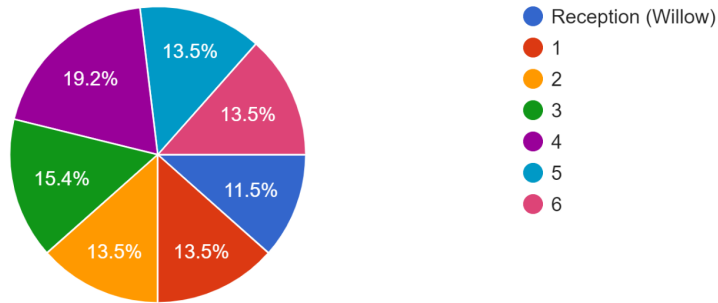


Parents Survey Spring 2023

Thank you for taking the time to complete the recent Parent Survey. We received 53 responses across the school. Please see below the results of this survey with commentary:

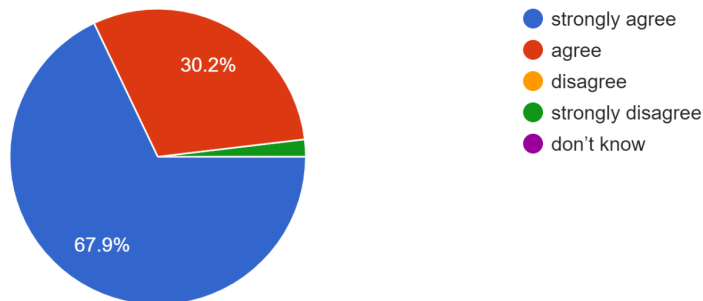
I am filling this survey in for a child / children in year ... (You may wish to fill in one survey for each child)

52 responses



1. My child is happy at this school.

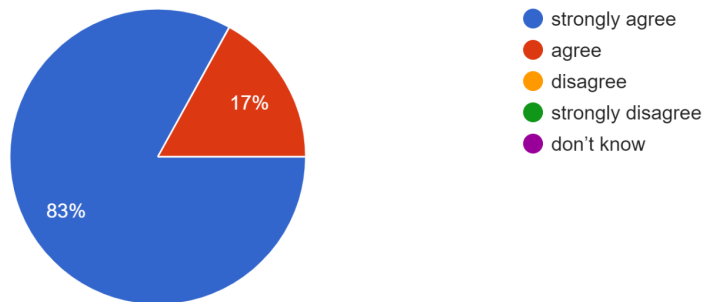
53 responses



- 98% of parents strongly agreed or agreed that their child is happy at Whitchurch. If, for any reason, a child is unhappy at school, we would encourage parents to contact the school to help address any issues/concerns.

2. My child feels safe at this school.

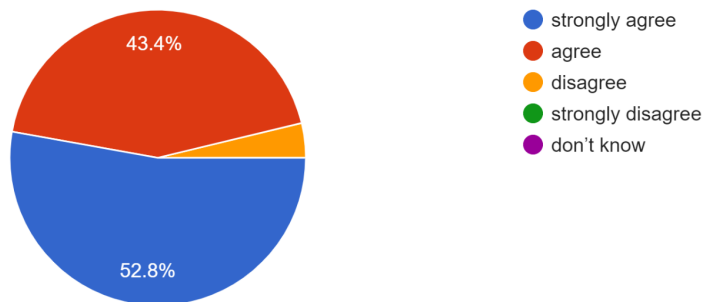
53 responses



- We are pleased to see that so many parents feel that their child feels safe at our school.

3. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.

