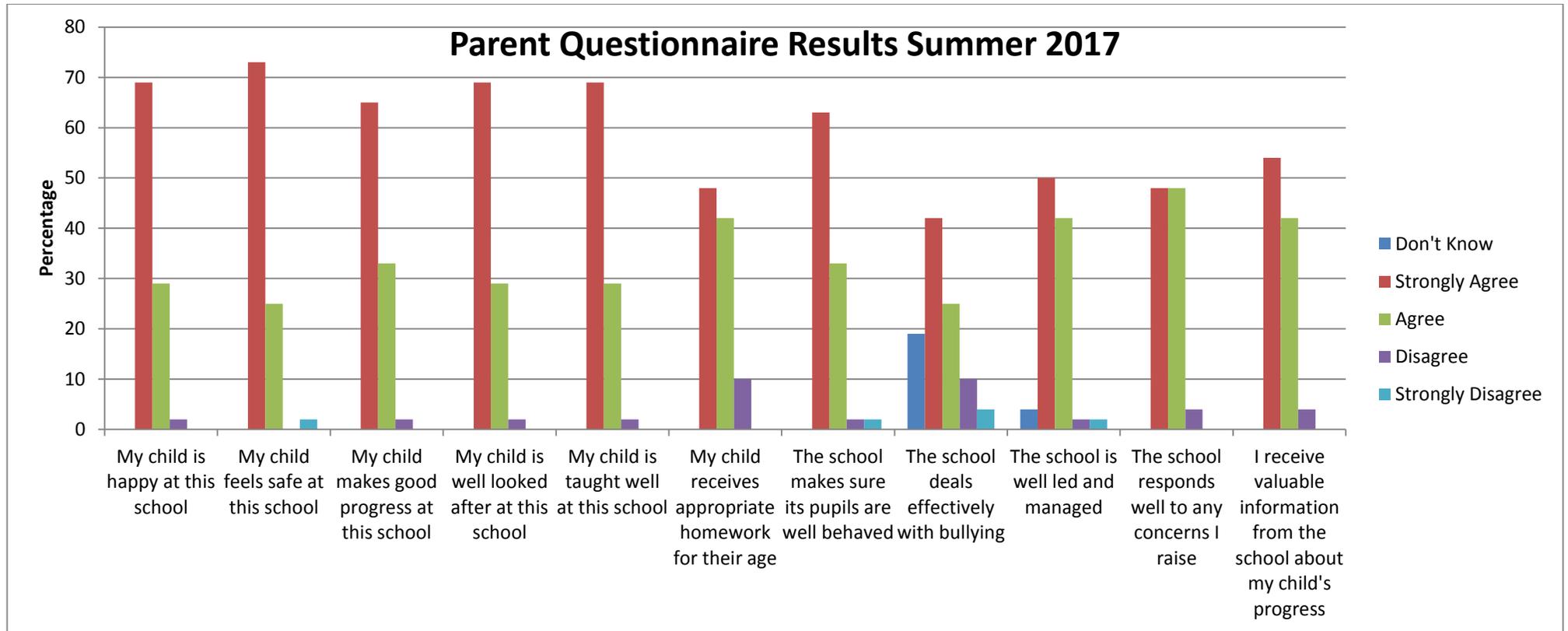




## Our Lady Queen of Martyrs

*Living, loving and learning together with our eyes focused on Jesus.*



September 2017

Dear Parents & Carers,

Thank you for the responses to the questionnaires sent out at the end of last term. You have helped us decide upon the direction to take to help your children gain the most from their time with us. I hope you find the information as useful as we have and hopefully the responses to the comments will answer some queries. If you do have any further questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks,

Louise Keenan

### What is good about Our Lady Queen of Martyrs:

- ✓ The way they embed moral values and beliefs
- ✓ Education of Catholic religion
- ✓ The school spirit
- ✓ The school has a real family environment
- ✓ The sense of community and family
- ✓ The school is a small friendly school
- ✓ It has a great, friendly atmosphere
- ✓ Friendly, caring school
- ✓ Nice friendly school
- ✓ The interaction between the children and teachers
- ✓ It's a small school
- ✓ Small community type school
- ✓ It's a small community school with small class sizes
- ✓ The school is well managed

- ✓ Introduction of breakfast club and certain after school clubs which benefit working parents
- ✓ The changes that have happened have been for the better
- ✓ Parents are invited to many events
- ✓ The teachers have time for pupils because of class volumes
- ✓ We love the size of the school and the attention the children get because of it
- ✓ Lovely friendly staff
- ✓ Pushes pupils to achieve
- ✓ Good morning and after school clubs
- ✓ It's a friendly school
- ✓ The children always seem so happy
- ✓ It keeps my daughter learning new things
- ✓ I feel well informed
- ✓ My child loves school
- ✓ The support for the children
- ✓ The children get a lot of support
- ✓ Learning is catered for each child as an individual
- ✓ It's a lovely school
- ✓ I feel the quality of teaching is really good. My son has come on leaps and bounds and his confidence is growing all the time.
- ✓ Lovely, small, friendly school with great teaching, keep up the good work everyone at OLQM

