

Orchard Community Primary School
Parent Questionnaire
June 2019

92

Total Responses

Date Created: Monday, June 24, 2019



Breakdown of School Years Groups

Answered: 92

Year Groups	Pupil Numbers	
Foundation (Mrs L Stuart)	8.70%	8
Class 1 (Mrs T McGravie)	14.13%	13
Class 2 (Mrs I Parker & Mrs L Chapman)	10.87%	10
Class 3 (Mr A Cooper)	11.96%	11
Class 4 (Mr J Patching & Mrs G Patching)	7.61%	7
Class 5 (Mrs C Godsell)	13.04%	12
Class 6 (Mrs G Sheldon)	7.61%	7
Class 7 (Mrs L Widdowson)	9.78%	9
Class 8 (Mrs M Cotterill)	8.70%	8
Class 9 (Miss E Millard)	7.61%	7
Total		92

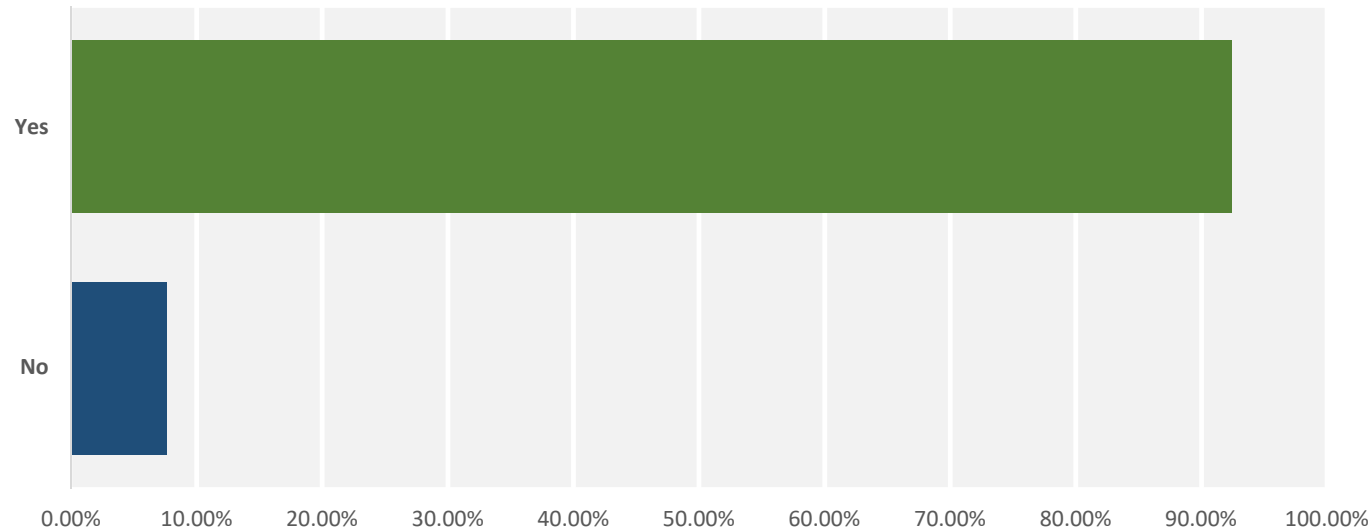


Q1: Do you think Orchard enables every child to succeed to the best of their ability? [Yes/No]

Answered: 92

All

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	92.39% 85
No	7.61% 7
Total	92





How could we improve?

Responses: 32

All

Sample Responses

I think you have improve massively already

Greater support with phonics for key stage 1 (when my son was younger) would have been a real bonus. They offer support groups now, before this wasn't an option.

Also additional presentations /opportunities for parents to learn about phonics and how best to teach them.

Tell us more about the topics you are covering

Its not as simple as a yes no answer, maybe a sliding scale of good to great?

My daughter struggles a lot with math and is behind a little in comparison to other members in her class i feel she doesn't get much recognition for the work she does do, She comes home really proud of something she might have done at school and because it's not a big thing in comparison to other pupils achievements I feel it goes unnoticed. Awards should be given for those who quietly get on with things, they tend to be overlooked

The only problem I have is the school dinners my girls aren't very keen on them I heard a lot of kids/parents say how disappointed they are of the dinners a lot of other school have a wide range of dinners as well have fruit/salad even pasta pots etc I think the menu definitely needs to be looked at and changed

School dinners - I fully understand the budget restrictions, but I have seen alot of school that have salad/fruit bars a bit like the harvester ???. I think this would really encourage children to try different healthy foods.

Better professional teaching staff who are prepared to go the extra mile to help school ((Mr Cooper is a role model for this)

It would be nice to see regular swimming for all year groups

More homework. E.g. sets of maths questions. Paragraphs to punctuate. Not keen on spellings, need spellings to teach the rules of spellings. In order to learn them my child has to spend EVERY night learning them and then forgets them in a week or two. This takes time away from reading.

The effort I have seen since my child joined the school has been outstanding

Competition is good but can lower children's self esteem if never part of a winning team

Pushing every child to the best of there ability

When we get the short reports at the end of term, I'd like to see a benchmark for the levels considered normal for the age group. When it says can do so many words out of so many I'd like to know if this is average, below, above etc

More help for the children that are struggling

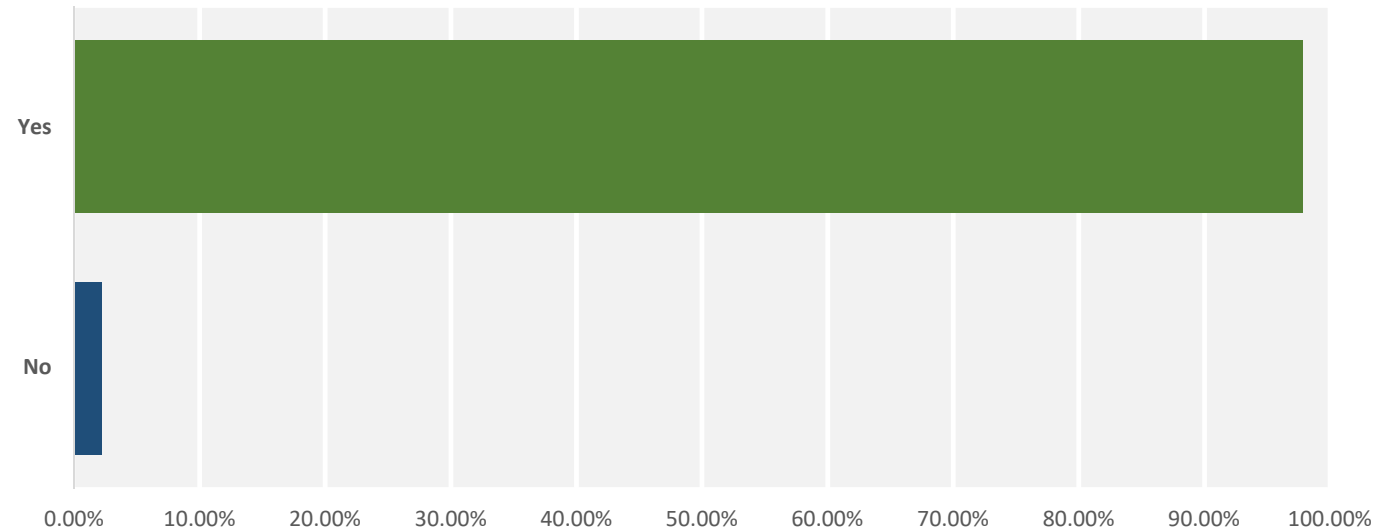


Q2: Do you think Orchard provides a stimulating and enriched learning environment? [Yes/No]

