

Parent Questionnaire – 2017 Results

Thank you so much to those of you who completed the parent questionnaires that we sent out in April. We have been busy analysing the results and these have now been through the formal process of being fed back to the School and Community Committee of the Governing Body on 18 May. They have also been shared with the teaching staff at a recent staff meeting. We are now able to share the results with you and advise you of the actions we are taking as a result.

We were delighted to receive 83 responses this year compared to 64 responses last year. As with any survey, the greater the response rate, the more reliable the results are so we have been able to analyse these results secure in the knowledge that they are representative of the views of our parent population.

As last year, we have looked at both the quantitative results (the main body of the survey) and the qualitative responses (your written comments). We have turned the qualitative responses into quantitative results so that we can better understand any trends.

1. Results of the Individual Questions

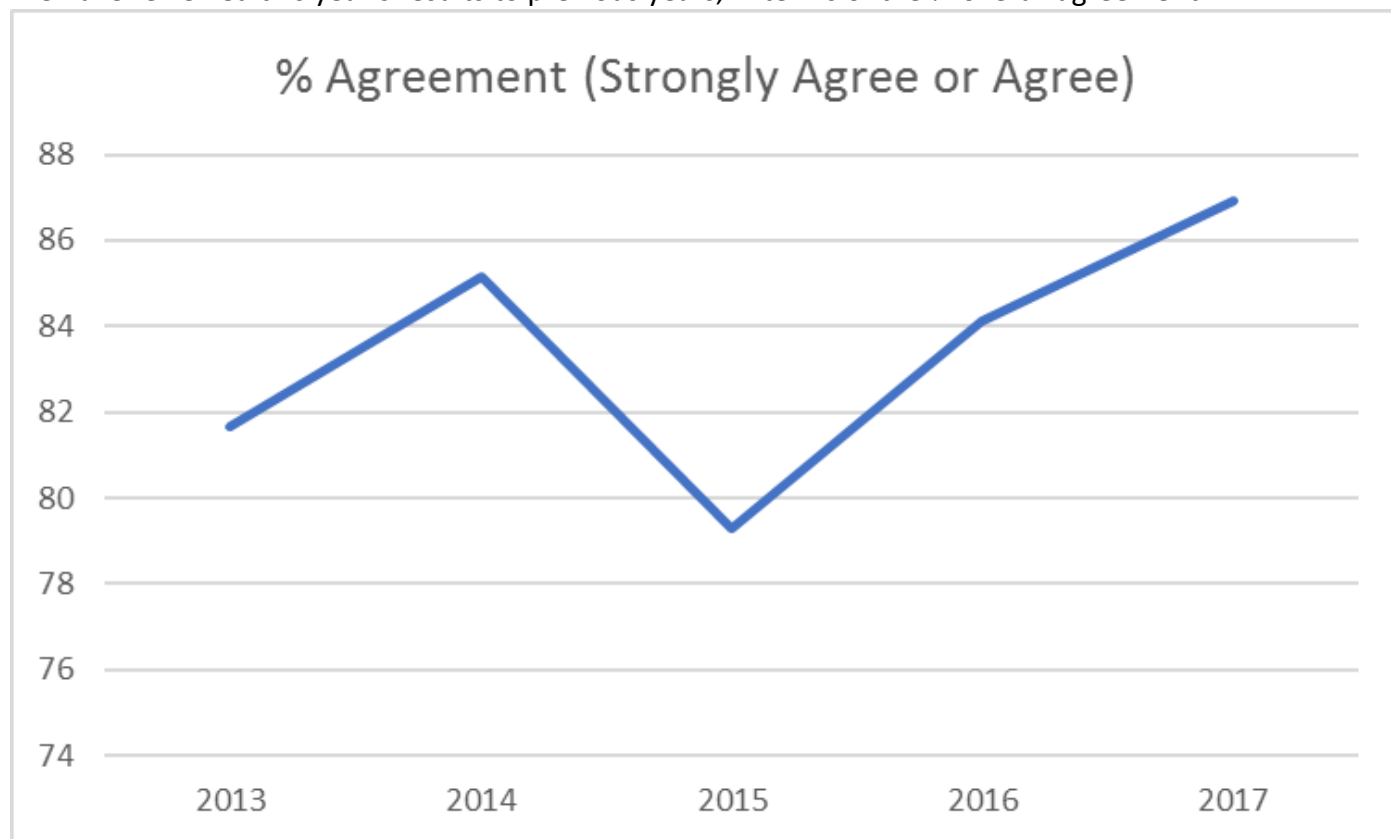
Please find the results set out below by question and by the percentage response. Please note that the percentages may not add up to 100% (due to rounding).

