

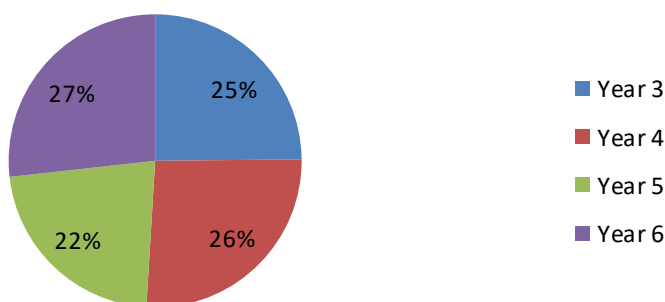


St. Mark's C of E Junior School

Parent Survey – January 2022 – The Results

Thank you very much to parents and carers for completing the questionnaire, and for your comments and responses about the education that we offer your child/ren. We received 133 responses and are pleased to present the results and our comments to you.

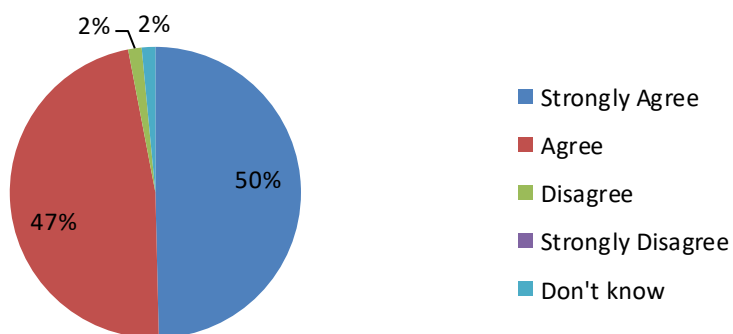
1. Which Year group is your child in? (You may select more than one option)



We were delighted with how many parents were able to spare a few moments to complete this survey.

Thank you – this provides is with really important information which will inform the ways in which we can continue to provide the best educational experiences for your child.

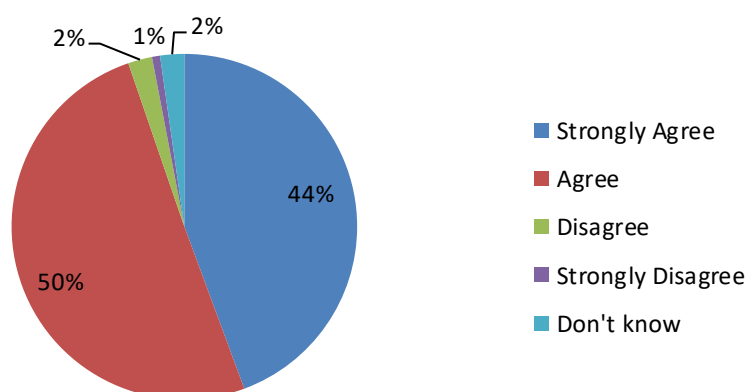
2. St. Mark's C of E Junior School is a welcoming place



97% of parents agree that our school is a welcoming place. A member of SLT (Senior Leadership Team) is on the playground every morning to ensure your child receives a warm welcome to school with teachers and SLT on the playground at the end of the day for any queries. Please do make sure you introduce yourself if you haven't already.

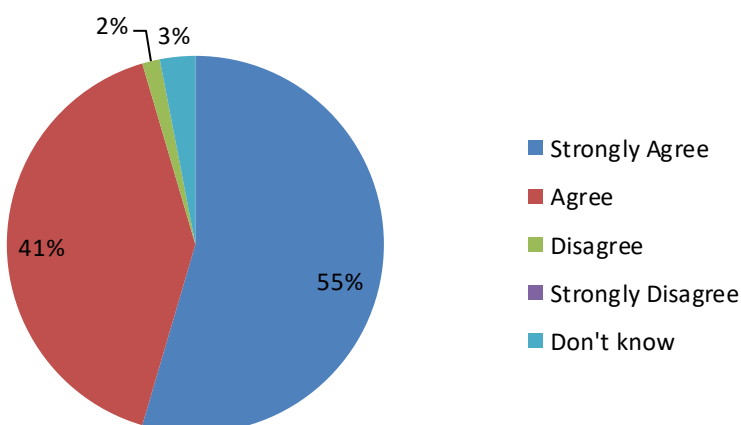
When safe to do so, we aim to hold more events to enable all parents to feel welcome and informed regularly through the school year.

