access/Mobile Play	1	
Camp	2	24/7 but only for 1 week of holidays.
Child-minder	1	Hours not given.
Nanny / Au Pair	1	3 hours for 5 days per week

- How many indicated that the children spent the holidays entirely with parents? **20**
- How many combined parents with friends and family only? **8**
- How many combined care by parents, friends and family and other provision? **5** indicated that they used two or more other sources of holiday provision in addition to parents.

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Only 5 indicated that they use formal childcare in the form of holiday clubs or childminders.

3 families indicated that they used provision outside the Borough, aside from travel with or to visit family.

3. Current Childcare Arrangements: Term Time

31 of the 50 respondents indicated that they are currently using childcare term time childcare provision. 6 respondents indicated that they use more than one of the following types of provision.

The breakdown of usage is shown below.

	No.	Hours/Week	Comments
Childminder Before School	0		
Childminder After School	3	2 hours/week	
Breakfast Club	0		Several wld be interested if available
Other Before School Provision	1		
After School Club	13	Up to 20 hrs/week	Also occasional use
After School Activities	19		
Friends or Family	10	Up to 20 hrs/week	
Nanny / Au Pair	1		

Reasons for use of childcare:

14 respondents indicated they use childcare for work reasons.

10 for the child to socialize.

Respondents also commented on the child's need for exercise, and the need for flexibility to plan for siblings of different ages.

4. Childcare Information

How easy is it to find information?

Very Easy	Mostly Easy	Quite Difficult	Very Difficult
7	23	5	1

Where do you find the most useful information?

Word of Mouth / Friends	School	FIS	WBC website	Internet	Children's Centre	Ads/ Magazines	Other:
8	11	5	6	16	0	5	2

Although only 5 respondents mentioned the FIS service, it is entirely possible that information found on the WBC and other internet sites and other sources derived from FIS, but was not identified as such.

March 2011

5. Challenges in finding childcare and impact on family life

The following are quotes from comments made by respondents. These comments covered the range of childcare availability, including pre-school provision, and the impact of children's changing ages and of trying to find provision which works for families with children of different ages. Several respondents also commented on the cost of provision.

Having moved here from the north, it is a lot more expensive...sibling deals would be good.
Christmas time is difficult – long holiday, no childcare.
Got into trouble at Christmas for taking too much time off.
There isn't a breakfast club facility, since I couldn't afford childcare by childminders I called an au pair to live and help us on the school run and stay with child while I am at work.
Most of the childminders wouldn't like to work after 6pm, but on my working days I cannot come back home before 6pm.
Best place to have a provision is the child's school...there wouldn't be a need to drive or walk to another location.
After school club is full and doesn't offer the flexibility I need but other childcare too expensive.
Our child has to go everyday even though some days I work at home and could collect him. He is unhappy with this.
I would like to make occasional use of a school breakfast club, but I realise there is not enough steady demand.
My partner has to be flexible with the time he starts work.
Both work in education sector therefore having school holidays to be with kids. Don't need childcare during holidays but occasionally may use it for a holiday activity for the children's enjoyment.
...home with childminder who cares for pre-school child.
When looking for a childminder found council's lists of the availability not up to date. ..Also not enough childminders in area.
Rarely difficult because my children enjoy sports.
Finding childminders without animals (allergies) was very difficult.
No breakfast club has restricted access to work even though only required 2 or 3 days.
It's helped me immensely, knowing that my child is safe, whilst I have to work.
Last year (2009) Wokingham offered playschemes for children under 12 which was great & both of my children attended at East Park Farm and at Lodden Valley. This year these options were not available and the only clubs were football, cricket, tennis clubs.
I have a boy and a girl, the playschemes worked well for us as they mixed up the activities and made it accessible for both. One drop off, one pick up and two happy children. Last year 2010 I could not support your activities as they were too restrictive. Bring back the playschemes!
Very difficult to find suitable arrangements which met our requirements.
If we didn't have the support & flexibility of family & employers one of us would have had to give up working in order to look after children.
Personally this survey has arrived too late for us. It would have been beneficial some years ago. Hopefully the up and coming will be able to benefit from the results of these surveys.
I decided to postpone my return to work due to difficulty in finding childminders in Twyford & Chard. When I return I will struggle to fit in days work as not breakfast club at the school.
Once I return to work my husband and I will need to stagger our working patterns.