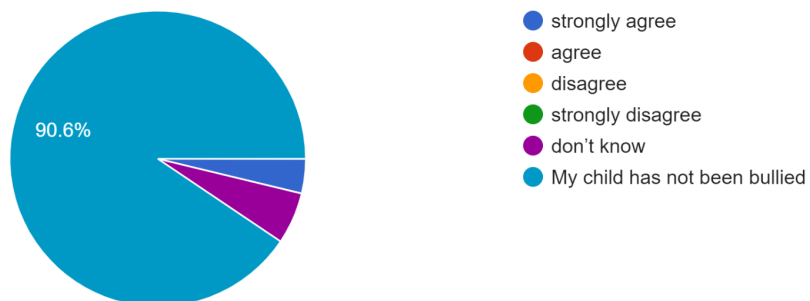
53 responses



- The school works hard to try and ensure that our pupils are well behaved. This is managed through the use of the schools' behaviour policy.

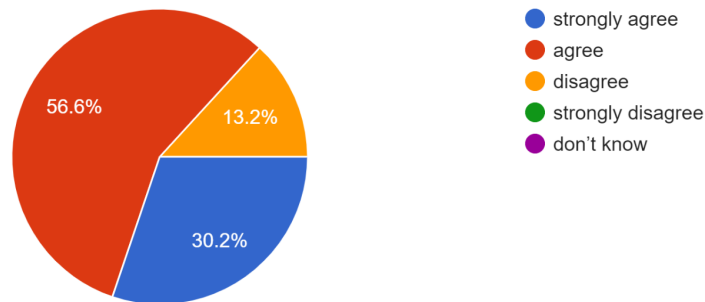
4. My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.

53 responses



5. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.

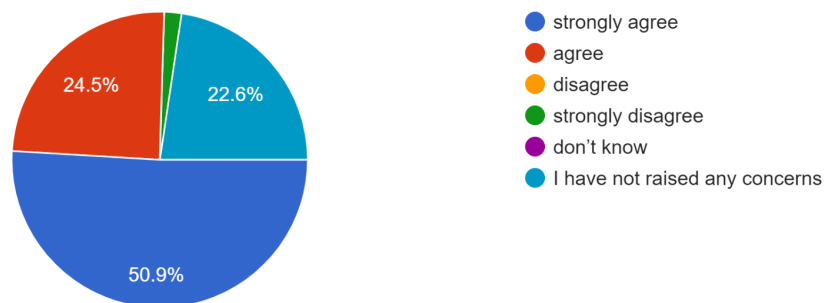
53 responses



- 13% of responses said they didn't think the school made them aware of what their child would be learning during the year. This is how we currently share with parents what is covered by the children in school each year:
 - ❖ Termly curriculum newsletters are produced at the start of each term to inform parents what will be covered in each topic that term. These can be found on the school's curriculum website.
 - ❖ Through the school website, parents can also access detailed information outlining what the children in each year group will be learning in each subject across the curriculum. You can find this guide under the "parents" tab on the main school website and it has also been sent out by parent mail.

6. When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.

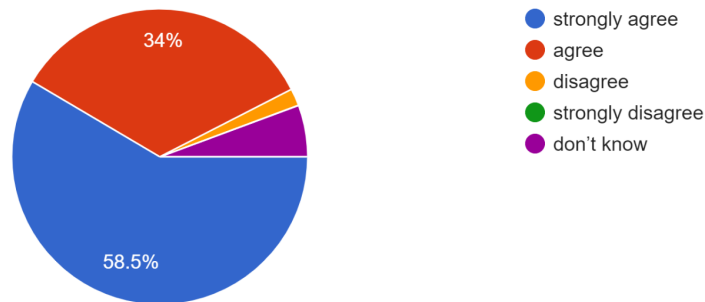
53 responses



- It is always our intention to resolve any issues to the best of our abilities, and as mentioned earlier, we encourage parents to contact the school if they have any concerns to discuss.

