WHAT PARENTS VALUE ABOUT RADFORD COLLEGE

Below is a small sample of some of the many ‘open ended’ comments from parents in relation to what they valued about their experience with Radford College, received in response to the 2014 MMG survey.

From Parents of Year 2 students

- ‘Community and caring atmosphere - genuinely supportive of young people.’
- ‘Excellent teachers and a safe environment for my daughter and her friends.’
- ‘I value the feeling of Community at Radford, particularly in the Junior School where there is a real sense of belonging for both students and parents.’
- ‘Its professionalism, integrity, standards, quality education, wide and diverse range of co-curricular activities and diverse range of student opportunities regarding learning programs and exposure. Fantastic dedicated teachers. Very caring and personal environment.’
- ‘Our experience with teaching staff across 4 years has been fantastic with each teacher being highly professional, capable and personable. We have not had a complaint about any of them. The school has provided a safe, caring and supportive environment in which our child has thrived socially and developmentally.’
- ‘Radford College is one place, which is equally (may be more) caring about our kids as we(as parents) are.’
- ‘The caring environment and community atmosphere. The security of knowing that my child is in the care of innovative, top quality educators. I love the PYP and the values and inquiry style of teaching associated with it.’

From Parents of Year 5 students

- ‘1. The quality of the education and the educational outcomes. 2. The opportunity for my child to take risk in a safe environment. 3. The support teachers provide to students. 4. the diverse activities sporting and non-sporting available to my child to experience. 5. The responsiveness of teachers and staff to any issues parents have’
- ‘Friendly, professional staff, genuinely interested in the child's development, offers a great range of co-curricular activities and is responsive to the learning and development issues of my children.’
- ‘Interpersonal connections that make life work. Knowing the teachers personally, being involved with the P&F, meeting other parents and listening to them and encouraging them with moral support through life's ups and downs. Being a positive influence through relationships. Making a valued contribution, even as a parent volunteer’
- ‘My son is much happier, focused, confident and successful since moving to Radford. He has also developed a strong circle of friends, who are of good character. We are very happy with his progress.’
• ‘Radford is a cohesive and caring community, and I really do value that. For my children, I value Radford's emphasis on educational achievement combined with building balanced, confident and principled individuals. I had high expectations of the school before my children started there, and I feel that these expectations are being met.’
• ‘The teachers are friendly, and mean well.’
• ‘Whole child development and the Inquiry Approach to learning (as per the Junior School PYP). A moderate and flexible approach that does not take the 'private school status' too seriously, rather a school that the children are happy to attend, remain respectful of, engaged in, encouraged to reach full potential with opportunity for advancement if appropriate, and are heard and respected as individuals themselves.’

From Parents of Year 7 students

• ‘Being part of what is regarded as the best school in Canberra and being in a position to offer the best education to our children.’
• ‘Encouragement of curiosity & risk taking. Pastoral care. Quality study habits. Encouragement of a wide friendship circle. Peer support within the year and between the years.’
• ‘Good principles morally, co-ed education, able to extend children who are succeeding. In general responsiveness of staff to concerns.’
• ‘I love the caring environment and the skilled teachers. My children have done well and have been really happy most of the time.’
• ‘I value the professionalism of the school and its teachers and the care they show for students.’
• ‘In general, the College's focus on developing students to reach their potential.’
• ‘Its not just about an educational result, its education with a deeper understanding about spiritual & moral importance. Truth compassion & wisdom is a great trinity to uphold’
• ‘My children are happy and loyal students of Radford College. We are grateful overall for the high quality of staff and the sense of community/family that our children associate with the school. I also value the variety of opportunity provided by the school.’
• ‘Strong educational opportunities for my children, a sense of belonging and self worth, wonderful staff.’

From Parents of Year 10 students

• ‘A sense of respect for students and teachers and respect for differences in individuals and cultures Demonstrated values of equity and fairness humility that recognises that a privileged education demands a positive contribution to community/society (rather than a right to personal benefit)’
• ‘Community vibe, friendly & committed staff/teachers. The grounds always look immaculate. My child is receiving a well balanced education, developing the ‘whole’ person. Overall I am extremely happy with Radford.’
• ‘We believe that the teaching staff and education provided are of a high standard. We also value the co-curricular opportunities offered and the pastoral care provided by the teaching and support staff.’
• ‘I can see as my child matures, her enjoying a deeper respect for all her teachers - and they, in turn are treating her as a more mature student. The dedication of the teachers at Radford is clearly evident to my daughter as she gets older, so the quality of the teachers is what I most value about Radford - and the friendships, both with other parents and my children's teachers is also something I really value.’
• ‘I value the relationships that both my children and we as parents have with the teaching staff. I really enjoy it when my children speak so excitedly in the car on the way home about what they’ve done in their school day and the animated stories they have about the teachers.’

From Parents of Year 12 students

• ‘Encouraging teachers who reflect and value diversity. Inspiring that differences can be celebrated within a college that may be tempted to value conformity. I spoke to two friends before enrolling my girls in Radford, one who had a developmentally delayed and one who had an academically gifted child. Both raved about the quality of the college, and I feel this is still something that Radford does well.’
• ‘Great culture, sense of community and belonging. Well rounded not just academic but all achievements are celebrated, not necessarily equally but it’s a start.’
• ‘I believe both my children have benefited from the education they have received at Radford and the non-academic education of the 'whole person'. My children have also made what I hope are life long Radford friends.’
• ‘I feel that the education and development of my child(ren) are in excellent hands and have confidence in the standards applied and the aspirations nurtured. I am also confident that the College understands very well the challenges of today's life and society and is cognizant of those in its approach to my child(ren)'s education and development.’
• ‘My child has developed a love of learning and a respect for others (younger/peers/and teachers) that will help him face any situation his future holds. I am extremely grateful for the opportunities my son has had and especially for the AMAZING staff at each stage - not just in school hours but with co-curricular and also trips away on weekends and during school holidays.’
• ‘The friendships my children have made and the values that they have had reinforced. Have also appreciated the teaching staff’s approach to my children. Allowing them to
speak their mind on subjects in class but also challenging them with alternative points of view.’

We greatly value the views of parents and students. This information is most important for the College for our operational and strategic planning, as well as tracking changes in our performance. We are most grateful to parents for their time and effort in assisting us with this important initiative, the 2014 MMG survey.