Answered: 92

All

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	97.83% 90
No	2.17% 2
Total	92



What works well, which areas could be improved?



Responses: 32

All

Sample Responses

Open plan classrooms, the teacher and the whole layout of the school

Maybe the outdoor play areas

I think it is good, but could be greatly improved by additional outdoor lessons.

Like the sports you all do.

More feedback on how well my child is doing compared to the average

Again this answer is not just yes no, some elements are good and some not so good. More outdoor learning should be incorporated into the day.

Praise for all who are doing well, even if that's what you would expect from them

I really like the certificates as they are given for a variety of things not just purely based on academic achievements. Top table is really good I really like how much effort goes into this. I have found that the children have a very varied learning environment which appeals to them.

We have been very impressed by the range of enriching curriculum activities such as themed days, school visitors (theatre group/RSPB), charity days etc. A local visit or school trip for the reception children would be a nice addition.

Things have vastly improved since Mrs Shields joined

Creative involvement from the teacher and engaging materials is great. More time learning outdoors and also a refurbishment of the classroom is much needed. A biophilic learning environment would greatly enhance the pupils learning abilities.

?Field trips

Both of my children are physical and active so opportunities to learn away from desks work well for them and help keep them engaged.

Parking outside school

Interactive learning, getting into the great outdoors

The classrooms are much more vibrant and the school a more welcoming environment. The only area which could be made better use of is the nature area

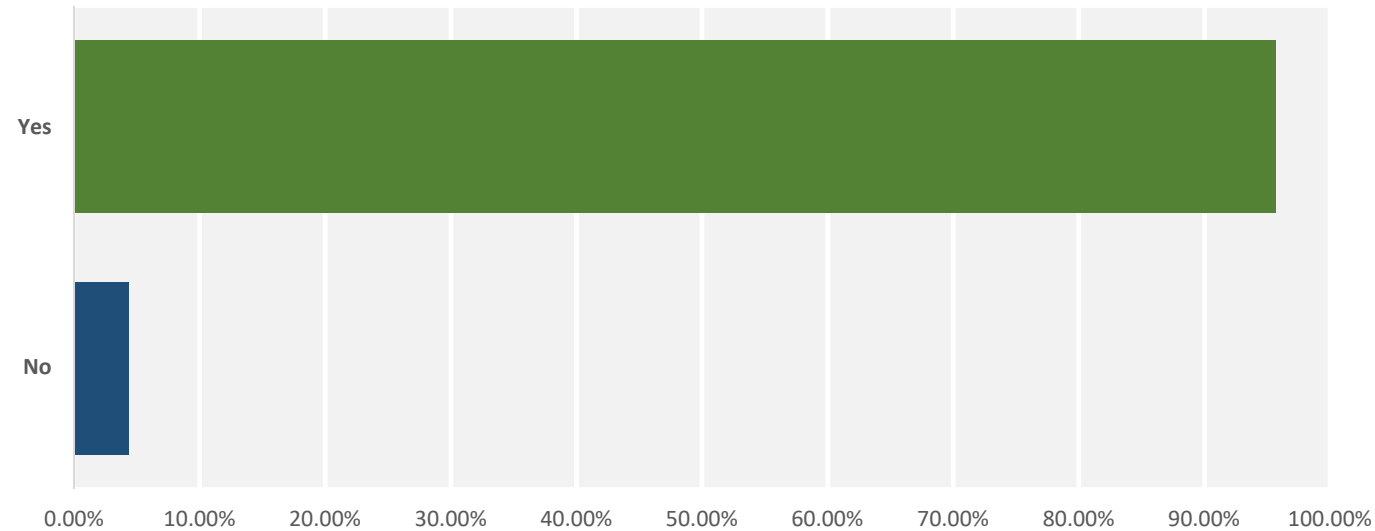


Q3: Do you think the school is well-managed / well-led? [Yes/No]

Answered: 92

All

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	95.65% 88
No	4.35% 4
Total	92



What works well, what could be improved?



Responses: 34

All

Sample Responses

Communication is outstanding

The kids all seem happier and more enthusiastic to go to school

Communication could be streamlined, there seems to be messages/information coming from lots of different online platforms. Dojo, teachers to parents, emails, newsletter and texts. It's confusing where to look for what information.

I think the approach to school dinners is too severe, we recently had an issue where my child potentially would have been made an example of in front of the dinner room which is wholly unfair. The school seems very bureaucratic. And one member of the office had a particularly unhelpful and sharp approach to some matters. I feel as the main point of getting correct information to parents needs to improve. Sending messages in a timely manner also.

We are well managed, and very good at getting grants / funding. If I had to give advice on improvement, the school management should have a priority list of things to fund. They seem to change their mind on what they want to fund month by month. This is frustrating the PTA.

Since Fiona Shields has been Head I have noticed a vast improvement around the school and within the classroom. The only thing that could be improved is lunch time. The children have been told they cannot sit together at lunch because one is hot dinners and one is packed lunch it makes lunch time sometimes unenjoyable.

Communication could be better managed when flagging up issues, rather than being defensive/going on the offence.

I have noticed a lot of changes and improvements this year. There seems to be a lot more focus on encouraging the children to look at what they do well and not on what they can't do.

Bullying was an issue for us in the last academic year and unfortunately due to it not being dealt with correctly, in my It's well managed by Mrs Shields, shame that some other teachers don't follow her example

Great communication

Much better leadership, staff showing a better standard of professional presentation.

Strong head teacher and leadership team work well

I think all round the school is led and managed very well

Special days allowing the children to engage and dress up

I feel that one area that could be improved is allowing children to enter their classroom slightly earlier on mornings with extremely bad weather as they are having to sit at school in wet clothes all day.