3. My child is happy at this school



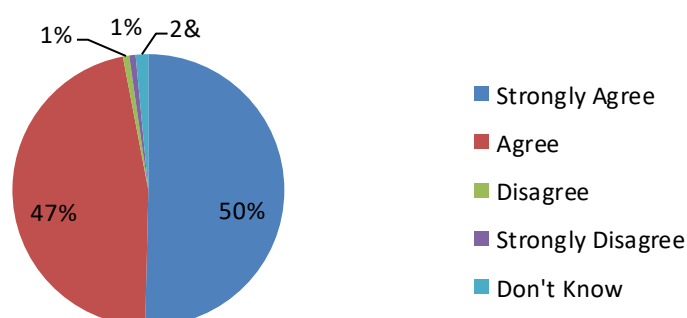
94% confirm that their child is happy at school. We would of course like 100% of our children to feel happy at St Mark's. If your child is unhappy, please arrange to see your child's class teacher or a member of SLT and we will ensure your child is supported to feel more settled. Each class has 'Good to Talk' boxes which is another way of letting the teacher know that something is bothering them.

4. My child feels safe at this school



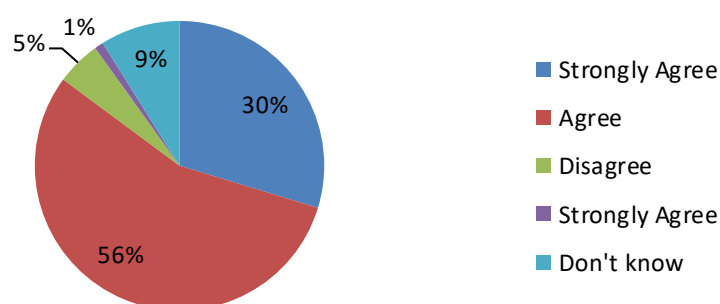
96% of children feel safe at our school. For children to learn well, they do need to feel safe. We will continue to work with all children to ensure they feel safe at all times but if you or your child are worried about anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact myself or a member of SLT.

5. My child is well looked after at this school



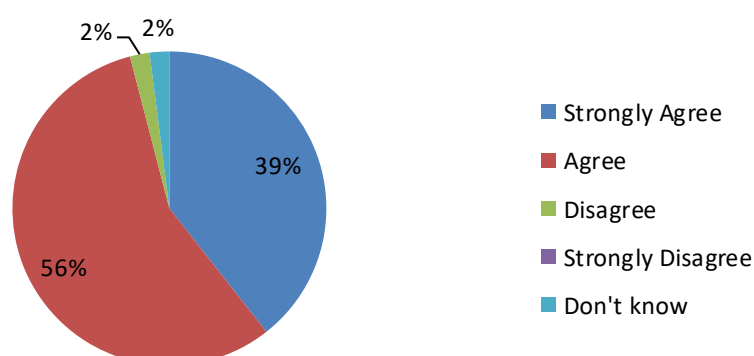
97% agree that their child is well looked after. We are pleased with such a high proportion but concerned that 3 families feel otherwise. All of our staff are wholeheartedly committed to ensuring that your children's needs are met and that they feel valued and cared for. Our open door policy is for all families; do raise your concerns with your child's class teacher or SLT at any point.

6. My child is equipped to achieve the very best in school life



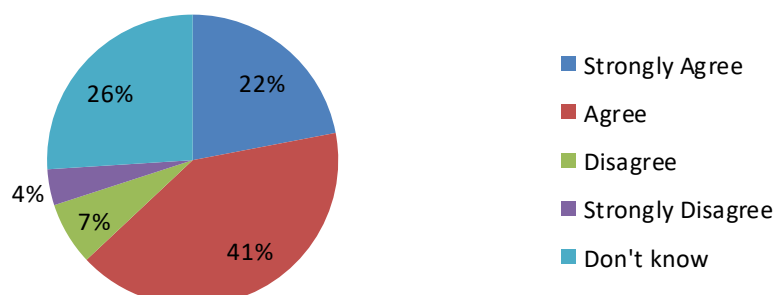
86% agree that children are equipped to achieve the very best in school life. We very much believe that personal development and academic achievement go hand in hand and we are continuing to find ways to build both of these aspects in to the provision for our children. We know that the impact of the pandemic has been extensive for many children so the balance of support and challenge in learning is an important one to get right. We are continually developing our curriculum & refining our teaching and learning approaches to ensure each child achieves their very best. Please do raise any concerns about your child's learning with us at school.

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



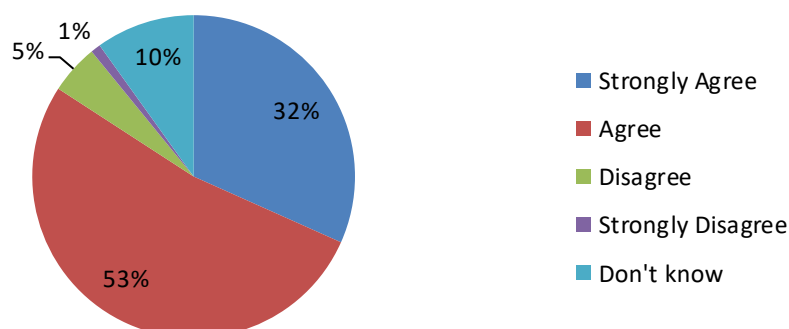
We are pleased that 95% of parents feel informed about their child's learning. Curriculum maps and letters are sent home at the start of each term and more information about our curriculum can be found on the school website. Shortly, we will be publishing progression grids for each subject on the website to show how your child's knowledge builds through the year.