	% Strongly Agree	% Agree	% Disagree	% Strongly Disagree	% Neither Agree nor Disagree	% overall in Agreement	% Overall Disagreement	% Other
My child enjoys attending Oaklands Junior School.	48%	48%	1%	1%	1%	96%	2%	1%
I believe my child is safe at this school	46%	46%	5%	0%	4%	92%	5%	4%
My child is well looked after at this school.	45%	51%	1%	0%	4%	95%	1%	4%
I believe there is a respectful and trustworthy relationship between pupils and staff.	51%	43%	2%	0%	4%	94%	2%	4%
This school encourages my child to take personal responsibility.	30%	64%	1%	0%	5%	94%	1%	5%
The quality of teaching at this school is of a high standard.	37%	52%	4%	0%	7%	89%	4%	7%
My child is encouraged to work to his/her full potential.	40%	41%	11%	0%	8%	81%	11%	8%
My child makes good progress at this school	30%	52%	4%	0%	14%	82%	4%	14%
The school environment is attractive and well-resourced.	28%	63%	5%	0%	5%	90%	5%	5%
The school offers a broad and balanced curriculum.	37%	54%	1%	0%	7%	92%	1%	7%

Children at this school are offered a good range of extra-curricular activities.	42%	47%	0%	0%	11%	89%	0%	11%
I am given good advice by this school so that I am able to support my child's education.	30%	51%	8%	0%	11%	81%	8%	11%
The information evenings offered at the school help me to support my child's learning.	25%	61%	1%	1%	11%	87%	2%	11%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age and ability	20%	64%	6%	1%	8%	84%	7%	8%
I am kept well informed about my child's progress through consultation evenings, reports and informal conversations.	41%	45%	8%	0%	6%	86%	8%	6%
The school offers an "open door" policy so that any concerns I have are dealt with immediately.	48%	39%	5%	1%	7%	87%	6%	7%
I am happy with the amount, frequency and content of communication from school.	24%	57%	10%	1%	8%	81%	11%	8%
This school ensures pupils are well behaved	36%	55%	4%	1%	4%	92%	5%	4%
Parental involvement in the school is encouraged.	35%	54%	2%	1%	7%	89%	4%	7%
I think this school enjoys a good reputation within the local community.	37%	58%	2%	1%	1%	95%	4%	1%
There is a strong sense of community within this school	30%	59%	1%	0%	10%	89%	1%	10%
This school is managed effectively and is well led.	31%	55%	6%	1%	6%	87%	7%	6%
I am aware that the school is working towards thinking school accreditation	27%	52%	13%	0%	8%	78%	13%	8%
I have been given enough information to understand how becoming a thinking school will help my child	14%	36%	22%	5%	23%	51%	27%	23%
I would recommend this school to prospective parents.	48%	41%	2%	1%	7%	90%	3%	7%
Totals	35%	51%	5%	1%	8%	87%	6%	8%

2. Comparison to Previous Results

We have reviewed this year's results to previous years, in terms of the % overall agreement:



As you can see, this year's results are the best that we have received since the current format of the questionnaire was devised.

