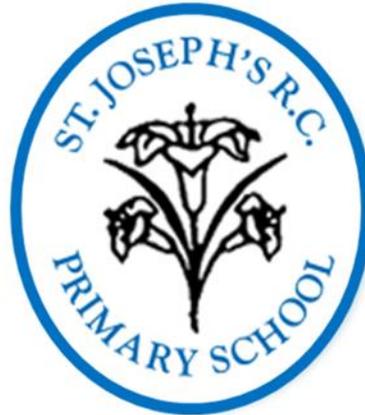


St Joseph's RC Primary School, Ushaw Moor



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

Parental Questionnaire Results - Summer 2018

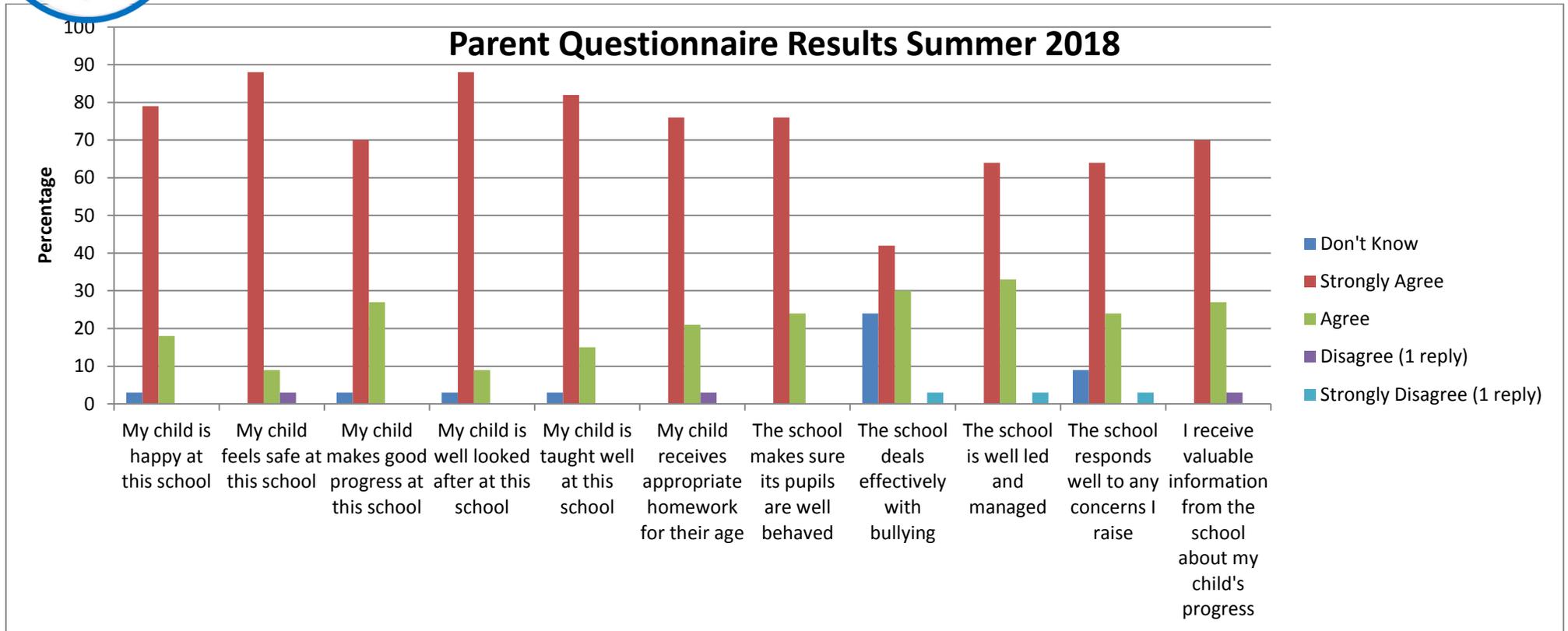
Head Teacher: Mrs L Keenan
Chair of Governors: Mrs C Purcell

September 2018



St Joseph's RC Primary School

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



33 responses received

September 2018

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:

- ✓ St Joseph's is a great school with a lovely community feel about it.
- ✓ Everyone knows each other, school ethos is good and the children are educated in the Catholic faith.
- ✓ I love the community spirit of the school
- ✓ Good communication between staff and parents
- ✓ It is a well run and efficiently managed school with regular updates and up to date systems in place. Very happy.
- ✓ Mrs Curtis has picked up our daughter's SEND problems quickly and placed in timely interventions
- ✓ Makes everyone feel at home, very welcoming, if you have a problem or wish to discuss anything
- ✓ I really like the fact all the teachers know my son's name.
- ✓ Easy contact with teachers and head teacher
- ✓ The staff and students are warm and friendly
- ✓ All age groups play together which I really like and feel my son has peers to look up to
- ✓ St Joseph's is like a little community and my child is very happy there. He has made great progress and this is down to the staff at the school.
- ✓ There is great support for children that need help
- ✓ Smaller classes enable teachers to get to know each child and understand their individual needs
- ✓ There's great support for children that need help
- ✓ St Joseph's provides a safe and caring environment for children
- ✓ Family atmosphere
- ✓ The staff are very good with all children in caring, concern and helping them reach their potential
- ✓ The school has some outstanding teachers who have developed and encouraged my child this year
- ✓ Staff are friendly and approachable and open to ideas
- ✓ Small classes
- ✓ There is a strong sense of community
- ✓ St Joseph's is a small friendly school which helps children settle easily into educational life
- ✓ It is very welcoming and the staff and students are warm
- ✓ St Joseph's is like a little extended family where children feel safe and well cared for
- ✓ It is a small friendly school, everyone knows each other
- ✓ The school has an excellent community feel and I love how the children know each other
- ✓ Children all get along with each other and respect each other
- ✓ The sense of community and how it works to make all the children confident
- ✓ Lovely place
- ✓ I like how it's small classes, makes it easier knowing my child will get the support and help no problem, if ever needed. I also like the staff. Couldn't ask for any better!
- ✓ Everything!
The school goes from strength to strength! Well done everybody 😊

Additional responses:

What is good about St Joseph's...