8. My child has Special Educational Needs (My Plan or EHCP) and the school gives them the support they need to succeed



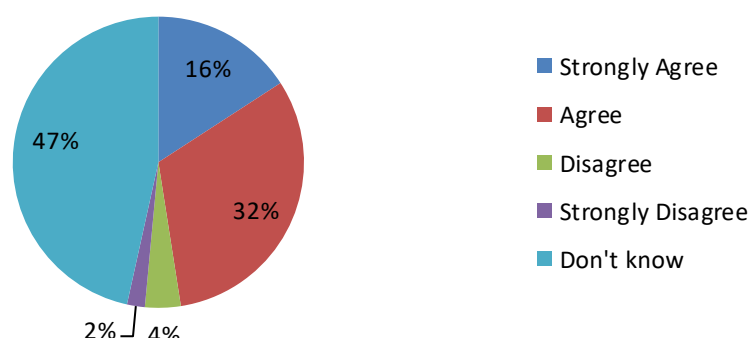
63% agree that the school gives children with additional needs the support they require. We pride ourselves on identifying need quickly and putting the right provision in place for each child. Staff have received recent training on how to identify types of additional need and we are confident that the systems for SEN provision are robust. Please see Mrs Whale, our SENCO if you have any concerns or queries.

9. The school makes sure pupils are well behaved



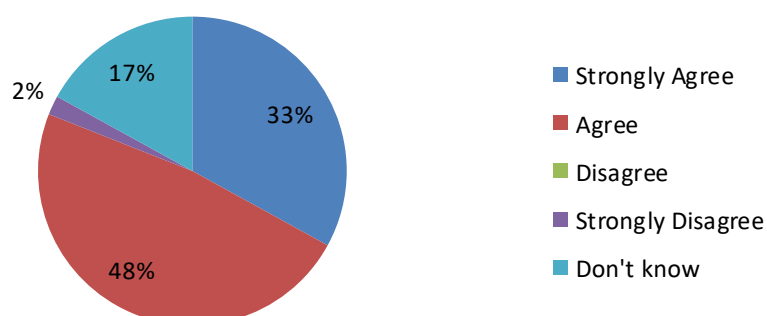
85% agrees that we make sure that the children are well behaved. We do indeed have high expectations for our children and we work hard to address any poor behaviour that impacts on the wellbeing or learning of others. Our Behaviour and Character Development policy has recently been reviewed and can be viewed on the school website. We believe this outlines a robust approach and we will continue to ensure its consistent application for all children.

10. The school deals with any bullying concerns effectively and quickly



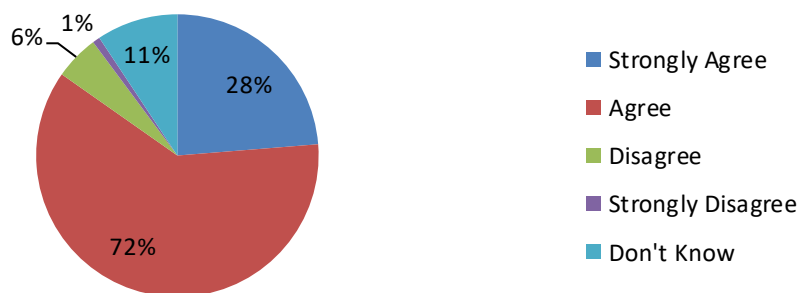
48% agree that the school deals with bullying concerns quickly and effectively. 47% have reported not to know. This high figure may suggest that some parents are not aware of the measures we take to address bullying concerns. We will therefore explore ways in which this can be more clearly communicated to both children and parents. If you have expressed concerns and are not satisfied with the response you have received, please contact Mrs Fitch immediately.

11. When I have raised any concerns with the school, they have been addressed



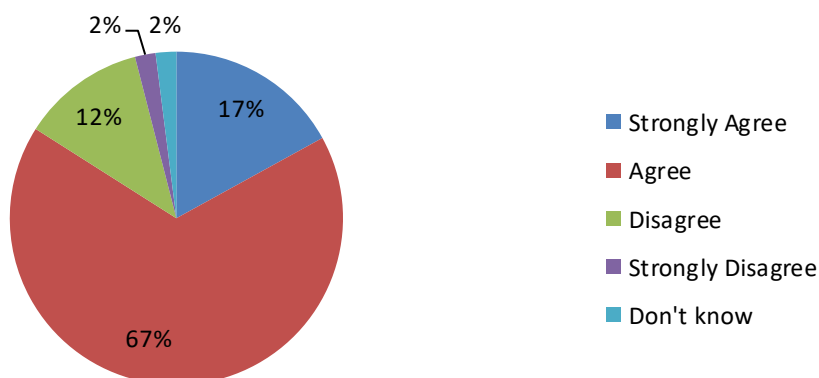
76% of parents are confident that their concerns will / have been addressed, with 17% not knowing; this may be for the reasons outlined above. If you are in any doubt about if / how concerns are raised, please see our Behaviour policy or contact a member of SLT.