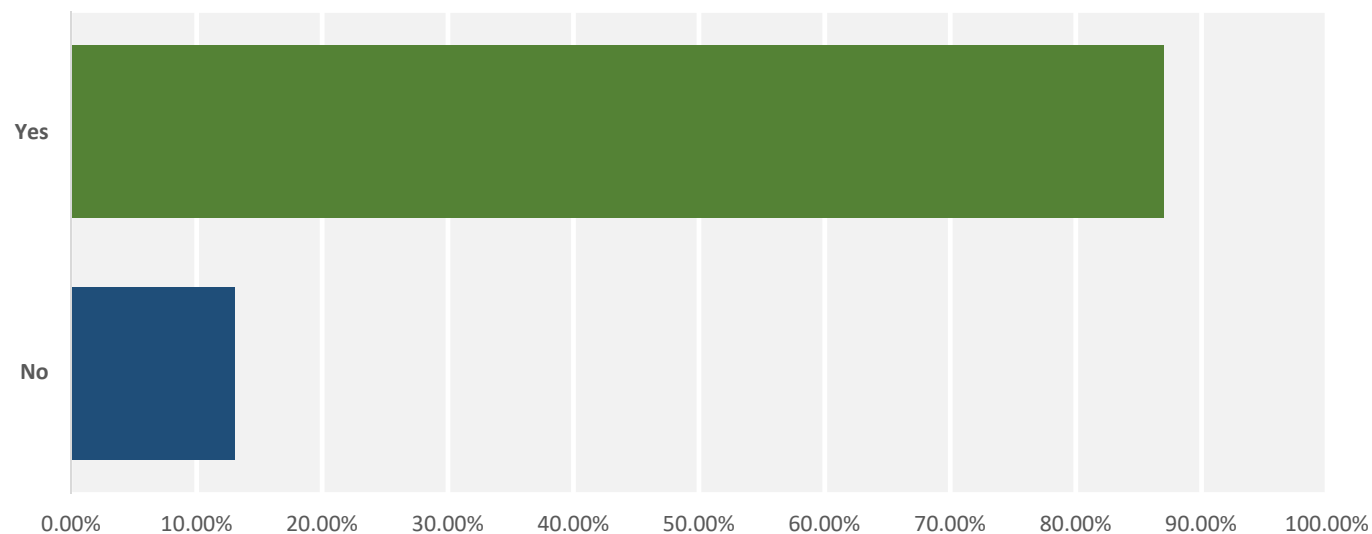


Q4: Do you think your child/ren receives the right kind/amount of homework? [Yes/No]

Answered: 92

All

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	86.96% 80
No	13.04% 12
Total	92



How could this be improved/changed?



Responses: 33

All

Sample Responses

Make sure they take it home

I don't agree with homework, they work hard enough during the day. I believe children should have homework once they get to high school, nearer the GCSE times. I think homework should be a choice and if a child chooses to get homework then great and if a child doesn't, that's also fine. Forcing children who are not naturally academic is it could be notified to the parents as children don't always mention it until Sunday night !

A consistent approach to homework, we seem to get all or nothing and some weekend are a panic of homework.

Sometimes like this week we received homework on Tuesday and was expected to be in for Friday they're wasn't enough time usually they get a week.

Very sporadic, regular doses means the child gets used to it and then just gets on with it

Yes and No!

For my eldest child I feel it is adequate but could do with being relayed to parents better, dojo, text, email. It would be nice to have a 'home project' to complete with the children over a half term/term.

Previous years had much more homework eg topic work that was more of a project rather than worksheets

I don't agree with homework being given over the holiday periods. It becomes a stress point at home. Holidays should be a complete break from learning, its our family time. I will happily support learning topics with visits to museums etc.....softer learning.

As before, feel more maths/English required. Current spellings takes a huge amount of time up, perhaps homework to learn the rules. Would like much more basic maths questions - repetitive questions on the same topic to help children remember the methodology.

More time and notice to some as we receive some homework via go-jo that needs to be completed in a very short space of time

On line

Sometimes too much

The competitions do create work especially for the little ones that are already tired when they get home. Especially those who get home later as in a working family

Sometimes they are given less than a week to complete the homework which I feel is a little unfair, the amount of homework is fine but I feel they should be given 1 full week to complete it at this age.

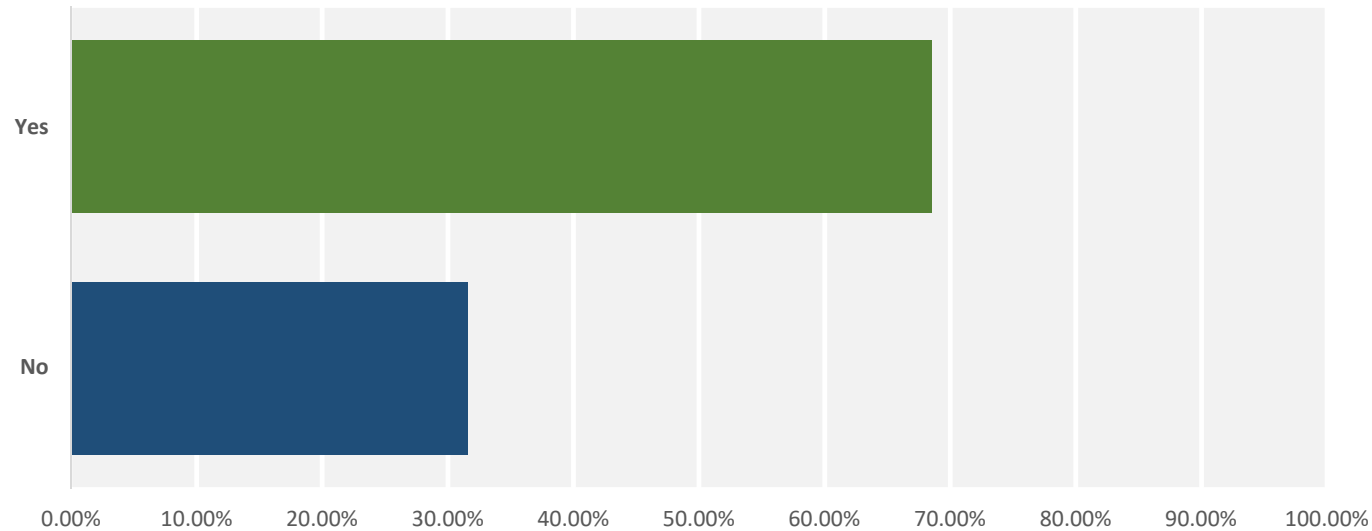


Q5: In supporting your child at home, do you receive sufficient information ? (eg. how much time to spend on homework ?/ when it should be completed? / How much to help?) [Yes/No]

Answered: 92

All

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	68.48% 63
No	31.52% 29
Total	92





How could we improve?