7. The school has high expectations for my child.

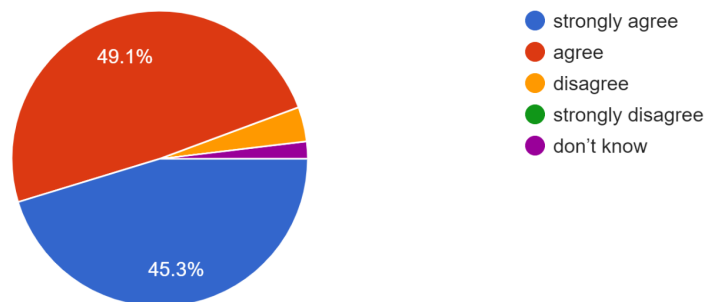
53 responses



- The school has high expectations for our pupils as reflected in our continued high achievement in our end of KS2 National Curriculum results which always exceed both National and Oxfordshire figures.

8. My child does well at this school.

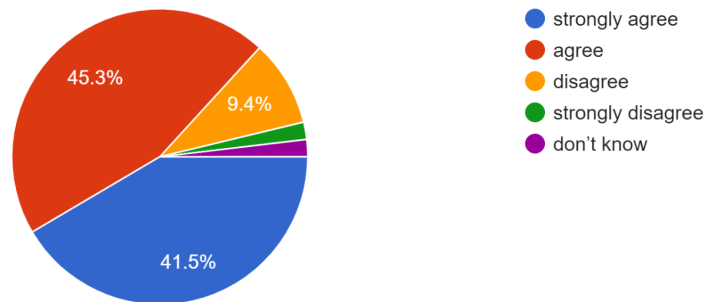
53 responses



- Whilst we always have high expectations for our pupils, we are aware that not all pupils progress at the same rate and/or at the same stage. Some children may take a little longer to reach certain goals but it is always our intention to support pupils to the best of our ability to achieve all that they can. Our progress results at the end of KS2 reflect this with our Reading and Maths progress scores regularly being significantly above national measures.

9. The school lets me know how my child is doing.

53 responses

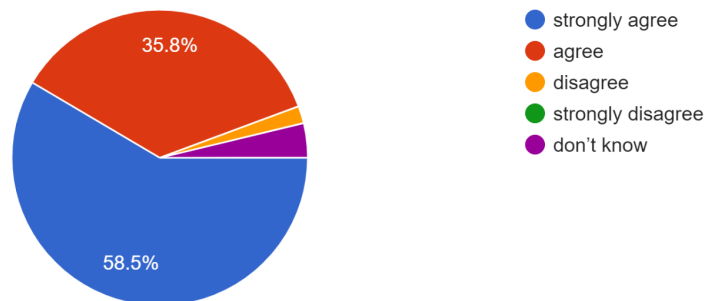


- The school holds two parents' evening meetings each year, as well as providing a detailed report on how each child is progressing towards the objectives covered in English and Maths. These take place approximately every 12 weeks. In addition, parents receive a full written report at the end of the school year which gives details of achievements in all subjects.

This practice matches that seen in all other schools in our partnership of schools.

10. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.

53 responses

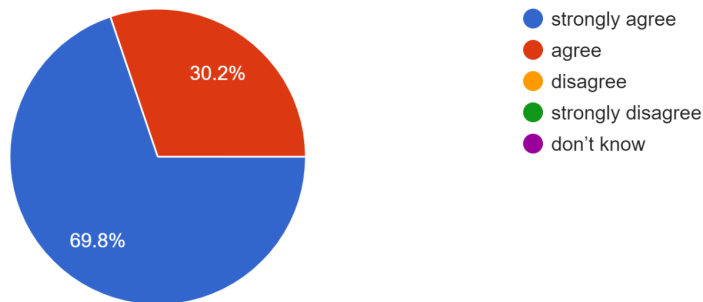


The school curriculum covers the following subjects

Reading	Writing	Maths	Science	Computing
Music	Art	Design Technology	PE	History
Geography	Religious Education	Personal Social Health Education	French (From Y3)	

11. My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.

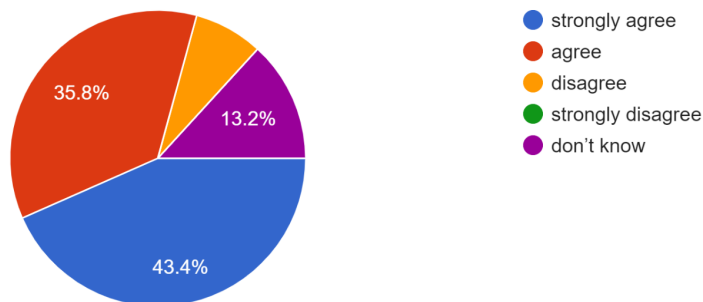
53 responses



- We are always trying to ensure we can offer a broad range of clubs (at present there are 13 clubs running each week).