12. The school has high expectations of my child



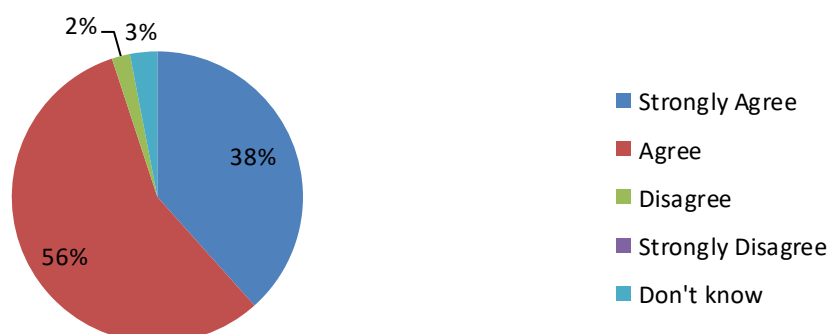
83% agree that the school has high expectations of the children. We are aware that it appears that this is not always communicated effectively to some parents. If you have any concerns that your child is not being challenged to achieve their best, please contact your child's class teacher.

13. The school lets me know how well my child is doing



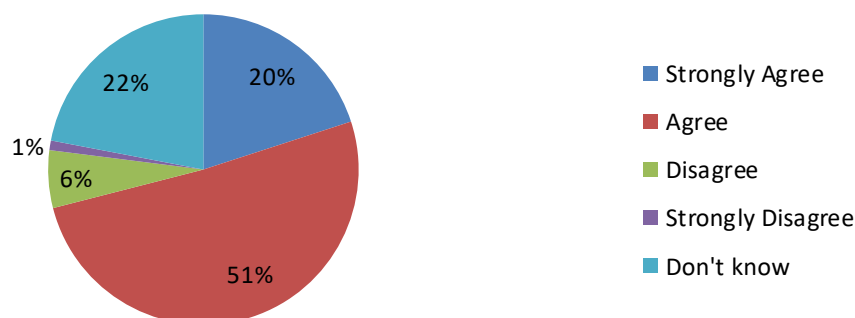
84% agree that the school lets you as parents know about how well your child is doing. We appreciate your comments in relation to the impact Covid has had on how we are able to do this. However, we very much hope to begin parent events such as 'book looks' and Parent Pop-Ins soon. This together with interim reports and parent evenings, we hope will enable you to feel more informed about your child's progress.

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



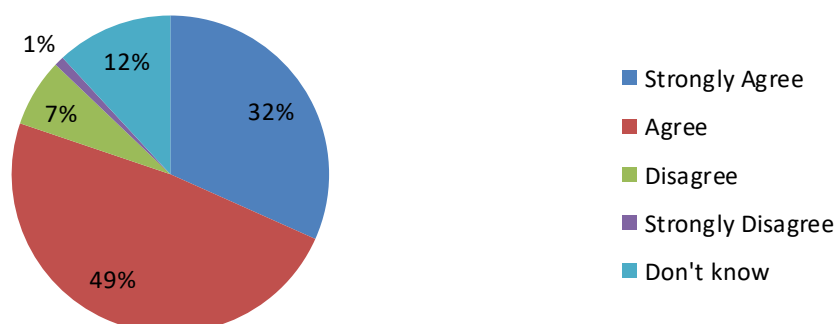
An overwhelming 94% agree that the school provides a good range of subjects within the curriculum. We are currently working hard to ensure that each curriculum area is meaningful and motivating for the children so that each child can excel in a range of curriculum subjects.

15. The school has good remote learning provision in place if required



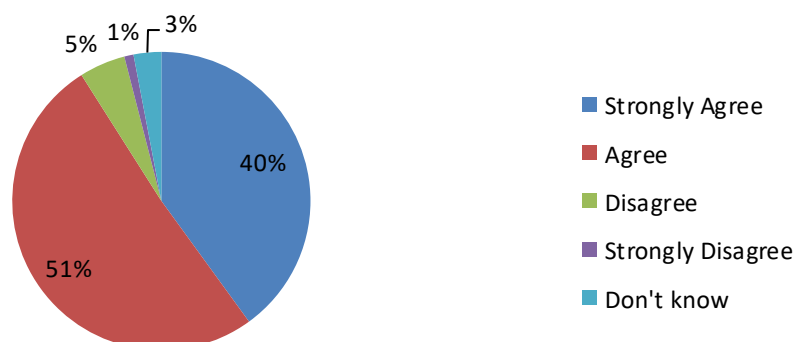
71% agree that the remote learning provision is good if / when required. We are delighted with the positive comments regarding the school's handling of provision through the pandemic. We take on board suggestions of using an alternative platform to ease accessibility – we will certainly explore possibilities.