Responses: 33

All

Sample Responses

N/A

Messages home either are not received or sent late on Class Dojo giving little time to complete the task set (i.e. night before it's due).

As previously mentioned phonics lessons for parents would be good...as in how to teach them.

A guide for parents would be useful

Provide more advice/ information

Communication regarding homework and what is to be completed isn't very clear sometimes.

I have specifically asked my child's teacher if homework and spellings can also be sent out directly to parents so that we are aware of what is needed.

Have not had any information, we do what we feel is right

Possibly a bit longer to complete it, sometimes less than a week is a challenge.

Requesting homework or materials for school mid week doesn't work, likewise receiving messages late in the sends the wrong message to me.....overwork or under organised?

Some simple parental guidelines would be helpful

How much time, depends on how willing my child is - if I timed it he could do nothing so difficult, we spend as much time on it to get it done. Also if I did not encourage and help he would just give up and say he can't do it. Spellings are always a battle too.

It hasn't always been clear when homework is due to be completed. Partly because my son has forgotten. The reminders on dojo have been helpful.

Be mindful of support sessions held more notification is needed for working parents to arrange. May have evening sessions for working parents

We aren't advised how much help we are allowed to give the children but we do get given a date that it is due in by.

An idea of how long it should take would be good and sites to do research on. Homework that can be done without parent help and a text or dojo reminder with what is set and due dates

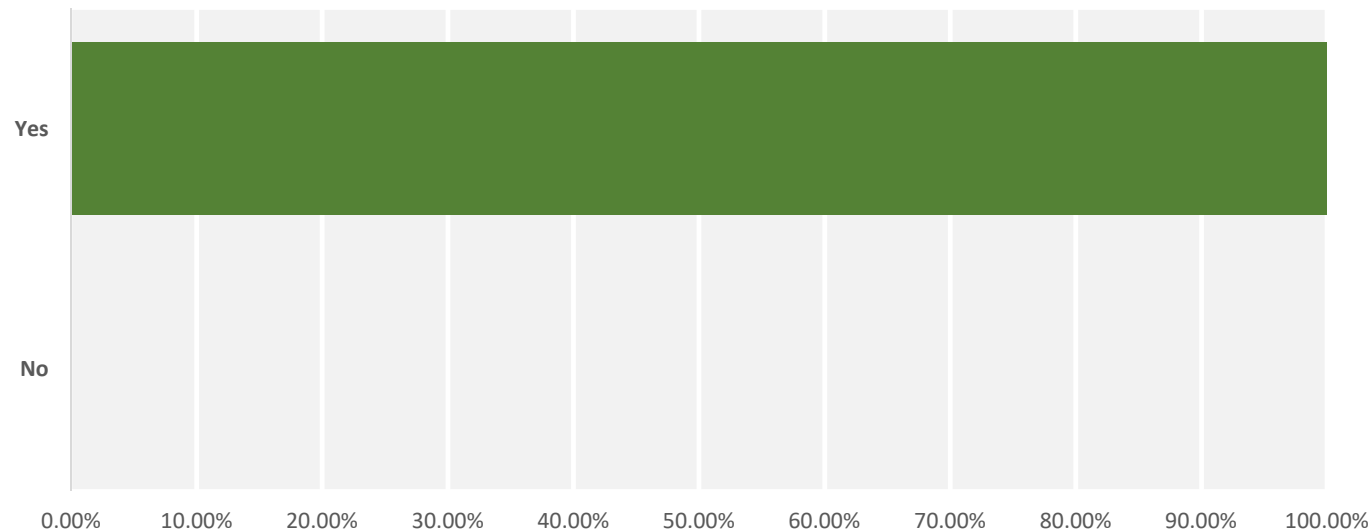


Q6: Do you feel your child/ren are safe at school? [Yes/No]

Answered: 91

All

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	100.00% 91
No	0.00% 0
Total	91



How could their safety be improved?



Responses: 17

All

Sample Responses

N/A

New perimeter fence as the hedge has holes in it

Cars badly driven/ parked around the school, children are having to look out for adults poor behaviour when it should be the other way around

Safety at school has improved greatly and I feel is really good

Make sure the rules are applied to everybody equally eg friends and family

Better lunchtime supervision

I don't think it could

It cant.

Marked improvement on safeguarding.

N/A

Stop parking around the school road

Parking problems outside school still causing safety issues.

Perhaps better perimeter fencing?

Safety at school has improved greatly and I feel is really good

I don't think it could

It cant.

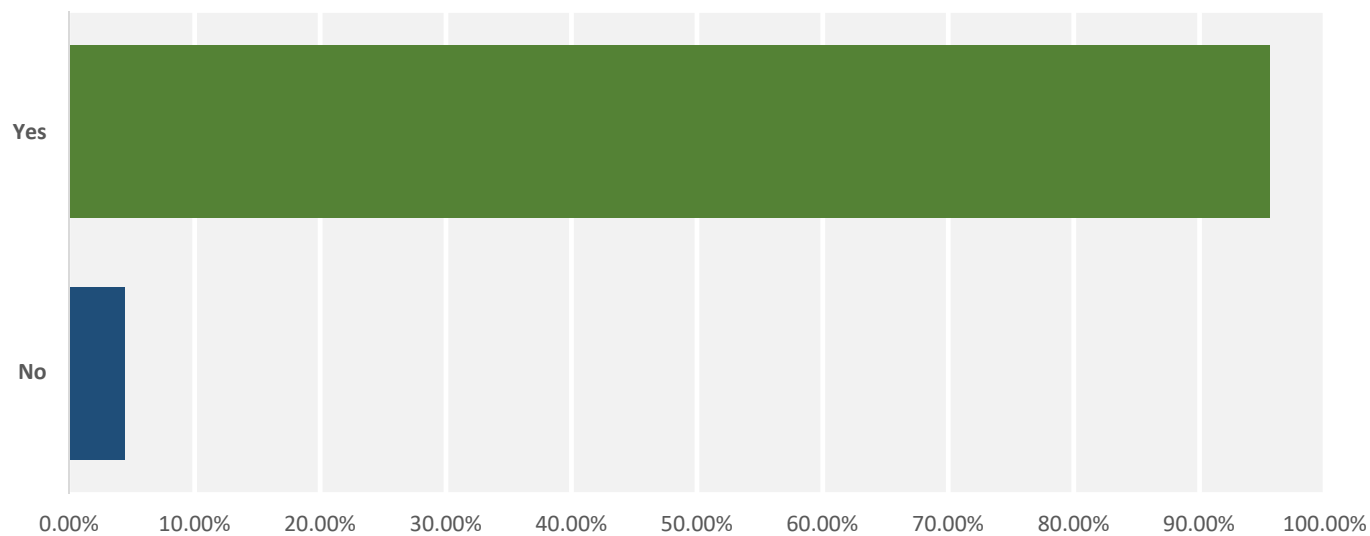


Q7: Is your child/ren happy at school? [Yes/No]

Answered: 91

All

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	95.60%	87
No	4.40%	4
Total		91





How could we do better?