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The hardest time for childcare is at the beginning and end of term when after school activities are not available and after school clubs are full. The boys are also limited to what is available in school as it is impossible to transport them to a different location to participate in other activities such as swimming lessons or clubs and scouts.
Life is complicated but manageable.
During the summer holidays I have wanted my child to go to a holiday activity club. However, there are not any in Twyford and I do not drive so cannot take her to any others.
I am not able to work during the summer holidays and therefore am not paid for 6 weeks. We do not have family so have never had help with childcare.
One of us is a teacher. I'm sure with a different career our childcare needs would be far more complex and comprehensive.
Quality is a lottery.
Found it very difficult to find a quality affordable childminder when needed one full-time several years ago.
Prohibitive costs were influential in my decision to take a career break, which in turn has had a negative impact on my career.
We have been consistently disappointed by the childcare in the holidays provided by WBC. When our eldest started school he attended the playscheme at East Park Farm (formerly RPJS) which was well attended and used in this area. It was also very affordable. Changes were made which affected the age of children...Finally it was stopped all together which had a huge impact on the local area. Then the council offered sports courses such as soccer start at Cantley Park. We were let down on a few occasions when having booked to use as childcare in the holidays, the course was cancelled less than a week before the holiday. When the price of the courses was reduced they became very popular and we were tempted back last summer as many of my son's friends were going and it offered wraparound care.
There is a financial impact on my family life as we now use Hotshots which is extremely well fun and reliable but costs almost twice as much. With two children this is a financial strain but as full time working parents we need to know we can book the childcare and know it is there for our children.

Several of the above comments note the impact of childcare changes on family life, particularly where holiday activities are used as childcare. One respondent provided an example of activities being cancelled at 2 days notice, resulting in considerable problems for working parents. This highlights the fact that parents may not distinguish between 'activities' and formal childcare provision: they expect reliability in all provision and are often using activities to make work possible.

6. Future use of holiday childcare

16 of the respondents indicated that they are interested in accessing childcare provision during the school holidays, with a further **25** indicating they would be interested 'Eventually', within the following timescales:

- Within a year – **5**
- Within 3 years – **4**
- More than 3 years - **1**

March 2011

The spread of days was as shown below, indicating that interest is spread fairly equally across the week. **7** respondents indicated that they are interested in provision for the whole week:

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	ALL 5
13	15	19	15	9	7

When asked what time they would need the childcare provision to start and finish, **15** of the respondents were looking for whole day provision (more than 6 hours), mostly within the hours of 8am to 6pm. The table below shows during which holidays respondents were interested in using provision.

Holiday	Spring half term	Easter	Summer half term	Summer holidays	Autumn half term
No.	8	10	8	21	9

This clearly evidences that interest is highest in the summer holidays. However, from a business perspective, it is important to be aware that the large majority of respondents seem themselves as using provision for less than the full holiday period, as shown below:

No. of weeks	1	2 or 3	4 or 5	All
No. respondents	2	16	6	1

The final question asked respondents if they would travel into Wokingham in order to access excellent provision:

Yes: **12**

No: **15**

Those responding no to this question indicated that this was related to travel to work routes.

March 2011

Appendix 9: Robert Piggott Infants

Robert Piggott Infant School Parent and Carer Survey: Preliminary Report

It is important to note that the size of the response to the questionnaire at this school makes it difficult to draw conclusions. This data is probably most appropriately viewed alongside that of the Robert Piggott Junior School, in order to determine whether there is sufficient demand from the two schools when the data is combined.