12. The school supports my child's wider personal development.

53 responses



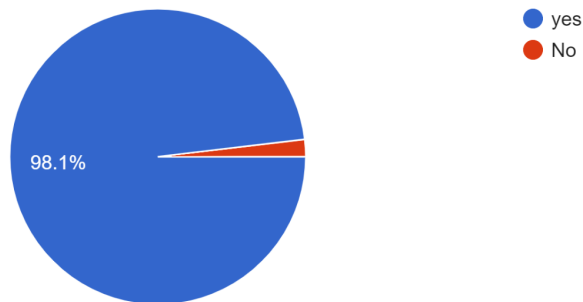
Our personal development offer at Whitchurch includes elements that run through daily life and discrete opportunities for character development and cultural capital.

To name but a few:

- Extra-curricular clubs
- Assemblies covering a range of national theme weeks See our wide range of assembly themes [here](#)
- A range of sporting opportunities;
- ELSA support in school
- A vibrant curriculum in which RE and PSHE give children occasion to discuss and reflect on bigger questions, and subjects like science create a sense of awe and wonder about the world

13. I would recommend this school to another parent.

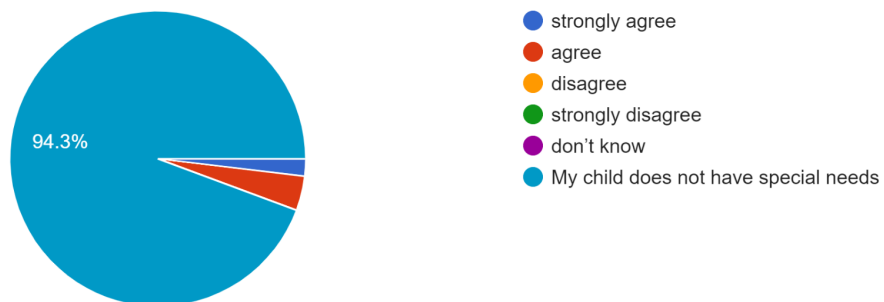
53 responses



- We are very proud that so many of you would recommend the school to another parent. As mentioned previously, if, for any reason, a child is unhappy at school, we would encourage parents to contact the school to help address any issues/concerns.

15. My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.'

53 responses



Additional Comments

Comments regarding Homework:

I do feel the amount of homework my child gets in year 1 is ridiculous. It takes up an entire day on the weekend when it should be their time to have fun with the family. A 5/6 year old should be able to relax in a calm and peaceful home environment without the extra stress of 3 lots of homework each week. Some research has shown that only home reading is beneficial at this age.

I also feel that homework setting is inconsistent with the children being sent home with logins on bits of paper but no communication to parents to look out for them or what the expectation is on the site.

Homework feels like a huge admin task. It's always in different places (the current school task is buried in a weekly notices message, as are others like the designing cards before Christmas) and the tasks on Google Classroom aren't regular and the maths ones regularly feel somewhat pointless. The majority of the homework is done on my phone as we don't have an iPad which isn't ideal. I'd rather not interrupt play or reading to play a very simple maths app on my phone. Lots of research to say homework (other than reading) doesn't have a huge impact on attainment at this age anyway.