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



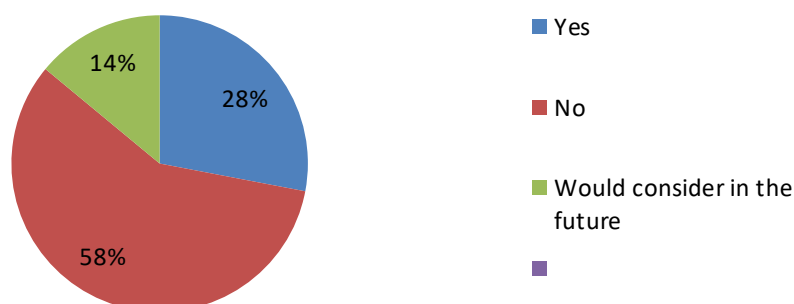
81% agree that children's wider personal development is supported. Personal development at St Mark's is about fostering sense of self-worth and security in who we are and who we hope to become; to develop a moral compass, to build positive relationships and make a difference to the lives of others and in the world around us. It is part of our curriculum provision as well as our ethos. We hope that as the children's progress through St Mark's, evidence of opportunities to develop personally will continue to increase.

17. There is a wide range of extra curricular opportunities available for my child



91% of parents believe that there is a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities available. Unfortunately, due to staffing limitations, we are unable to run FACE clubs during the school day, but have endeavoured to provide a varied programme of after school and lunchtime clubs instead.

18. Do you use wrap around care before or after school?



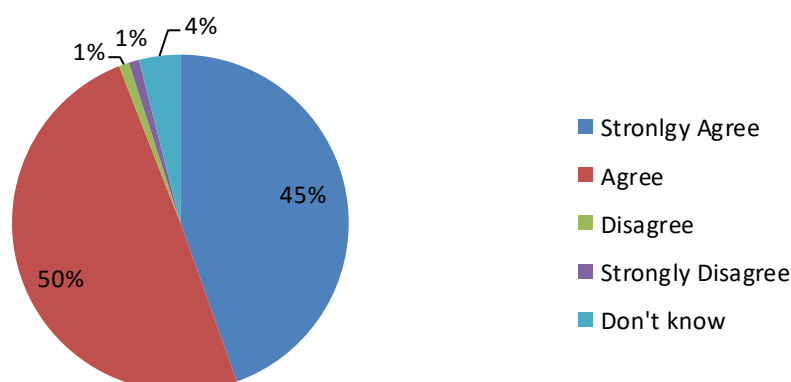
We are aware of how crucial Wrap Around provision is for our families and pleased that needs can be met in this way by the SMOOSC (St Mark's Out Of School Club) team. As you will know SMOOSC is an independent company; the staff are not employed by the school. However, we are keen to continue working with SMOOSC to ensure the provision for St Mark's families is good and that the children are well catered for.

19. My child is well looked after and enjoys the before and after school provision



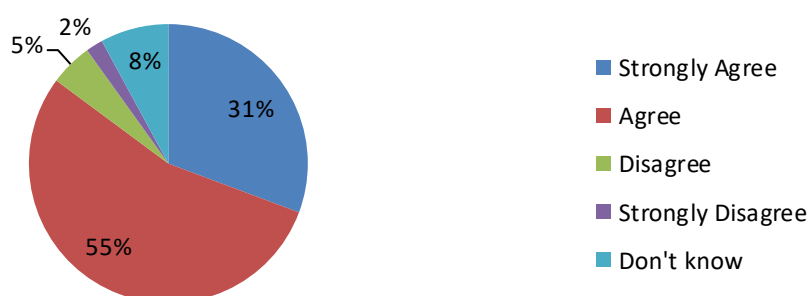
90% of children enjoy the before and after school provision. This is a positive reflection of the SMOOSC provision. We know that SMOOSC also have regular opportunities for parent feedback so please do talk directly with Jules Hoults if you have any concerns or queries: SMOOSC@outlook.com

20. This Church of England Junior School has a clear vision and associated Christian values



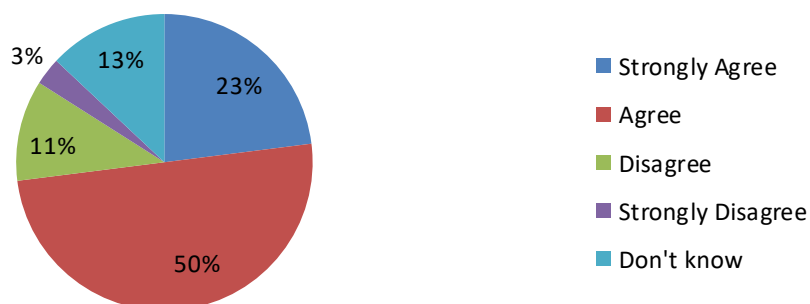
95% confirm that the school has a clear vision and associated Christian values. It is crucial that this is communicated clearly to all stakeholders as the vision informs all that we do at school. For more information to explain the importance of the school's vision, particularly in the context of our Church of England status, please visit our school website.