1. Family Information

- 15 forms were returned to the school office.
- These represented 24 children, whose ages were as shown below:

Age	All	3 and 4	5-7	8-11
No.	24	7	16	2

Postcode:

The majority of respondents live within the school's postcode area RG10 8.. 9 respondents lived outside this postcode.

Employment profile of parents:

- 13 parents work full-time
- 6 parents work part-time
- 3 are self-employed
- 5 describe themselves as full-time carers.

13 of the 15 respondents provided employment status for 2 parents, with the most common pattern being one full-time worker, and one part-time – 5 responses. Other working patterns were spread right across the possible different combinations.

2. Current Childcare Arrangements: School Holidays

	No.	Comments re usage
Parents	10	
Friends and Family	3	Up to 10 hrs/day 5 days/week.
Holiday Play Club	2	2 to 4 days /week.
Holiday Activities	2	From most days to single week
Open Access/Mobile Play	1	Comments indicated that this provision is highly valued by more than one family, and that families travel to different locations.
Camp	0	
Child-minder	0	

March 2011

Nanny / Au Pair	0
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- How many indicated that the children spent the holidays entirely with parents? **7**
- How many combined parents with friends and family only? **2**

Perhaps most significantly, only **2** indicated that they use formal childcare in the form of holiday clubs.

No respondents indicated that they used provision outside the Borough, aside from travel with or to visit family.

3. Current Childcare Arrangements: Term Time

8 of the **15** respondents indicated that they are currently using childcare term time childcare provision. The breakdown of usage is shown below.

	No.	Hours/Week	Comments
Childminder Before School	0		
Childminder After School	0		
Breakfast Club	0		
Other Before School Provision	0		
After School Club	5	From 2 to 6 hours/day.	Not every day of week.
After School Activities	3		Incls tea at friends' houses.
Friends or Family	5		
Nanny / Au Pair	0		

Reasons for use of childcare:

5 respondents indicated they use childcare for work reasons.

3 for the child to socialize.

1 focused on the child's enjoyment and mobility.

4. Childcare Information

How easy is it to find information?

Very Easy	Mostly Easy	Quite Difficult	Very Difficult
3	8	0	0

Where do you find the most useful information?

Word of Mouth / Friends	School	FIS	WBC website	Internet	Children's Centre	Ads/ Magazines	Other: Library
4	3	0	2	3	1	0	0

March 2011

Although no respondents directly mentioned the FIS service, it is possible that information found on the WBC and other internet sites and other sources derived from FIS, but was not identified as such.

5. Challenges in finding childcare and impact on family life

The following are quotes from comments made by respondents.

Re Holiday times:- We don't have access to comprehensive information about all childcare choices. We rely on information from other parents. Re After School:- There are few childminders in our areas.
It has been challenging to find facilities that cater equally for boys and girls. Consequently I feel that we compromise our children's needs, fuelling the inevitable guilt.
As I work in Reading, it would be inconvenient to travel to Wokingham before and after work in the holidays. I would prefer care in the Twyford/Wargrave/Charvil/Sonning area, otherwise I would stay with existing clubs/activities. Any holiday activities need to run from 8.30-5.30 for me to be able to access them.
7 weeks of half school days in first school term caused us to change nursery to accommodate this and time off work to swap child over. This was unsettling for our daughter who just wanted to stay at school.

6. Future use of holiday childcare

4 of the respondents indicated that they are interested in accessing childcare provision during the school holidays, with a further **4** indicating they would be interested 'Eventually', within the following timescales:

- Within a year – **3**
- Within 3 years – **5**
- More than 3 years - **0**

The spread of days was as shown below, indicating that interest is spread fairly equally across the week. Only **1** respondent indicated that they are interested in provision for the whole week:

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	ALL 5
5	3	4	6	4	1

When asked what time they would need the childcare provision to start and finish, **5** of the respondents were looking for whole day provision (more than 6 hours), within the hours of 8am to 6pm. The table below shows during which holidays respondents were interested in using provision.