In terms of direct comparison to last year's results, the biggest increases in % overall agreement were for the following questions:

- School reputation (+19%)
- Sense of community (+17%)
- Appropriate Homework (+14%)
- Info evenings (+9%)
- Advice to support child (+8%)
- Recommend school (+8%)
- Management/well led (+7%)
- Pupil behaviour (+6%)

The questions where the % overall agreement fell by more than 5% were the following:

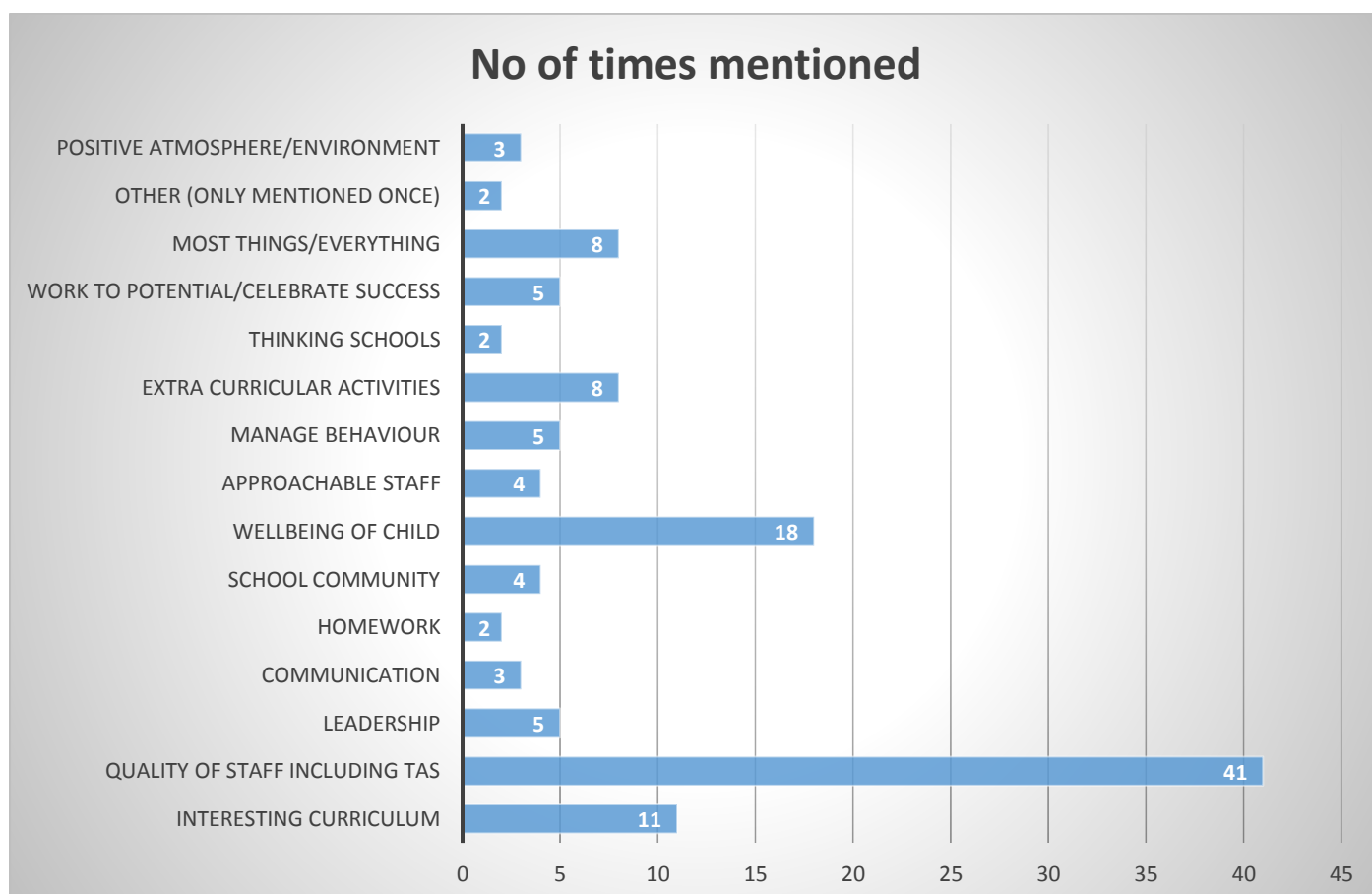
- Understanding of Thinking Schools (-9%)
- Communication (-6%)
- Awareness of Thinking Schools (-6%)