- **Homework is often the most polarised topic in regards to parents' views, with many feeling that there is often too much homework and others feeling that there isn't enough homework. Our homework tasks are in line with national guidance for pupils in each age group. However, if for any reason homework is proving challenging, we would always recommend discussing this with your child's English/Maths teacher.**

We are currently updating our homework guidelines to ensure that parents are clear in what the expectations are. This new document will outline the expectations in each year group and explain where tasks can be found. This document will be shared with parents shortly.

Comments regarding Sport and Health:

The only thing would be that I would love for reception to take part in the daily mile.

- **Willow class are now taking part in the daily mile.**

I feel at this age it is more important to provide a health understanding of their emotional health than their academic standing.

- **We cover a wide range of topics to help children understand their emotional health both in [assemblies](#) and in our PSHE scheme. Children all have a PSHE lesson each week for between 40-60 minutes You can see more about what these lesson involve [here](#)**

I would like to see my child have more opportunities to participate in sport.

Allow all children to participate in sporting events.

- We are able to offer all pupils a range of sporting opportunities at Whitchurch. As well as PE lessons every week, we currently run four after school sports clubs: Lower School football, Upper School football, Year 1-6 Running club and Upper School Netball club. Additionally, we take part in a range of extra-curricular sports events each year. We work hard to give our pupils as many opportunities as possible to attend these events and, in the vast majority of these events, the number of pupils attending from Whitchurch is far greater than the numbers from all other schools attending.

Extra-curricular sporting events generally fall into two categories:

1. Limited numbers events: events where numbers are strictly limited by the organisers and children are selected to represent the school;
2. Open events: events which are open to any pupil who wishes to participate. For the open events, staff ask all the pupils in the year group(s) participating for that event if they wish to attend and those who wish to do so are sent an invite via Parentmail.

The breakdown of events by year group for this year can be seen below (as of the end of February 2023):

Category	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Limited numbers	0	0	1	2	8	7
Open events	2	2	9	9	6	5

- As you can see, there have been multiple events for which every pupil in Year 1-6 has been given the opportunity to represent the school. For example, in Year 4, every pupil in this year group has had at least 9 opportunities to represent the school in extra-curricular events if they wished to do so. If a child has not received an invite for an open event via Parentmail, it is because they have told staff that they did not want to be selected, rather than having not been selected by school staff.

Comments regarding Parents' Evenings:

There were a number of comments about parents' evening, and some people requesting a return to face to face appointments.

- We carried out a survey to see who would like an in person appointment and who would like one online, and set up our Spring appointments to try and accommodate preferences.

The school holds two parents' evening meetings each year, as well as providing a detailed report on how each child is progressing towards the objectives covered in English and Maths. These take place approximately every 12 weeks. In addition, parents receive a full written report at the end of the school year which gives details of achievements in all subjects.

This practice matches that seen in all other schools in our partnership of schools.

Comments regarding Assessments and Reading Books:

Our child told us their reading was assessed at the start of the term. We were unaware the test was due to take place and the outcome hasn't yet been communicated to us.

Reading book selection seems to also be very child led resulting in the incorrect level books coming home and the books not being changed very frequently.

- Children's reading is assessed regularly in school. Children in Reception and Year 1 have a detailed half-termly phonics assessment which helps us to select the correct level of reading book for them. The Little Wandle reading book is the only book you should be asking them to read independently. These are from a range that has been selected specifically based on your child's last phonics assessment. Any other books should be shared with your child, and they shouldn't be expected to read words with sounds they are unfamiliar with. These books are from a range linked to their Little Wandle level but are not part of that scheme so may not be as precisely matched. This is why they are classed as books to share with parent - not read independently by the child. In Year 1, children are asked to change them on Tuesdays and can take 4 books each time.

Children from Y2 upwards have an online reading assessment each half term which indicates a range of books in the child's ZPD - book level. The Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) defines the readability range within which pupils should read to best develop their reading, while avoiding frustration. Their classroom books are

labelled with the ZPD level of the book and children should choose a book from within this level.

When children are reading at a more advanced level they are encouraged to choose books that they will enjoy reading.