Holiday	Spring half term	Easter	Summer half term	Summer holidays	Autumn half term
No.	2	4	3	8	2

March 2011

This clearly evidences that interest is highest in the summer holidays. However, from a business perspective, it is important to be aware that the large majority of respondents seem themselves as using provision for less than the full holiday period, as shown below:

No. of weeks	1	2 or 3	4 or 5	All
No. respondents	2	1	5	0

The final question asked respondents if they would travel into Wokingham in order to access excellent provision:

Yes: **6**

No: **5**

Those responding no to this question indicated that this was related to travel and time pressures, but also to a preference for the familiarity of local provision.

March 2011

Appendix 10: Robert Piggott Juniors

Robert Piggott Junior School Parent and Carer Survey: Preliminary Report

1. Family Information

- **23** forms were returned to the school office.
- These represented **40** children, whose ages were as shown below:

Age	All	3 and 4	5-7	8-11
No.	40	2	16	22

Postcode:

The majority of respondents live within the school's postcode area RG10 8.. **9** respondents lived outside this postcode.

Employment profile of parents:

- **21** parents work full-time
- **10** parents work part-time
- **4** are self-employed
- **4** describe themselves as full-time carers.

15 of the 23 responses provided employment status for 2 parents - 5 of these combined one full-time with one part-time worker; 4 combined two full time workers; 3 combined a full-time worker with a full-time carer; 2 combined a part-time and a self-employed worker, thus demonstrating the varied working patterns of parents.

2. Current Childcare Arrangements: School Holidays

	No.	Comments re usage
Parents	15	Varies from full-time care by parents to package with various other sources of care.
Friends and Family	9	Incls. F/T for one week, and from 1 day/week to 5 days/week
Holiday Play Club	7	From 1 day/week to full-time 5 days/week
Holiday Activities	7	1 week full-time for some respondents; occasional days for others
Open Access/Mobile Play	2	Hours used varies
Camp	0	
Child-minder	0	
Nanny / Au Pair	0	

- How many indicated that the children spent the holidays entirely with parents? **5**
- How many combined parents with friends and family only? **2**
- How many combined care by parents with 2 or more additional sources of holiday provision? **5**

March 2011

7 indicated that they use formal childcare in the form of holiday clubs. No families indicated they are using childminders during holiday periods, and only one family is using a childminder after school (see below for school time care breakdown).

Care outside the Borough was limited to time spent with family.

3. Current Childcare Arrangements: Term Time

12 of the 23 respondents indicated that they are currently using term time childcare provision. 6 respondents indicated that they use more than one of the following types of provision. Appended comments suggest that while for some this is a preferred approach (for example building inter-generational relationships), for others it is a considerable source of complexity and stress.

The breakdown of usage is shown below.

	No.	Hours/Week	Comments
Childminder Before School	0		
Childminder After School	1	16 hrs/week	
Breakfast Club	0		
Other Before School Provision	0		
After School Club	10	From 2 to 15 hrs/week.	Possibility of ad hoc use is important.
After School Activities	7	1 to 3 hrs/week.	
Friends or Family	6	From ad hoc to 9 hrs/week.	
Nanny / Au Pair	0		

Reasons for use of childcare:

14 respondents indicated they use childcare for work reasons.

1 for the child to socialize.

4. Childcare Information

How easy is it to find information?

Very Easy	Mostly Easy	Quite Difficult	Very Difficult
1	8	8	0

Where do you find the most useful information?

Word of Mouth / Friends	School	FIS	WBC website	Internet	Children's Centre	Ads/ Magazines	Clubs
8	6	2	2	3	0	0	1

March 2011

Only 2 respondents mentioned the FIS service. However, it is entirely possible that information found on the WBC and other internet sites and other sources derived from FIS, but was not identified as such.

5. Challenges in finding childcare and impact on family life

The following are quotes from comments made by respondents. These comments highlight the shortage of local childcare, and emphasize the importance to families of the borough's mobile provision and sports clubs.