Responses: 20

All

Sample Responses

Not really found this year enjoyable

Nothing

Not do homework

Not sure what you are asking for here, if its how can you make my child happier still, then can the school enter a football team into competitions please. It's a popular sport with the children but we don't seem to enter any competitions. why ?

The only thing my children are not happy with is school dinners. They want hot dinners but the quality isn't very good so they constantly ask for packed lunch. The reports I get back are The pizza is too thick it's more bread then pizza, the roast potatoes are always burnt and hard, they're isn't gravy with roast dinner, the cheesy macaroni is sloppy and Some teachers are impatient with children when children are struggling with certain areas. Communication doesn't seem to happen in an understanding way.

Child has felt very over looked this year and is demoralised. Not had this happen before and so have explained to child that there are some people you connect with better than others

Both children love school

Mrs Shields sorted out problems

Once she gets there!

No, he just hates school altogether

Have a how do i feel today board in each class so each child can express how they feel without having to explain.

My child doesn't want to attend school and we have fights every morning. He doesn't mention any friends names or any desire to play with them after school. The problems have been mentioned in the past however nobody has fed back to me re these issues

Hard to say as I think I get a very biased 6 year old viewpoint!!

I have ticked 'Yes' as generally my child is happy at school but we have days when they do not want to attend. They sometimes feel lonely in school and a little lost. I don't feel that they are always encouraged enough to join in.

Please can you stop putting odd phrases after Hash Tags on Class Dojo. Are you expecting us to share them on twitter?

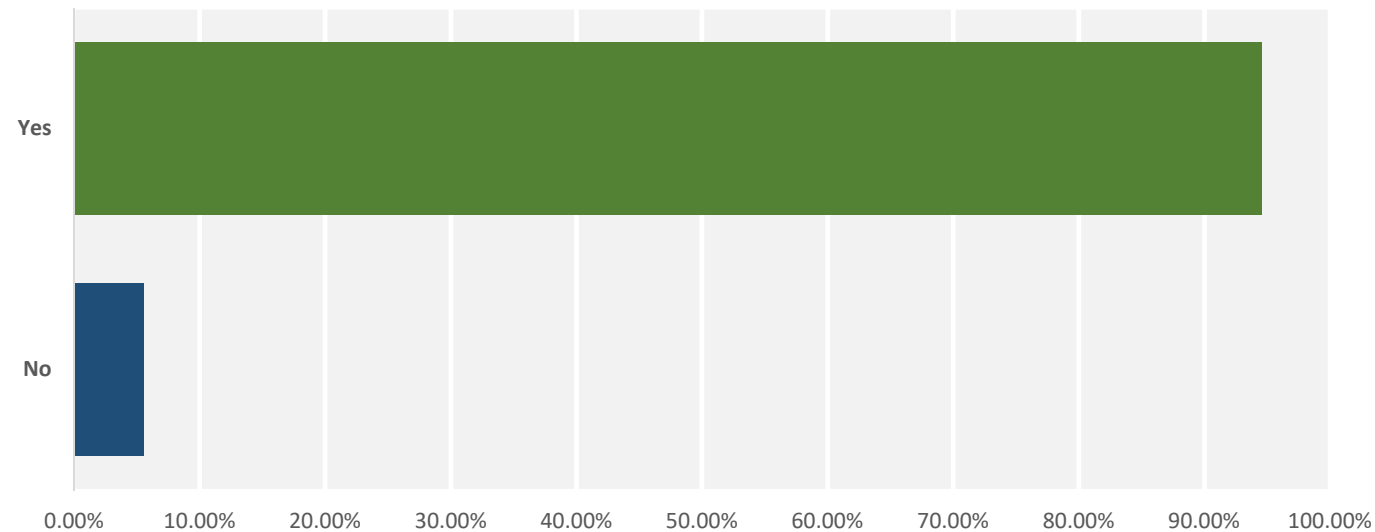


Q8: Do you feel that the school responds well to your concerns/queries? [Yes/No]

Answered: 91

All

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	94.51% 86
No	5.49% 5
Total	91





How could we improve?

Responses: 20

All

Sample Responses

Never had any

Respond quicker ? Not that I have an issue with response time, but its a way of improving

I've had a few issues that were not handled well at all. This has left me feeling that I cannot trust the school to deal with issues effectively and in a manner that is not biased and it seems reputation is more important than dealing with the issue from a third perspective. The headteacher takes all issues personally rather than viewing from a none biased Prompt response when head was contacted, led to a swift resolution so no improvement required from our experience

Sometimes bullies can be a problem. I think more should be done in showing the children if they bully there will be consequences.

Generally if I speak to front of house staff my query is dealt with there and then. My youngest teachers are very good at replying to dojo messages. My eldest isn't soo good with dojo but often updates me in the playground before or after school

The office replies when they want to in an abrupt manner

Teachers yes, reception no

Class dojo is a good way of expressing concerns quickly and getting a response

The first term in reception is difficult for all. Although I knew there wouldn't be the same feedback as a parent receives at Nursery I interpreted this as meaning no breakdown of what a child's eaten. When they aren't coping I'd have liked to come in earlier to discuss rather than when it had become an issue. Having said that once we had a Sometimes messages don't reach the child when you ring the office to pass them on

The ladies at the desk are fantastic with info and help and class teachers respond to dojo. I've never had any issues.

Friendlier and more helpful receptionists, except for one who is always helpful

Feedback is a must. So far there is none

Some messages (Dojo) are not answered but it must be tough if the teachers get 100's. Some SEN concerns have not been followed through.

I have ticked 'yes' as generally my concerns have been addressed but there have been occasions when I have not received a response.