It is therefore clear that as a school we need to take action in the area of Thinking Schools and communication.

3. Result of the Written Comments

What do we do well?

From the written comments, we have captured:



4. What we are pleased about?

We are obviously delighted that the overall results are an improvement on last year's (total agreement up 3% to 87% and total disagreement down from 7% to 6%) and that the overall trend since 2013 is upwards. 2017 is the first year that 23 out of 25 of the questions scored over 80% in overall total agreement and of these 18 scored more than 85% and 10 more than 90%.

We are especially pleased that the biggest increase in overall percentage is the question relating to the reputation of the school within the community, as this is a great barometer of your overall feeling about the success of our school (up 19% to 95%).

We are also pleased to see that our new approach to homework has resulted in an increased approval rate for the homework question (up 14% to 84%). However, we do recognise that not all of you like the new approach, as noted in some of your comments.

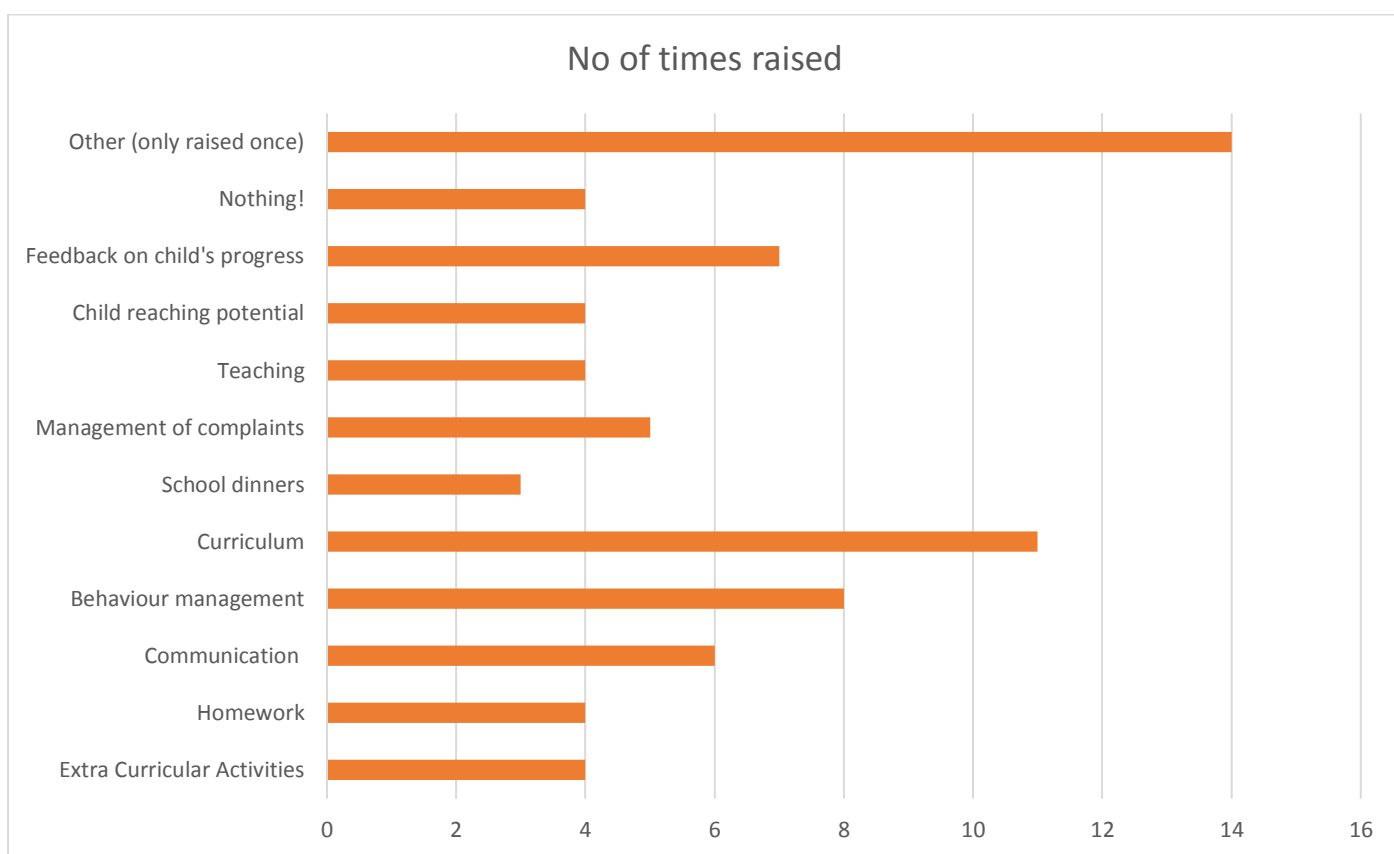
Mostly, however, we are delighted that our teaching staff received such praise and that 89% of you agreed that teaching was of a high standard. Some of the individual comments that you have written about the quality of the teaching that your child has received and the approach and professionalism of our teaching assistants are greatly appreciated.

