

S2.1 Questionnaires

Questionnaires can provide an opportunity for every student to contribute to the preparation of your Grounds for Optimism award. A well designed questionnaire with good questions will help your team gather general or specific information that will give a clear impression about what students or others, such as staff who supervisor break and lunchtimes, your site manager etc think of your school site.

Designing your questionnaire...

Questionnaires can produce large amounts of data so at an early stage it is worth asking yourselves...

How will we handle and process all the data? Who can help us?

Remember to talk to staff in your IT and Maths departments who should be able to help you.

Think carefully about how you set out the questionnaire to ensure that when you analyse the results you can distinguish between the different views that are likely to come out ... For instance what boys think in comparison to girls, and how do Yr 7 starters compare to Yr 11 leavers?

Combining questionnaires with site plans can also be a good way of making sure that the responses people give can be clearly understood. You will need to think carefully about how your findings could be easily analysed, particularly if large numbers of people are involved in the survey. Again it would be worth talking to your IT department.

What questions should we ask?...

These will be different for every school. They will depend on what you want to achieve from the activity; for instance you may just want to include several very open questions such as:

What do you like about the school grounds?

What do you dislike?

What is your favourite place at break/lunchtimes?

Could the school grounds be better? ... explain how.

On the other hand there may be some very specific questions your school wants to know more about, perhaps because of a particular interest or concern they are already aware of. You may particularly want to focus on a certain time of day such as break or lunchtimes. Alternatively, you may want to find out about several different things and you could combine this all within one questionnaire as shown in the example.

When deciding what questions to ask remember there may be particular things your Head Teacher or Chair of Governors would like to know to help them with the work they are doing to evaluate your school.

The example student questionnaire shown at the end shows questions that were asked as the first part of a questionnaire that was completed in two stages.

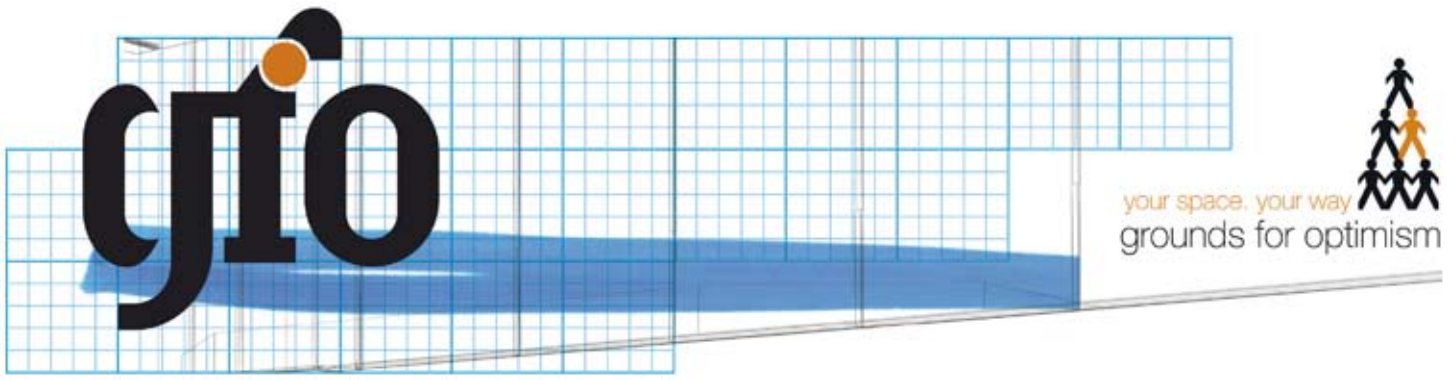
These open questions were used to get qualitative information from a small sample group of students from across all year groups.

During the second stage students used what they had found out to create a quantitative questionnaire. They worked with their IT department to design a questionnaire that could be posted on the school's Virtual Learning Environment which allowed every pupil to access it during tutor times and return it electronically.

Finally, the data was analysed to allow the strength of feeling surrounding particular issues to be gauged and give a greater insight into how the campus was being used, when and by whom.

See Example Questionnaire below:





S2.1 Example Questionnaire

Year Group: 7 8 9 10 11 (please tick)

I am: Male Female

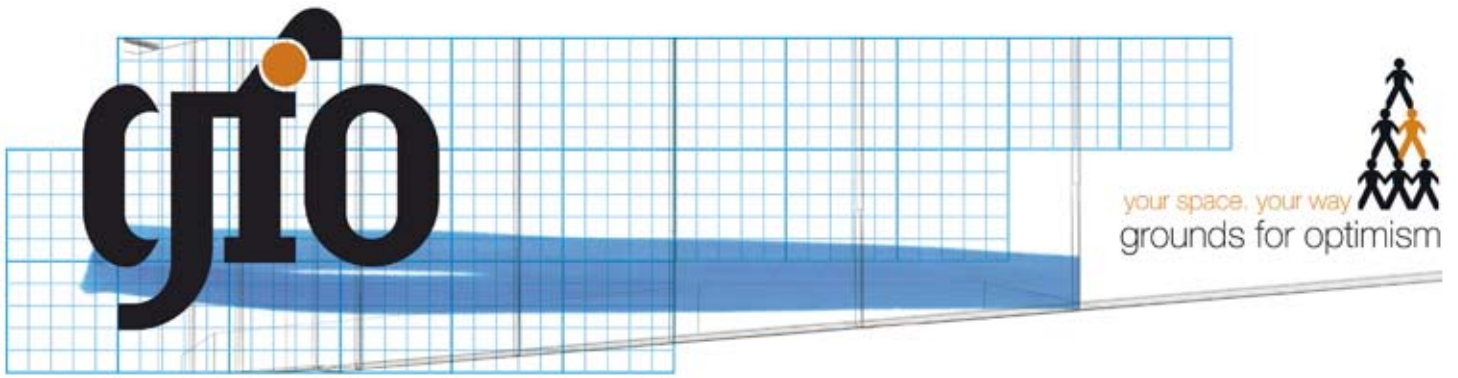
Break time use

Think about different times of year – where do you and your friends like to go, and what do you do there?

	Where?	What you do there?
Summer	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Winter	_____	_____
	_____	_____

Are there other things you would like to be able to do at break times but cannot? Explain what these are.

Are there places within the grounds you would like to go, but cannot? Explain why.



General Points

Are there any particular points about your school grounds that interest or concern you which you think need to be discussed?

Out of school hours use

Do you use your school grounds out of school hours? Please list the type of activities.

Do you have any suggestions or ideas about how the school grounds could be used out of school hours?

Arriving at school

If there is more than one entrance/exit point to the school grounds which do you use? (include any shortcuts or unauthorised entrance points you may use)

Are there any points you would like to make about the entrance/s to your school grounds?

And finally ... if you have any further points to make or opinions and ideas to offer, please list them below.