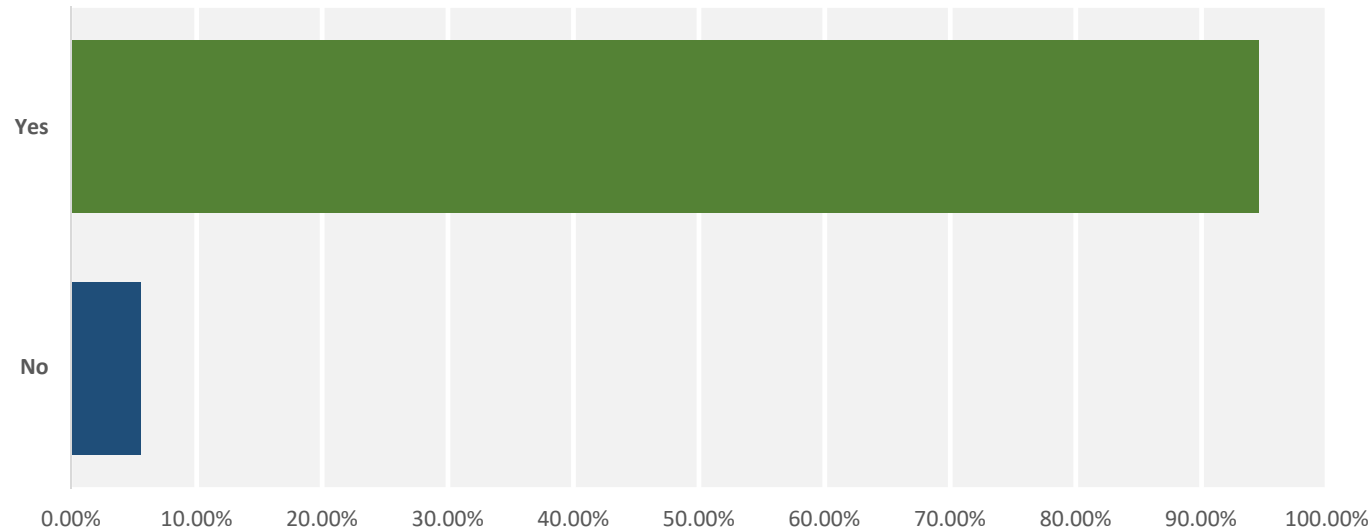


Q9: Do you feel informed about the work your child does in lessons (eg. Class Dojo, Monthly Newsletters, Termly Class Overviews on the School Website)? [Yes/No]

Answered: 91

All

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	94.51%	86
No	5.49%	5
Total		91





How could we improve?

Responses: 28

All

Sample Responses

I love the new newsletter

Preferred weekly newsletters

Provide more information in addition to above and tell us in advance what topics they will be covering

Update more often, some months we get lots of information and other months it's very quiet, it just needs to be consistent

I think there could be more to show for the work the children complete. We are only shown what children have done when there has been an event e.g superhero day. Some general day to day work is only showcased now and again, I don't feel I know what my child is learning everyday.

I really like the termly class overviews I think they are very informative and were long overdue. It is nice to feel included in your child's education and be able to back that up at home.

Sometimes information can get lost as there are soo many different routes of receiving it. I recently downloaded the Website does not get updated regularly

I don't use the website as I've found that out of date previously. I gain a lot of information from other parents. The PA Facebook page was useful, maybe a school one should be considered?

Perhaps consider a certain time that class dojo or txts are sent out if they are not urgent. Most people work, whether days or nights and to have notifications pinging all day (they are also received from the college too) can be, for want of better word, irritating particularly if you are in a meeting or sleeping following night shifts.

Not aware most of the time as communication isn't great

No its fantastic. Love getting the notifications

Dojo being used more regularly

I've said it in a previous answer. I'd like to know how he is progressing and how this reflects with expectations/national average etc

This has been much improved of late and I find it really useful.

The Class Dojo app is a massive leap forward. It is often difficult to know what they've done at school. I dont tend to use the school website and wasnt aware of the term class overviews.

Foundation no but mr Cooper yes

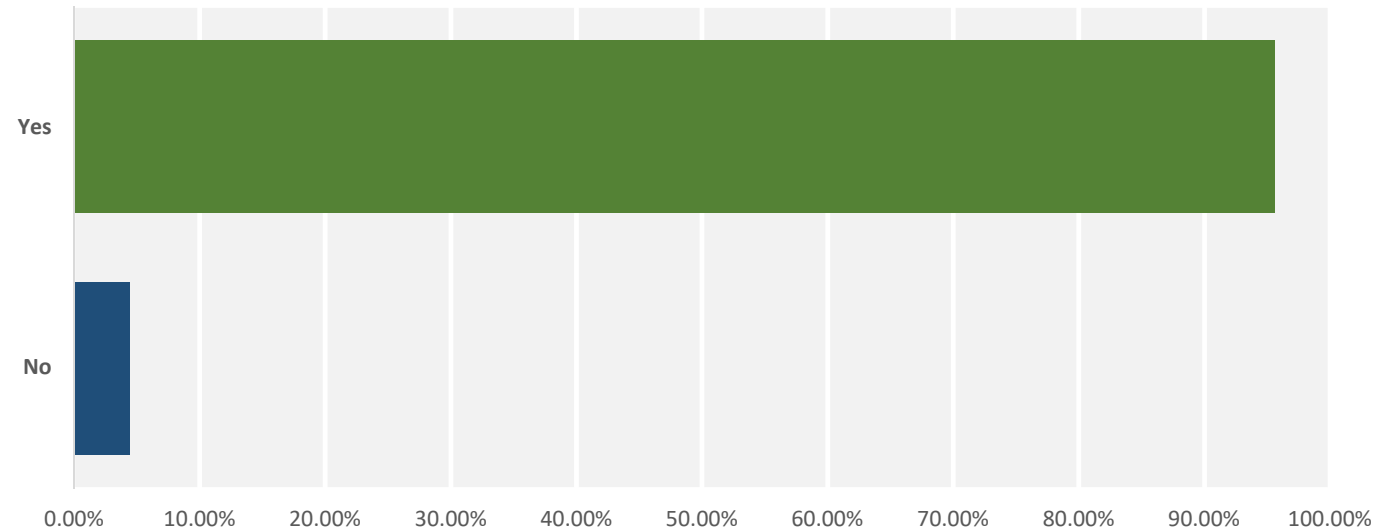


Q10: Do you feel informed about your child's progress during the term/year (eg. Termly Progress Checks, Parents' Evenings)? [Yes/No]

Answered: 91

All

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	95.60% 87
No	4.40% 4
Total	91





How could we improve?

Responses: 18

All

Sample Responses

Yes, however I believe we need alot more information and more often as its only just achieving a Yes answer.

Parents evening is organised well and I feel the teachers are very positive and encouraging. There is nothing that would need to be improved.

This year yes, love the mini reports during the year really helps to know where the children are at. Last year I think my eldest really fell through the cracks a little. His report from the previous years to then couldn't of been more different. He had gone from exceeding to sometimes only developing in areas but no one had raised any It would be nice to hear more regular feedback about how they've got on during the day. Have they done a particular piece of work well/been kind/been naughty/chatty? We assume that no news is good news!

Get more progress reports now - do we get a full written report at end of year?

But I do feel my concerns around timetables has not been supported as I would have liked.