Clearly, your child’s wellbeing in terms of their happiness, safety and pastoral care is, in your opinion, still being well-catered for within the school. The vast majority of you also feel that your child is supported, respected, feels valued and is included in activities. There are also numerous mentions of the extra-curricular activities that we provide, especially sport, and we are grateful that the extra provision is appreciated by parents.

5. What could we do better?

Whilst we are clearly delighted that there are many things you think we do well, as a school we are also keen to hear what you think we could do better. Where we can we will take action to make improvements to the school.

Again, in terms of the written comments, we have captured these in a graph:



6. The Biggest Concerns and What We are Doing About Them

a) Thinking Schools

In terms of % agreement in the main body of the questionnaire, the lowest scoring question was about your understanding of how our aspiration to be an accredited Thinking School will help your child. This was the same last year and it is obviously clear to us that we need to improve our communication to our parents so that you are as aware of our Thinking School vision as your children are.

All our children will shortly be receiving a booklet that outlines our philosophy through the Oaklands Mindset and this will include examples of the Thinking Tools we use. The website is regularly updated with news and also includes videos, while the half-termly newsletter always includes an update on Thinking School activities. Before the end of term, when we have our new Y2 Parents' Evening, when we will also have a greater focus on Thinking, as this will be new to many of our new parents.

b) Curriculum

Some of you mentioned some topics that you thought we should include in the curriculum, such as Mandarin. As with all schools, the majority of our curriculum is determined by the government and the Local Authority and there is little scope to add-in additional subjects.

Some of you mentioned that you would like your child to do more science practicals. You may not be aware that this does happen in every year group as part of science topic investigations each term, where at all possible. We also have groups of children throughout the school who attend STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) events in other schools each year, with our most recent taking place at Evendons this term. Wellington College annually have a Chemistry Spectacular and they invite our Y5s or Y6s to attend which we always welcome. Last year we had 'Mad Science' whole school assemblies which led to a Mad Science after school club, something that we would consider for the future, although there is a cost to parents and a requirement for a certain number to attend to make it viable. SLT have been discussing the possibility of a whole school 'science day' next year which could be a regular feature each year on a rolling programme with 'French day' which is due to take place this term. Finally, we are hoping to have greater links with Edgbarrow in many subjects and it may be that science could be a possibility.

c) Management of Behaviour

Some of you raised the issue of the way, as a school, that we manage behaviour. Our behaviour policy sets out both the way we reward those for good behaviour as well as the way we deal with those pupils whose behaviour strays from that which is expected.