21. The school teaches Christian values that contribute to my child's personal and spiritual development



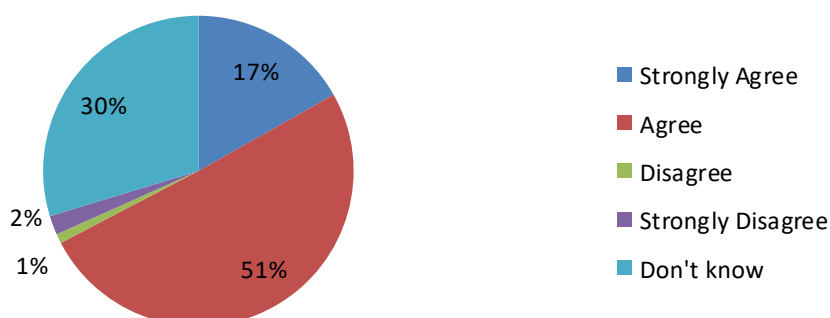
86% agree that the values we explore at school contributes to their child's personal and spiritual development. Our FACE values are woven throughout all areas of school life: **Forgiveness** in our relationships, **Aspiration** in our learning, acting with **Compassion** towards others and **Engaging** with each opportunity to bring the best out of each other. We are currently building further opportunities for children to explore how these shared values (inclusive for those who have a faith or not) can be identified throughout the curriculum, contributing further to their personal and spiritual development.

22. Collective Worship is important in the life of the school



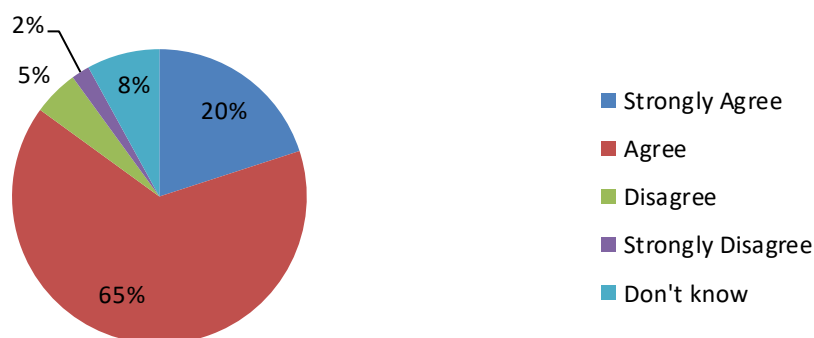
We are pleased that 73% know that Collective Worship is important in the life of the school. Due to the impact of Covid, we have needed to gather in smaller groups, on-line or outside; we have missed the sense of 'community' that gathering as a whole school brings. However, Collective Worship has still remained a very important aspect of school life albeit, feeling slightly different to usual. We are developing the website to reflect more of what we do in Collective Worship and we hope to soon to invite parents in to join us on occasions too.

23. My child is given opportunities for prayer and reflection in school



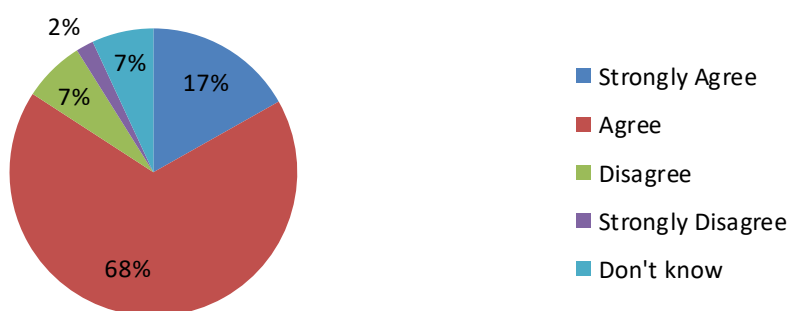
68% are aware that children are given opportunities to for prayer and reflection during the school day. We see times of stillness and quiet a crucial part of children's experiences. As such, we have invested in the Learnful programme: daily opportunities to practice mental and emotional wellbeing. Prayer at school is always invitational and never an 'expectation'.