Parents evening always seem ages to come round and not long enough

The end of term reports could be more user friendly and include how a child is in class such as happiness, participation etc some of the data is difficult to interpret if it's good/poor etc

Better bespoke info at parents evening not generic statements.

Im Happy with what goes on and feel that if there were any issues the teachers would come to us. It is nice to see the progression through looking at the work during parents evening but don't feel informed as such. That doesn't worry me at this age as long as they are respectful and getting on with what they should be and not falling behind. I'd rather Running more to the times! Again, appreciate it must be tough.

more information on progress

The termly reports can be confusing. I feel that there should be more communication throughout the year, even just little snippets on Dojo, like 'Your child did really well in maths today.' I just assume they are doing OK as I don't hear different.

Have only received one info sheet throughout the year with reading levels etc., feel this should be every term

We have not had a parents evening yet but have been well informed via the class teacher when we have enquired about the progress of our child

No improvement needed - very thorough information has been given throughout the year.

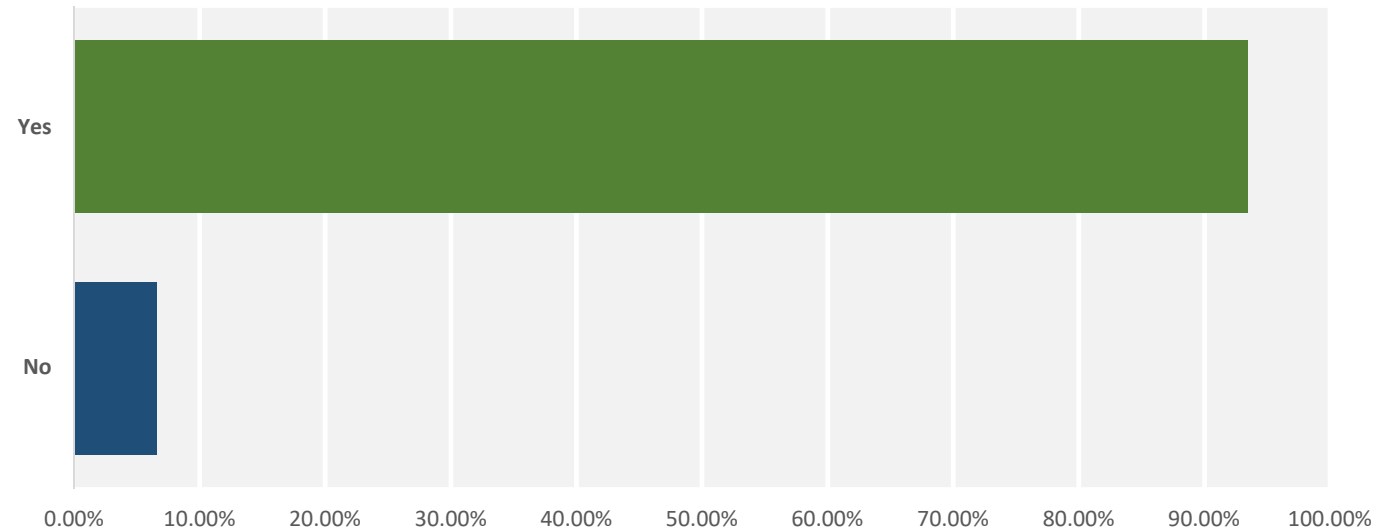


Q11: Do you feel informed about events in which parents can get involved? (eg. Assemblies, Parents' Evenings, Special Activities for Themed Days)? [Yes/No]

Answered: 91

All

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	93.41% 85
No	6.59% 6
Total	91





How could we improve?

Responses: 15

All

Sample Responses

Although we are informed, twice i've turned up and the reception staff didn't know what was happening and we were given incorrect information of what we were there for. Needs improving a lot. Also i enjoy coming in to class to see what my child is up to so would like more of that. I love to come to more assemblies too.

inform us

Several times I have not been informed of events happening until last minute. Which was because letters were not handed out to every child. And on one occasion there was no notice at all, children informed their parents because the teacher had informed them the day before.

It could be better. The superhero day was very poorly advised. We were told it was an assembly when in fact it was an inclusive day of activities with your child. I only found this out because a friend had arrived and messaged to say.

I think the parent inclusive afternoons are really good but need to be informed of them

Yes if we read newsletters, emails and texts. Updated & accurate calendar for the year on the website would be very useful. Accurate dates and information on letters would be good. Still waiting for Whitehall trip information which was promised at info evening - which was ill prepared and forgotten about

Sometimes more notice would be appreciated to enable arrangements to be made with work.

I'd like more opportunities to help with the class.

I felt with got a bit much recently. With two shift workers this proved difficult to work out what they should be wearing or bringing in etc. More paced throughout the year

Give more notice. Sometimes we are told too late for me to get time off work

Love the invites to assemblies. Great idea, thank you.

Maybe a monthly timetable of events, it can be quite difficult to remember them all.

Do less dressing up days, they are a lot of effort to get ready for.

It could be better. The superhero day was very poorly advised. We were told it was an assembly when in fact it was an inclusive day of activities with your child. I only found this out because a friend had arrived and messaged to say.

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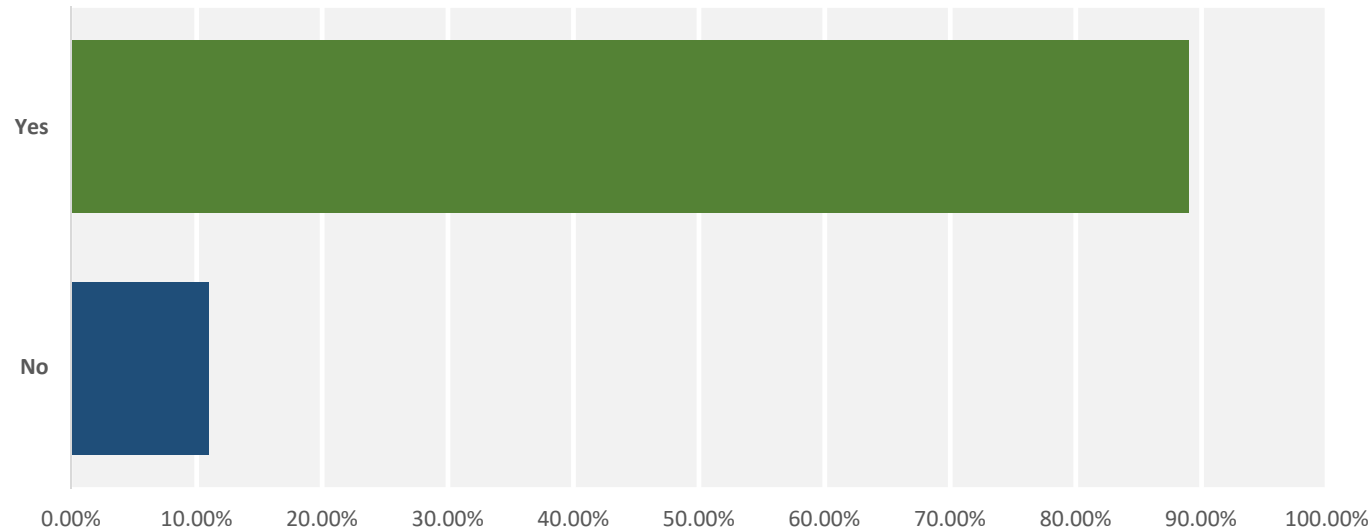


Q12: Do you feel informed regarding the overall aims of the School, through information on the website and in the School Prospectus? [Yes/No]

Answered: 91

All

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	89.01%	81
No	10.99%	10
Total		91





How could we improve?