## What I would like to change about Our Lady Queen of Martyrs ...

- One teacher for each classroom would give more continuity.
  - As well as bringing unique skills and talents, part time teachers offer a wider range of faces, ideas and opportunities for all members of our school community.
- Wrap around care for working parents eg breakfast and after school clubs every day. I know this has improved recently.
- More after school clubs and activities.
- More after school clubs
- More after school clubs could accommodate more children.
- Maybe more after school clubs. Children used to enjoy Taekwondo but it never got put back on. Other such activities would be good e.g. Taekwondo, karate, dance, sports, etc.
- Tea club to support working parents
  - We are delighted to have been able to offer a Breakfast Club each morning since Easter. It has proved popular with the children enjoying sporting activities after eating. This club has returned this year and is open to all children.
  - We are looking again at after school clubs in order to provide things which would interest a range of children. Unfortunately, if clubs are not proving popular they may have to be withdrawn for financial reasons.
- Communication isn't always the greatest
  - This is an area that can always be improved.
  - We have been in discussion with our website provider in order to update the site and make it more user friendly (for us and you). Hopefully this will help. The termly 'Dates for Diary' has proved useful for families and will be repeated this year. Look out also for a new look newsletter coming soon.
- Make sure there's enough reading books of all levels for its pupils.
  - A delivery was received just before the Summer. More will be ordered throughout the year so that all children have access to a wide range of books.
- Stronger maths teaching
  - The maths results at Key Stage 1 (83%) were above the national average (73%) and at Key Stage 2 (69%) were slightly below the national average (75%). With our small cohorts this is the difference one child makes. We will continue to provide all our children with high quality maths teaching. If you feel that there is something we are missing with the maths teaching please get in touch to arrange a meeting to discuss this further.

- Q9- 'The school is well led and well managed' - A - Don't know - We sense a loss of focus since administration of this school was combined with that of St Joseph's.
  - Our Lady Queen of Martyrs has shared a Head Teacher with St Joseph's since 2010. In November 2014 the schools formally federated making many processes simpler and more streamlined. As more and more small schools face financial pressure the model of shared staff is becoming more common. It is, however, a big change and does take some getting used to for all concerned - parents, staff and children. In addition, the retirement of Miss Smith, a long-standing and much loved Head Teacher, and the appointment of myself has been additional change and required further patience. Hopefully you will feel more reassured as time goes on.
  
- Q8 - 'The school deals effectively with bullying' A - Agree - There continues to be a problem with verbal abuse and bullying.
- To deal with bullying more
  - Within any large gathering of people there is 'teasing' through name calling. This can indeed lead to bullying if not stopped. Unfortunately, some children are encouraged to act in this way by misguided older peers, and sometimes family members, outside of school. Working together we can help to overcome this. Name calling and unkindness can only be eradicated when it is reported so that it can be dealt with. If your child experiences anything that makes them uncomfortable please encourage them to speak to a member of staff.
  
- Introduction of a parent group to have an input in the school and policies.
- Changes to policy and procedure around bullying and consequences for bullying.
  - The first criteria for any policy or procedure is the children and their safety and welfare. Parents' views are always taken into account when policies and procedures are written. These views are gathered through discussions (informal as well as formal), questionnaires (such as this one), feedback following events (for example a Liturgy or parents' evening). Increased input comes from the governing body. If you are a practicing Catholic and wish to consider becoming a governor please contact myself or Father David for further details. Alternatively, you could put yourself forward for the position of parent governor when it next becomes available.

- More transparent reporting and communication around important issues, bullying, respect of others.
  - Numerous incidents between children are dealt with during the week by all members of staff. We operate a Restorative Approach within school where all sides are listened to, their feelings acknowledged and their requirements for healing taken into account. How it is dealt with depends on the incident, its severity and what each party feels is justifiable. However, just as we would not contact you every time your child got a calculation incorrect in maths, we will not contact you with every social interaction that needs our support. Children will fall out as they learn how to behave appropriately and get along together while taking account of each others' strengths, weaknesses, difficulties and idiosyncrasies. Most incidents are dealt with effectively at the time, within school. We will always contact parents should we feel that it is necessary. We encourage children to talk to their adult when they get home, but reinforce that issues are not for discussion within school among children's peers once they are dealt with and the relationships restored. We always strive to move forward and not dwell on the past. If your child does discuss something with you and you require our clarification about it, please do get in touch.
- The end to favouritism of certain groups of children or stakeholder groups.
  - All children, and groups of children, are treated equally. Different stakeholder groups naturally have different requirements and access to different amounts of information etc. For example, finance governors will receive more information about budgeting than parents. If something appears biased to you, please make an appointment to come in to discuss it.
- Less homework. More activities.
  - I think the teachers as well as the children would agree with this!
- Nothing ☺
- Nothing
- Nothing I would change, really good school.

### Would you recommend this school to another parent?

Only one person (2%) said that they would not recommend our school.