Very little choice of childcare facilities close to home /work. Nearest location is Catley Park, Wokingham which means I have to leave work early to get there by 5pm.
Last minute cancellation of sports courses means that it is not always possible to take time off work or to find alternative child care. Need to have confidence that any childcare booked will not be cancelled.
I don't need it, only during the summer holiday. The open access/mobile playscheme has been a life saver giving us all some breathing space. My girls look forward to making new friends when they go.
We don't have any money for activities during the summer hols and these clubs help us greatly. The staff are great and very friendly, my only gripe would be we have to travel around to get one for the whole holidays.
For those of us who don't have the luxury of summer play clubs, the open play scheme is fantastic as you can dip in and out as and when you need it. If these were to stay in 1 location all summer this would be perfect as much time is lost driving to and from and the children getting used to new surroundings.
We previously explored childcare but found it too expensively and more cost effective for 1 parent to be a full-time carer. Not ideal though.
Wokingham website not very user friendly.
Too many sports based clubs what happened to Kitchen Capers – it was fantastic.
Reduced choice. Once child is 8 e can no longer go to Inglewood. Leighton Park is not convenient for us, but is a fantastic facility. Would like more choice locally.
It is difficult to access activities that appeal to my child. The result is a tendency to rely on friends and family.
Ad hoc childcare is difficult to find. Times when after school activities are on a break but still term time can be difficult.
Fortunate enough to have helpful friends & family on hand, but it is stressful and we don't like to rely on people's generosity.
Only expensive privately run schemes are available.
Extreme difficulty for the past 2-3 years since you stopped running the play scheme first at the Piggott School and then at East Park Farm in Twyford. My two sons are not into sport and as such don't want to do the sport camps, but these are all that are available.
We have had to ask Grandparents to help and also pay older cousins to look after the boys which is not ideal.
It is not easy on your website as you have to click on one thing then another which you wouldn't think to click on as they don't directly/clearly say holiday clubs etc.
Unless you want or can afford to pay for your child to attend a private holiday club at a private school, it's difficult to find good clubs for girls. Also it is outside of the borough and she doesn't know anyone. The Wokingham Borough play schemes are more geared up for boys.

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Had to give up my job to provide decent care for my daughter, also I couldn't afford to work and pay private school holiday club, plus it was impossible to get to the club outside the borough and then get to work on time. Your play schemes are geared at football and boyish things which don't attract girlie girls and then if you are working you would feel guilty leaving them there knowing they don't really want to be there.

Sometimes adhoc sessions are full.

Makes meeting work commitments very difficult – my boss is not always able to be as flexible as I would like.

6. Future use of holiday childcare

14 respondents indicated that they are interested in accessing childcare provision during the school holidays, with a further 5 indicating they would be interested 'Eventually', within the following timescales:

- Within a year – 10
- Within 3 years – 13
- More than 3 years -0

The spread of days was as shown below, indicating that interest is spread fairly equally across the week. 8 respondents indicated that they are interested in provision for the whole week:

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	ALL 5
10	13	13	12	10	8

When asked what time they would need the childcare provision to start and finish, 15 of the respondents were looking for whole day provision (more than 6 hours), within the hours of 8am to 6pm. The table below shows during which holidays respondents were interested in using provision.

Holiday	Spring half term	Easter	Summer half term	Summer holidays	Autumn half term
No.	7	12	9	17	6

This clearly evidences that interest is highest in the summer holidays. However, from a business perspective, it is important to be aware that the large majority of respondents seem themselves as using provision for less than the full holiday period, as shown below:

No. of weeks	1	2 or 3	4 or 5	All
No. respondents	1	13	4	1

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The final question asked respondents if they would travel into Wokingham in order to access excellent provision. Although 1 respondent indicated that asking this question was inappropriate, over 50% responded positively to this question:

Yes: **11**

No: **10**

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Appendix 11: St Nicholas

St. Nicholas Primary Parent and Carer Survey: Preliminary Report

1. Family Information

- **44** forms were returned to the school office.
- These represented **72** children, whose ages were as shown below:

Age	All	3 and 4	5-7	8-11
No.	72	18	32	22

Postcode:

The majority of respondents live within the school's postcode area RG10 0.. Only 6 respondents lived outside this postcode.