Responses: 4

All

Sample Responses

You could send the strategy plan for the school to parents each year ?

Only referred to prospectus when started school

I don't use the website regularly as I don't see it as a source of regular information.

Honestly, I've never been on the school website or looked at the prospectus so in no position to judge.

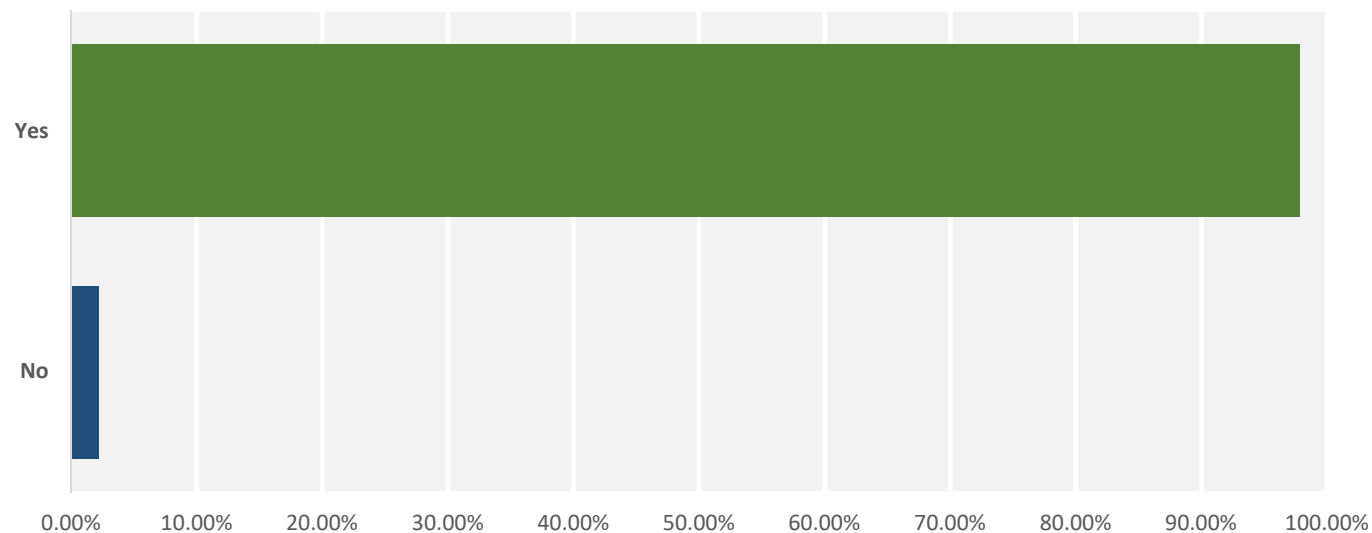


Q13: Would you recommend Orchard to another parent? [Yes/No]

Answered: 91

All

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	97.80% 89
No	2.20% 2
Total	91





Why / Why not?

Responses: 39

All

Sample Responses

We changed to Orchard School for our daughter as we feel she will progress much better here, we have already been approached by other parents about Orchard School and have advised them to take a visit and see for themselves.

Lovely school and all the children are happy

I like the new headteacher, I like the teachers and I like how the school is very focused on sports activities.

It is a good well managed school

Absolutely! It has good teachers and staff that care about the success of their students. It has a very positive environment. Everyone there wants you to be yourself and try your best and achieve something. It's a positive feel good school.

The main reason for me would be the handling of issues within the school. Reputation seems to succeed over resolving the issue. The headteacher is not open to resolving issues and takes criticism personally even if the issue is irrelevant to her. I don't feel that I can raise any issue because of this and my child is suffering in certain lessons at Brilliant teachers and Values, Always kept up to date with what's going on week to week, the sports clubs & afterschool care are amazing

This is a very subjective question and I would always suggest that parent and child visit this school and alternatives to see what they feel suits them. I would have no reason not to recommend Orchard

Yes definitely I came to Orchard School when I was 5. I loved it. I never had a problem so all my children have come and also loved it, you do a lot of activities and fun stuff which makes learning more encouraging

Highly recommended

Overall I think the school is fantastic. I think the P. A have really improved this last year and the funds they are trying to raise for outside play equipment will be a welcome addition.

I think the school offers a varied curriculum to allow all children to thrive

We have been extremely impressed by the high standards set by the school. Our daughter is very happy, safe and has made good progress.

School dinners- It would be nice if there was an alternative/basic option at lunchtimes as our only concern is that our Has undergone massive improvement in the last year thanks to Mrs Shields, office staff still require improvement

I think the safety and wellbeing of the children is strong. The outdoor space is fabulous but you don't use it enough for teaching. Wrap around care is good. Both my children have enjoyed Orchard, however I think they both could have been pushed to achieve more with their abilities.

I have already had 2 older children pass through the school so have had experience of most of the teachers over this time. The leadership now has dramatically improved which has already had an effect on improving the standard of teaching and hopefully will continue. Pleased to see teachers looking much more smart and good role models for My children are both and have given some great opportunities. The school feels friendly, safe and inclusive.

What would you like to change or improve at our school?



Responses: 74

All

Sample Responses

Nothing

Proper football goals for year 6 at the top of the field

Bullying

I don't feel safe because of the hedge

I think we could improve some of the cleaning in the hall

The fences around the field - people can easily can go through the fences

The laptops and have enough iPad chargers for them all to charge

I think that only some dinner ladies need to be less strict and some children could be a bit kinder. We should also have a better fence around our school to prevent unwelcome visitors.

The fiald

Football goals!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I don't really think there is anything

The equipment in the playground and field

I think we need to replace the fences outside, someone could easily get out or in

Upgrade the fence so it is safer

The school dinners

I think that it isn't safe because people can get over the gate and get through the bushes and they could also improve the hygiene and school dinners