I would normally say a lot but over the last year I've lost a lot of faith in the school. The only good thing at the minute is Mrs Curtis

- It's not good to hear you feel this way. Please make an appointment to come in to talk things through.

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

- Dealing with bullying, not sweeping it under the carpet
- I sometimes feel it is the same child doing the same violent behaviour and don't feel it changes. Think sometimes a stronger stance is needed for the regular occurrence.
 - 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. We then expect all parties to move on, learning from mistakes and not repeating them, nor dwelling on the past.
 - The system is monitored for repeat offenders and their behaviour closely tracked so that appropriate action may be taken.

- 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.
 - We will be reviewing the behaviour and anti-bullying policies this term.
- Community – Church?
 - Not sure what your comment is here
 - Would like to see more interaction with the church – very few Masses held in the church with Father David compared to other local Catholic schools
 - The link with the church is not as strong as it used to be
 - It would be lovely to attend more Masses and we will be reviewing this again this year in order to do so.
 - Amount of homework
 - Not sure whether you feel there is too much or too little...
 - In addition to daily reading, this year children (Y1-6) will be given spellings and times tables. Each child also has a log in for Doodle Maths and Lexia, which may be accessed from home.
 - My child isn't keen on the school water bottles, she would prefer to bring her own again
 - I'm not sure about the school hats?? (Does anybody else wear them? Do they have just one allocated to them?)
Very minor question!
 - Each child has been given their own, named water bottle and hat.
 - The introduction of the water bottles and hats is threefold: to ensure that everyone has one; to stop these items coming in with inappropriate images / slogans on; and stop the competition between children to have the latest trend or coloured accessory.
 - PS – No question too small!
 - Head Teacher
 - I'm here for the foreseeable future. I know change can be difficult and sometimes unsettling but I'm sure we can get along together as we both want the best for your children.
 - Bring back the weekly newsletter
 - A weekly update of future events is easier to manage than the current blue booklet. The blue booklet is good for long term planning but with busy lives a weekly update / newsletter / bulletin is easier
 - Important dates often get forgotten about (probably more my fault!) Maybe a text on a Friday to remind parents of key dates the following week?
 - To be told sooner about things happening, not everything is on the blue sheet and makes it difficult for working parents
 - There are currently no plans to revert to a weekly newsletter
 - When it is issued each term, the blue Dates for the Diary contains the events that we have in the diary at that time 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, particularly when you are working. 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.
 - If there are significant changes the blue sheet is updated and re-issued at half term.

- Communication has been poor this year, as a parent working full time, receiving a leaflet at the start of each term for review is difficult. I don't always receive the texts the school send and I receive most of the information I require through the friends of St Joseph's Facebook page, which is ran through the parents. It's a shame to say this but I feel the head seems disjointed from St Joseph's and the parents and I don't agree with some of the policies put in place ie removal of the newsletter, ill children to be assessed by the head. The school fair last week was brilliant and seeing the children perform was lovely, it was just a shame the head only made an appearance at the end of the fair. I appreciate it is difficult for the school to fit in all activities but having the school fair, disco and sports day within a week of each other is difficult for parents who work full time.
 - If you are not receiving texts please see Mrs Bowron in the office. We are able to see if and when texts have been received and can raise this with the company if there is a problem.
 - The Friends of St Joseph Facebook can be a useful way to get information if it is lifted directly from the blue Diary Dates sheet or from texts sent out.
 - Sorry if you feel I am 'disjointed' – this can be an unfortunate side effect when only being at school part time.
 - Unfortunately, I realise decisions I make will not please everyone. The new newsletter has been met with positivity by most people as an alternative for the weekly one. I do not asses ill children. If it is considered that children are too unwell to remain in school, or may be contagious, parents will be contacted.
 - I opened the gates at the fayre and welcomed everyone as they came in, you must have missed me. A little later I spoke to those picnicking on the field and reminded them refreshments and cooling ice-cream was available in the dining room. I must have missed you! I enjoyed seeing the start of the children sing but missed the majority while helping a parent with their child and allowing that parent to see their older child perform. Fortunately, I managed to make it back for the raffle draw before assisting elsewhere once again. Hopefully, we will be able to catch up at the next event.
 - I do agree things were close together; the school events of Sports Day (3rd July) and the Fayre (13th July) were 10 days apart. The Friends group kindly organised a disco and this was fitted in-between. Wherever possible we spread events across the year.

- More feedback about my child's progress throughout the year
 - Mini reports are issued throughout the year, with a full report issued in the Summer term.
 - There is a parents' evening in the Autumn and Spring terms, a drop in in January and the opportunity to make an appointment at the end of the Summer term, once you have received your child's final report.
 - You are welcome, at any time of the year, to make an appointment to see your child's teacher regarding progress.

- Pen licences in year 3 to be abolished, they make the children feel their work isn't good enough
 - Pen licences are usual earned during a child's time in class 3. Often, when entering class 3 a child's work is not of the expected standard to attain a licence – yet. The children work hard to achieve their licence and are proud of their efforts when they do so.

- No changes. St Joseph's is a well respected school in the village and all staff give 100% to the pupils
- Nothing, except I would have a reception place for my son - lol
- Don't think there is anything I would change
- There is nothing I would change at this stage
- Nothing x 3 responses
 - Thank you 😊

Would you recommend this school to another parent?

Of those that answered this question, all except one would recommend our school.