Employment profile of parents:

- **36** parents work full-time
- **14** parents work part-time
- **13** are self-employed
- **16** describe themselves as full-time carers.

37 of the **44** respondents provided employment status for 2 parents, with the most common pattern being one full-time worker, and full-time carer.

2. Current Childcare Arrangements: School Holidays

	No.	Comments re usage
Parents	20	
Friends and Family	5	From 1 day to 6 days per week.
Holiday Play Club	4	From 3 days to 5 days per week.
Holiday Activities	8	Up to 4 days per week for 4 hours.
Open Access/Mobile Play	4	For 1 or 2 weeks.
Camp	0	
Child-minder	0	
Nanny / Au Pair	1	1 day per week.

- How many indicated that the children spent the holidays entirely with parents? **21**
- How many combined parents with friends and family only? **4**
- How many indicated that they used two or more other sources of holiday provision in addition to parents. **10**

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Only **4** indicated that they use formal childcare in the form of holiday clubs. No respondents indicated that they use childminders.

Only **2** families indicated that they used provision outside the Borough, aside from travel with or to visit family.

3. Current Childcare Arrangements: Term Time

17 of the **44** respondents indicated that they are currently using childcare term time childcare provision.

The breakdown of usage is shown below.

	No.	Hours/Week	Comments
Childminder Before School	4	Up to 5 hours/week	
Childminder After School	4	Up to 15 hours /week	
Breakfast Club	0	No breakfast club at school	
Other Before School Provision	0		
After School Club	0	No after school club at school	
After School Activities	11	Sports, art, craft, cubs	May be social or used as childcare.
Friends or Family	10	Up to 14 hours/week	
Nanny / Au Pair	0		

Reasons for use of childcare:

16 respondents indicated they use childcare for work reasons.
9 for the child to socialize.

4. Childcare Information

How easy is it to find information?

Very Easy	Mostly Easy	Quite Difficult	Very Difficult
2	17	7	7

Where do you find the most useful information?

Word of Mouth / Friends	School	FIS	WBC website	Internet	Children's Centre	Ads/ Magazines	Other:
15	2	2	5	10	1	2	0

Only 2 respondents mentioned the FIS service. However, it is entirely possible that information found on the WBC and other internet sites and other sources derived from FIS, but was not identified as such.

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5. Challenges in finding childcare and impact on family life

The following are quotes from comments made by respondents. These comments covered the range of childcare availability, including pre-school provision and childminders, but particularly draw attention to the fact that there is no before and after school provision on the school site. Several respondents commented that they hoped this would change following building at the school. At least one parent had given serious consideration to applying to an alternative school where wrap-around care is available.

There is no term time care available in Hurst. There is no childcare available in Hurst! One childminder picks up at school. There are no before or after school clubs...drop in scheme in summer is excellent. Sports Development courses are very good.
Cantly summer clubs get full quite quickly.
Childminder unable to supply additional hours needed after school.
Would use ASC 8 hrs per week. None provided by school. Before and after school care required by hard to come by in the area.
Looked on Wokingham Council website – no childminders available in Hurst area – only available one is full.
Been extremely difficult – almost impossible to find any childcare in the area – Council provided a list but none was able to pick up from school. Only available childminder has long waiting list.
Have had to rely on friends and impose which is difficult and often awkward. Has resulted in ++ stress with juggling work at home – affects work life balance because end up working in evenings and on weekends to catch up impacts on kids. Has added financial cost and pressure.
V.difficult to find baby-sitters and of childcare on occasions and very expensive too.
Therefore we cannot attend meetings or functions and therefore feel less informed and not involved.
There is great difficulty in before and after school care for our school (St.N, Hurst). There are very few childminders available who can take or collect from this school. Choice is very limited and the chance of the few (2 or so) having a space is negligible.
Very difficult, I live in Hurst and there is no breakfast or after school club in the area. The school that my son attends has neither of these facilities.
I have had to rely on the kindness of my neighbour to bring my son and collect him from school. I don't make it back on time to pick him up and I have to leave the house early to drop off my toddler to his childminder in Woodley as there is no affordable childcare for you children in this area either.
There is no before school or post-school childcare offered at the school which makes access impossible. There are no childminders in the village.
There is a large body of support for an after-school club to be run at St. Nicholas Primary. We would very much appreciate you finding a way to establish a club and am sure you would find it quickly self-financing.
Travel to Wokingham – would be dependent on other local children going – my children hate going to holiday camps if they don't know anyone.
Did use the free summer play scheme which ran at St. Nicholas and Colleton schools last year and would be very glad to see it returning last year.
Due to low income I could not afford to pay for playschemes in the summer so the free one provided (see above) is essential for my child's socialisation.
Work in another school, so need care at start/end school day.
Very few childminders. Lack of after school care. Rely on organised clubs ie. streetdance rather than a