24. My child has a good knowledge and understanding of Christianity



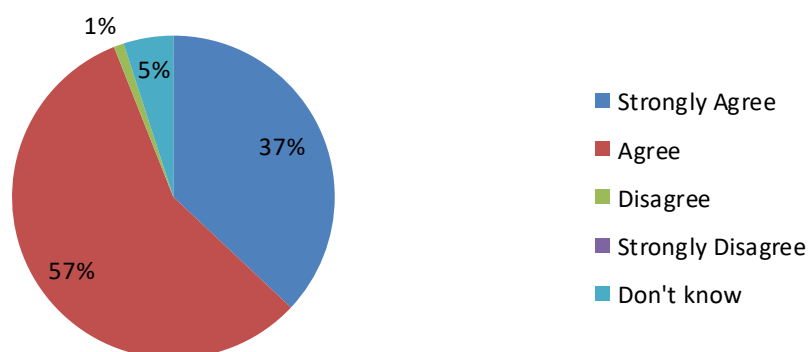
85% is confident that their child has a good understanding of Christianity. We follow the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for our RE teaching; a syllabus used by most schools (CofE schools & Non CofE) in the county. Therefore the content of Christianity taught in relation to other world faiths is in-line with all other schools using this programme. We are confident that our teaching of Christianity, as part of the wider curriculum, is strong and will continue to ensure your child's progress in this subject is communicated clearly.

25. My child has a developing knowledge and understanding of other world faiths



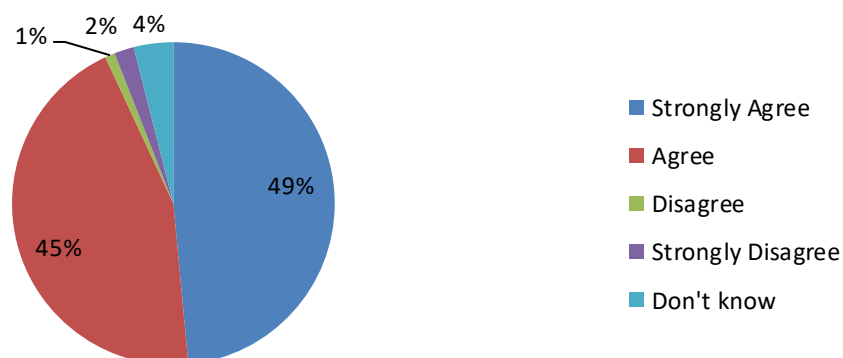
85% confirms that their child has a developing understanding of other world faiths. We regard the teaching of all major world religions and world views as a key part of our curriculum to enable children to ask the 'Big Questions' of life and to practise the skill of empathy and respect for the opinions of others. The curriculum time given to this is in-line with the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus, as mentioned above.

26. The school and the Church have strong links



We are hugely encouraged that 94% of our parents are aware that we have strong links with the church. We are working closely with the church to find more and more ways of serving the needs of our community.

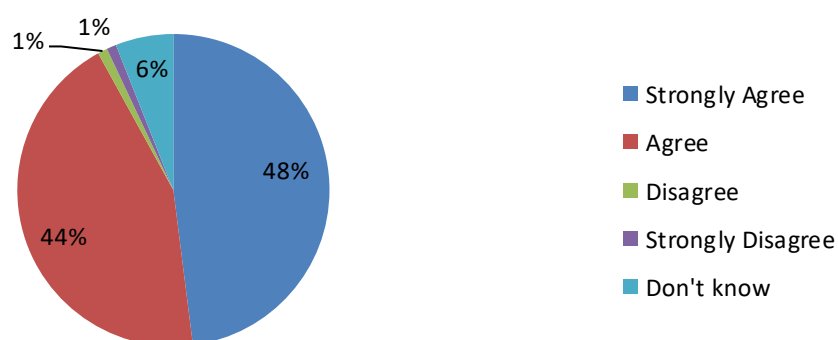
27. I would recommend this school to another parent



This is a delightful reflection of how successful our provision is for the children and families of St Mark's. Our heartfelt thanks to you as parents for your support and partnership in your child's education.

Each and every member of our school community is crucial in enabling St Mark's to grow and flourish – thank you for playing your important part!

28. I am proud to be part of the St Mark's School Community



The whole staff team are deeply proud to be part of St Mark's school community and it is wonderful to see this overwhelmingly positive response from you are parents too.

Our door is always open – please do come and see us if there is anything we can do to support you further.

What are our greatest strengths?