For further information, our policy is available on the website.

Last term, as a staff, we reviewed our reward strategy with a new initiative that we have begun trialling this summer term. At the end of this term, pupils whose names have not been on orange in our traffic light system, at any time in lessons or during break or lunch, will receive an extra merit. Staff felt that it was important to recognise all the well-behaved children we have in school and encourage others to follow their lead. Poor behaviour is never left unaddressed and we recognise that perhaps parents have not always been kept informed of how matters have been dealt with but this does not mean to say that they have not been addressed. Sometimes there are extenuating circumstances when a child or children concerned are going through personal family difficulties; some have social, emotional or medically diagnosed difficulties that affect their behaviour from time to time. In these circumstances, poor behaviour still needs to be addressed but individual circumstances cannot be shared with parents. We will, when possible, attempt to close the

loop and ensure that parents are kept informed about how poor behaviour has been dealt with, as well as letting the child or children involved, know what has been done in future.

d) School Dinners

The School Council have regularly been involved in meetings with our catering suppliers, Caterlink, and our cook, during the school year. Children are made aware of the stipulations for school dinners laid down by central government, including specified portion size, stipulated ingredients and the prohibited use of additives (eg salt). We appreciate that school meals may not taste the same as those served at home or be of the same proportion, but Caterlink are having to operate within restrictions that are not applicable in a private household. We regularly monitor lunchtimes and ensure that the children are getting what they are entitled to. Any concerns raised by the children are followed up and if a child doesn't get the meal that they ordered, then Caterlink provide an alternative at no cost. No child is ever left without anything to eat.

e) Feedback on Progress

We would like to remind parents that there is always a way to receive feedback on progress throughout the year and not just during parents' evenings. If, at any point in the year, you would like to meet with your child's class teacher to discuss progress or how you can help support your child at home in any way, then please do contact your child's class teacher by writing in the home/school diary asking for an appointment to have a meeting or a telephone conversation. Alternatively, send in a letter or telephone the school to ask that a message is passed on to the class teacher to contact you to arrange a convenient time to have a discussion about current progress. There is not always time to chat when teachers are collecting their classes from the playground first thing in the morning but our teachers are always very willing to meet with you before or after school and many do meet with parents on a regular basis throughout the year, so please do take advantage of this.

f) Filming of Performances

We have investigated having a professional filming of performances but we are concerned that there are some children who cannot be photographed or filmed and as we remind parents at every class assembly or play, we can allow parents to film for their own personal use but not to share this on any social media websites. This is becoming even more important for safeguarding with new data protection laws. If we started to pixilate any photos or films we make, it would draw even more attention to the pupils who are not allowed to be filmed or photographed, so we have said that this is not an option. However, we are presently investigating whether we can film productions as a school, so that our pupils can see themselves in their own performances. At present we are in the early stages of investigating the possibility of involving A'Level Media Studies students from Edgbarrow to run this new venture. This has not yet been confirmed but we are hoping that this may happen for our Y6s' forthcoming final play at Oaklands Juniors.

7. Summary

On the whole, we are delighted with the results of the parent questionnaire and also with your willingness to share your views with us. We hope that this document has captured effectively those views and what we are doing as a result. It was pleasing to note that many of you have noticed our improvements to the pond area, which was due to some very supportive parents helping us make this area more attractive. Further improvements will be made over the Summer holiday. Obviously, there are a number of different issues that have been raised in the questionnaire and to cover all of them in this document is not feasible. Please rest assured that all the comments have been shared and actions will be taken where possible. Thanks again, we really do appreciate you sharing your views with us.

