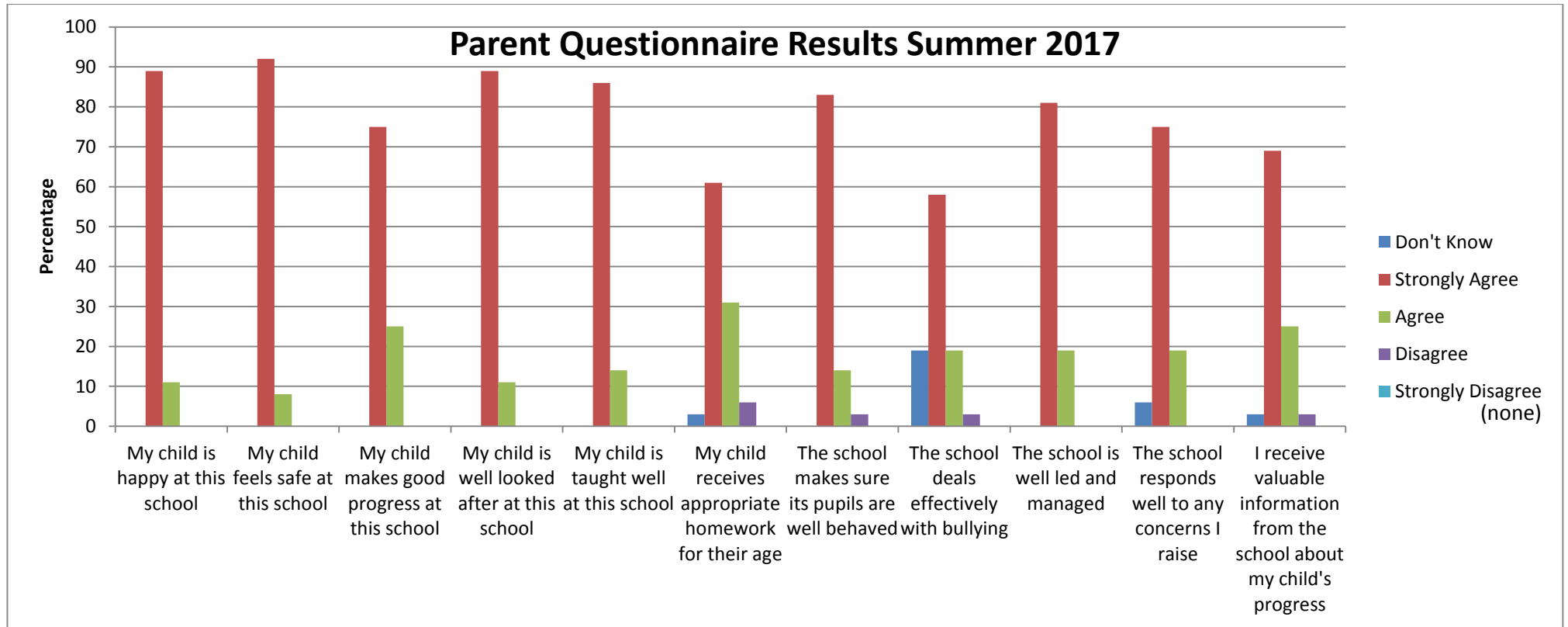




St Joseph's RC Primary School

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 St Joseph's:

- ✓ I like how faith is so important and children are involved with the church
- ✓ Christian ethos
- ✓ Good ethos and small numbers in classes to allow for personal / individual development
- ✓ Small, 'family' feel to school
- ✓ Children can learn respect and care for each other
- ✓ It is a lovely school where the teachers are eager to bring the best out of every child despite their abilities
- ✓ They have supported both my daughters with their education and have allowed them to grow and made them happy
- ✓ Good community spirit
- ✓ I like the size of the school, all the children from all years know each other and play together
- ✓ Feels like one happy family. All the staff and children know and help each other.
- ✓ Friendly, approachable staff
- ✓ It is a lovely warm school with caring staff and lovely children