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'proper' after school
No after school club at the school...the council told me there are no childminders in Hurst. I found the one I use by word of mouth. She lives in Twyford.
Very, very difficult. Had to rely on friends short term arrangements with various part-time pre-school workers until found my current childminder. I am very disappointed the school has no breakfast club or after school care.
Also childminder didn't want to pick up in 2 different places – a problem for me. It has been very difficult as in Hurst there is limited childcare. At St. Nicholas Primary there is no after school club or breakfast club. This facility would make my transition back to p/t work much easier. We have a need for after school club at St. Nicholas Primary School.
I find it frustrating that there is no after-school care at St. Nicholas. Most other schools have this provision. I understand that this is difficult with the current building and yet another argument for the new building to go ahead. I hope this can be addressed once the new building is complete.
No difficulty so far, but my child has only just started school.
Lack of before /after school provision has had an impact on my work and my younger child (who has to spend more time at nursery).
There are no before or after school clubs (activities are different) so there is no option other than to be at school by 8.45 and for collection at 3.15pm
It gives no flexibility and means our entire day is always centered on pick up and drop off times.
We don't have any family locally and although we have friends in Hurst they mostly have their own children to care for too. If it is necessary to make commitments around 9am and 3pm there are no alternatives other than to ask for a 'favour' from a friend. It would be much easier if there were clubs at school that the children could safely stay at for an hour or so either side of the school day. On one occasion (where I had a funeral to attend) we had to ask one friend to have our daughter before school and another (to lighten the load) to collect her afterwards. Not a good idea for us or for our daughter. Once the school has been re-built I sincerely hope that both am and pm clubs will be available at St. Nicholas.
There is no local pre or post school care linked to the school. Impossible to get it.
Children, I believe, should be with family, so I have no need for childcare. Outside of that, for people who need help, school are the next best place for childcare assistance.
I would love the opportunity for the local school (St Nicholas Hurst) to provide after school clubs for children. At the moment, there are no after school clubs that children could go to and stay there until 5/6pm. It would be a great help for working parents.
A little difficult as I need after school care for term time only and couldn't get it from childminder. No other services are available in this area.
Very difficult to find flexible childcare locally. No other option but to use multiple private channels.
Huge stress induced when no cover.
Our before school childminder is brilliant and therefore fully booked so can't do more than before school also a St. Nicholas is a small school there are very few childminders who pick up/drop off there. Also no breakfast / after school care at the school.
Seriously considered applying for non-catchment school which offered wrap around care. Causes stress around who has to drop work commitments to provide childcare.
Childminders to do after school pick up or any after school club.