Comments regarding playtimes:

We wonder whether the boys' playtime football matches could be better supervised? We've heard a few reports of "barging" on the pitch.

- **Staff on duty at playtimes do monitor the games taking place on the astroturf including football. In addition, we have a coach from Reading Football Club in school for 2 lunch times each week to lead the children in positive play.**

Comments regarding the curriculum:

The only area of the curriculum I would develop further would be pursuing more outdoor/ gardening/ Forest school type curriculum further up the school.

- **Where this fits in with the National Curriculum, we try to give other year groups outdoor learning opportunities. In addition, the children are given the opportunity to take part in four residential trips during their time at Whitchurch.**

Miscellaneous comments:

I'm not confident that my child's emotional well being is being looked after. The emphasis on academic results seems more important than ensuring a well rounded child. There is not enough creative tuition or sport. As mental health should be at the top of the school's priority I would have thought that this could be an area to improve on. It's a wonderful school, but there are definitely areas I'd like to see change.

- **Due to the structure of our school, we are able to ensure that our pupils receive lessons in a wide range of subjects each and every week (see question 10), including the creative arts and sport (see comments regarding sports and health above).**

We cover a wide range of topics to help children understand their emotional health both in [assemblies](#) and in our PSHE scheme. Children all have a PSHE lesson each week for between 40-60 minutes You can see more about what these lesson involve [here](#) . Where necessary, we are also able to offer individual/small group ELSA (emotional literacy) support to pupils through our trained member of staff.

If you do have some concerns regarding your child' mental health, please speak to your child's class teacher.

An area of improvement would be to recognize average children as they usually go unnoticed. Recognition tends to always go to a few outstanding students and a lot of energy goes into managing those more 'challenging' students.

- **As a non-selective school, we cater for a range of children with varying needs/differences. We do hope that no child feels unnoticed and we try to celebrate all pupils throughout their time at Whitchurch. For example, through the use of our lucky stars reward system and Star of the Week certificates, which celebrates effort and good behaviour as well as achievement. We also hold weekly celebration assemblies where children are given the opportunity to share anything they have achieved outside of school.**

Celebration comments:

Very happy with Whitchurch Primary, well done and thanks staff

Brilliant teachers. Brilliant school!

Whitchurch always go above and beyond to help the whole school community.

My daughter has really enjoyed her time at Whitchurch primary so far. The opportunities the children are given are fantastic with a wide range of activities. All the staff really care about the children and their wellbeing and the communication from the school to parents is always constant. I would highly recommend this school to anyone looking for a primary school

WPS is a fabulous school. Wonderful staff. Thank you for everything you do.

We are really happy with the school and everything is great Thankyou

We are so lucky for our kids to be part of such an excellent school. Thank you!

We love the school, as do our girls. Thank you all so much.

The school seems to provide a strong educational basis for my child and has been helpful and positive when I have needed their support on a particular matter.

The sporting provision the school provides is incredible, along with the partnership with other schools for sporting events and tournaments. The after school sports clubs and football coaching provided during lunch times is incredibly important and valuable from a social, keeping active and well-being perspective and my son loves taking part.

The school's Google Classroom set up for homework and projects is very useful and easy to use, along with the learning apps provided such as Sumdog and Spelling Shed (they make learning fun!).

The sporting provision, school sports partnership and opportunities the school provides are incredible and have encouraged a love of sports for my daughter in and outside of school. Sports clubs and activities such as performers, friendship club and science club have been so valuable for learning new skills, keeping active, confidence and from a social perspective.

The school provides innovative, interactive and fun ways of learning and completing homework and projects through Google classroom and apps such as padlet, sumdog and spelling shed.

The opportunities and varied experiences provided through the residential trips have been amazing, thank you to all the teachers who support these trips and for all the organisation that goes into them.

Thank you to all the teachers at WPS who make the school such a caring and nurturing place to learn.

Brilliant teachers. Brilliant school!