- ✓ It's a lovely little school with a warm and friendly team of staff and pupils
- ✓ Smaller classes for more intimate / 1 to 1 learning
- ✓ All members of staff are lovely and understanding
- ✓ School is small so kids and all teachers know each other well
- ✓ I think one of the best points of the school is its sense of community and how well the children get along together regardless of their age
- ✓ Keeping parents up to date with activities and events
- ✓ It is always welcoming and friendly. You have a great set of teachers and support staff who are an asset. Thank you.
- ✓ The teachers at school show they really care about each individual pupil in all ways
- ✓ Location
- ✓ Small classes / year groups
- ✓ Teachers
- ✓ Parents Evenings have developed and grown in giving more accurate information about my child's attainment and progress, and my child as a whole
- ✓ Receiving regular updates on my child's progress
- ✓ We're always impressed with my child's books
- ✓ If I contact the school with any concerns I always feel well supported and listened to
- ✓ The staff are friendly and approachable. If I have any problems I just pop in and feel I am listened to.
- ✓ My son really likes his teacher and seems to have fun in class

- ✓ My child is very happy at the school
- ✓ My child loves school

Additional responses:

Q8 - The school deals effectively with bullying:

A - I haven't been subject to it

A - Never had to deal with this

A - As far as I know: have never had cause to enquire because my child has never been bullied or worried about it at all

Q10 - This school responds well to any concerns I raise.

A - I've had no concerns but presume they would be

A - Never had an issue

What I would like to change about St Joseph's:

- More regular progress reports
- More feedback on child's progress during the year
- We were disappointed by the new end of year school report format. Unfortunately it is a reflection of what the government drives for, in regards to education. It coldly tells us about attainment and progress but tells us nothing about our child: her strengths, loves, passions, personality, what she needs to work on. It was interesting that the comments were longer than the narrative of the teacher. We know precisely what has been covered this year, but not how our child has responded to that coverage. (Apologies: we do hate to 'moan' but both felt strongly about the end of year report format to say something.)
 - Mini reports will be issued throughout the year, with a full report issued in the Summer term.
 - There will be a parents' evening in the Autumn and Spring terms and the opportunity to make an appointment at the end of the Summer term, once you have received your child's report.
 - The feedback regarding the new end of year report format is much appreciated. When preparing this year's reports we shall do our utmost to get across the more personal qualities you mention in order that your child's individuality is not 'lost'.
 - You are welcome, at any time of the year, to make an appointment to see your child's teacher regarding progress.
- More detailed letters to avoid confusion or misunderstandings.
- I support all school policies and understand the importance of these, however I do feel that the wording of certain messages sent to parents needs to be considered. i.e. in relation to texts sent regarding incidents, it would be worded better if a request to contact the school was sent (I feel

that many of the incidents occur during lunch break and is often due to the games the children invent, but I appreciate it is difficult to watch all children at all times).

- It is important that communication is clear. This is something we will be working on.
- More discussion or work to tackle behaviour issues amongst children
 - The Restorative Approaches method used in school encourages discussion among children following fall outs. It helps children to take responsibility for their actions as well as seeing how others are affected.
- There hasn't been as much PE over the last couple of years. With child obesity being a big concern I find this a big problem.
 - It is important that we help to encourage children to keep moving. Each class has between one and two hours of PE timetabled each week.
- More notice where possible for events.
- Parents can find it difficult to attend all the events held
 - You will have received a copy of the blue Dates for the Diary sheet issued recently. This contains the events that we have in the diary at the moment for the term. We will keep you updated through letter or text if anything else gets booked in.
 - We understand that you are not able to attend every event that goes on in school. Therefore, we offer a variety of different events and opportunities to come into school and hope that you or another family member is able to attend something during the term. Hopefully having a list of the main events for the term on the diary sheet will help you to decide which event you are able to come to.
- There were times this year when homework was lacking and when this is year 6 I would have expected more as previous years.
 - Year 6 were invited to Booster Classes before school and during lunch breaks. In addition they had SAT specific homework, some of which was also computer based. As SATs changed in 2015 the format of the homework will have appeared quite different to that issued in the past.
- More homework
 - Not sure how the children (or teachers) may feel about this!
 - Children are expected to read aloud to an adult every night and have their reading record signed as evidence of this. A piece of English and maths is sent home with the children each week and spellings may also be given.

- More variety of after-school clubs
- I think the school would benefit from more after school clubs, or clubs that run over the course of the year rather than just a few weeks at a time.
- Maybe an extra after school club to help working parents
 - We are delighted to be able to offer a Breakfast Club each morning. It has proved popular with the children enjoying sporting activities before eating.
 - 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.
- Unable to get second son baptised due to work commitments as we are unable to attend church every week
 - Unfortunately we are unable to help with this - I would suggest discussing this with Father David as this is his remit rather than ours!
- I can't think of anything I would like to change
- Absolutely nothing
 - Thank you ☺

Would you recommend this school to another parent?

Of those that answered this question, everyone would recommend our school.