A number of parents commented on the impact on working patterns:

Because there is so little available, I turn down work which takes me away or use friends to cover on

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occasions.
Luckily I work from home mostly and we cobble together provision through friends when needed. I cannot take on regular work away from home. I have been offered a contract a 3 day/week and it will be very difficult to do. I want my children to be safe, happy and well cared for if I am working or I will not do it.
It is very hard to juggle family and work. I am lucky to have family close by. I would not be able to afford childcare otherwise.
Have had to rely on friends and impose which is difficult and often awkward. Has resulted in ++ stress with juggling work at home – affects work life balance because end up working in evenings and on weekends to catch up impacts on kids. Has added financial cost and pressure.
I am planning to go back to work for 2-3 days a week. Therefore childcare will be essential for me and my 3 children. Having affordable and reliable childcare would make a huge difference to organise and balance my lifestyle.
...one of us is self employed, so is able to be a little more flexible with work hours BUT these missed hours obviously need making up.
I work around holidays – otherwise I wouldn't have had children if someone else had to look after them.
I used to be a working mum and had difficulty finding a childminder and also used a private play club (Koosa) in the holidays. I want to go back to work but worry about finding childcare.
It's a juggling act and being a working mum is tricky. Staying home is much more simple but not easy to afford.
It has made it extremely difficult to keep working the hours stipulated in our work contracts.
Work in another school, so need care at start/end school day.
Very few childminders. Lack of after school care. Rely on organised clubs ie. streetdance rather than a 'proper' after school
Would be able to work more hours whilst children are at school if better before/after school care available.
I am a single working mother. I am fortunate to have a flexible working arrangement. It has been very stressful for me finding childcare over the past 2/3 years because of the lack of childcare in Hurst.
Mother wanting to start work asap but lack of childcare in Hurst village a problem...
At St. Nicholas Primary there is no after school club or breakfast club. This facility would make my transition back to p/t work much easier.
I have not been able to return to work as quickly as I would have liked due to reduced childcare in Hurst.
I have to fit my work in school hours which isn't always possible.
I would like to work more hours after school hours to reduce the cost of my commute and the stress of finding childcare for my children after school. An after school club at St. Nicholas would make my life so much easier.
Lack of before /after school provision has had an impact on my work and my younger child (who has to spend more time at nursery).
There is no local pre or post school care linked to the school... Forced to change work/life and work from home.
I have changed career totally to allow me to work from home as there was no provision at all.
We've changed everything so we don't need it too late for us!
Lack of pre-schol, after school care locally (ie. linked to this school) would deter me from taking on a more full time job.
The difficulty involved in arranging care for before and after school would deter me from taking a job where the hours conflicted with the school run. If there was suitable provision on the school site then I would possibly use it.

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I would love the opportunity for the local school (St Nicholas Hurst) to provide after school clubs for children. .. It would be a great help for working parents.
I cannot take a full-time job which means lower income.
Causes stress around who has to drop work commitments to provide childcare.
This has impacted my ability to work hours required by some customers.

6. Future use of holiday childcare

21 respondents indicated that they are interested in accessing childcare provision during the school holidays, with a further 10 indicating they would be interested 'Eventually', within the following timescales:

- Within a year – 13
- Within 3 years – 3
- More than 3 years - 0

The spread of days was as shown below, indicating that interest is spread fairly equally across the week. 9 respondents indicated that they are interested in provision for the whole week:

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	ALL 5
16	16	17	16	13	9

These are low numbers for the development of stand-alone holiday provision, but should be considered alongside data from other schools,

When asked what time they would need the childcare provision to start and finish, of the respondents were looking for whole day provision (more than 6 hours), mostly within the hours of 8am to 6pm. The table below shows during which holidays respondents were interested in using provision.

Holiday	Spring half term	Easter	Summer half term	Summer holidays	Autumn half term
No.	9	14	15	28	10

This clearly evidences that interest is highest in the summer holidays. However, from a business perspective, it is important to be aware that the large majority of respondents seem themselves as using provision for less than the full holiday period, as shown below:

No. of weeks	1	2 or 3	4 or 5	All
No. respondents	2	20	6	2

The final question asked respondents if they would travel into Wokingham in order to access excellent provision:

- Yes: 28
No: 5

Those responding no to this question indicated that this was related to travel and time pressures, but also to a preference for the familiarity of local provision.