- Approachable, adaptable and kind, caring staff; great curriculum, wide variety of trips and visits.
- Offering science, technology and coding alongside outdoor learning and extra curricular fun activities to enable our child to have a broad range of interests
- Inclusion...every child feels valued; Well-being and emotional support in the school
- The time spent getting to know each child and the support given to allow them to flourish. My child loves it with you and we love the family feel the school provides
- Outdoor learning. The staff in the school.
- You challenge the kids and provide them with lots of opportunities to discover their talents and grow in different areas.
- A strong school community, supports children well in their learning and personal development
- Close-knit, friendly community, caring and nurturing staff, excellent teaching
- Very pleased with the differentiation affording more challenge for my child and giving aspirational targets- my child has improved substantially in maths due to the way the school has provided both support and challenge
- The head and the SENCO really truly care about each and every child.
- Its Christian faith and links to the church; Compassion, empathy and approachability
- Senior team. Kindness. Welcoming
- A strong, caring headteacher with a clear vision; a well thought out response to covid that considered the context and needs of St Mark's families- both through remote learning and now that children are back in school, through targeted academic support and making mental health a priority; my child loves their teacher and feels really well supported.
- Your SLT are welcoming and visible, the range of clubs available, homework is significantly improved compared to our experience of the old system in year three
- The holistic nature of the school- not just focussing on academic areas but also a strong interest in their social well being
- The whole staff team appear to act like a team, empowered to lead in their own way within the vision and values set out. There's such a great balance of academic, physical and emotional wellbeing taught through different approaches, helping the children to gain the knowledge and life skills to move onwards to secondary and beyond. My elder daughter who's gone to grammar school often says she feels confident and equipped on a daily basis thanks to the foundations St Mark's CofE gave her. You also set an example for the county and country in the way you dealt with Covid. Proper planning, regular communication, equality and the very best you could have given the circumstances.
- Wide range of curricular and outdoor activities for a balanced learning experience.
- Friendliness, kindness, working within the community, values
- The school is welcoming and has high behaviour expectations.
- A wealth of opportunities for all children with after school & lunchtime clubs and spacious & attractive grounds. Great use of texts, emails and a very clearly presented newsletter to keep us informed as parents. I love that the children are cheerfully welcomed through the school gate every single morning by the Head or another member of staff.
- Strong leadership & team work. Every child is known to the whole team and cared for. There is good recognition of strengths and awards are given and weaknesses are supported well. The school are always looking to the future and working on new opportunities. Lots of amazing school trips. The communication is excellent, newsletters are very clear & concise and the admin team send out regular reminders. Christianity is promoted and runs through the heart of the school. My child has lots of access to various clubs and music lessons etc (the new coding club is brilliant!).
- The Head Teacher is excellent and has handled Covid Restrictions in a very well balanced way. Communicating new rules and expectations in a very gentle but clear way, allowing the children and parents as many freedoms as possible whilst keeping everyone as safe as possible. Thank you Mrs Fitch and the team for all of their incredibly hard work, my son is already saying how much he will miss attending St Mark's School when he leaves at the end of the year!

What could we improve?

Year 3

Parent Suggestion / Comment	School's Response
Could there be more opportunities for me to find out about my child's learning / progress?	Yes! We are looking forward to holding more informal 'pop-ins', book looks and curriculum events for parents as Covid restrictions ease. We will develop systems for more personal, spontaneous feedback. We will look at ways of making the Year Group pages even more informative.
Could there be an increase in environmental / climate teaching?	Although this requirement is not necessarily reflected in the National Curriculum, we regard the teaching and learning of environmental issues as an important part of our curriculum. It is therefore deliberately taught in key areas such as Geography, History, Outdoor Learning through our value of Compassion (for the environment). Our school Eco Committee are also responding with social and environmental action projects. We will continue to deliberately plan in opportunities, within the curriculum as part of our work towards the Schools Eco Award The Eco-Schools Green Flag - Eco Schools and Global Neighbours Award Global Neighbours accreditation scheme - Christian Aid
Is it possible for my child to change his / her book more regularly?	Yes! Although the children have a 'library day' they should have the option to change their book when they have finished. We can also allow children take home more than 1 book at a time. Please do contact your child's class teacher through the school office or write a note in the Reading Record to request this.
Please could my child have squash in their water bottle rather than water?	As a school promoting healthy living, we are unable to relax our policy to allow children to drink squash through the day. However, if this means that your child's intake of fluids is severely limited and the concern can be supported by a doctor's note, please see the class teacher. We take on board that, occasionally, fruit juices are available from the tuck shop. This will be changed to water.

We have endeavoured to respond to as many comments and suggestions as possible, either through the commentary after each question in the main survey or within the above Year Group specific section.

If you have any concerns that have not been addressed and would like a response, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Fitch at school.

Year 4

Parent Suggestion / Comment	School's Response
<p>Could there be more communication to parents if children are receiving additional support (e.g. small group work)?</p>	<p>Yes. Much of our 'in-class' additional support with children is on a short term basis (sometimes even for a few lessons only) as the intention is that the gap is closed rapidly.</p> <p>However, in response to this query, after half term, a letter will be sent to parents of children who are benefiting from a specific intervention package.</p> <p>For those children on the SEN register, information of support is provided within My Plans / EHCPs.</p>
<p>There are sometimes inconsistencies in teaching methods</p>	<p>This has been an area of focus for the staff team since 2020 and we have been working extremely hard to ensure a consistent teaching and learning approach within job shares and across classes. Please see our Teaching and Learning policy on the school website for more information. Curriculum St Mark's Church of England Junior School (stmarksjunior.com)</p> <p>Alongside this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have developed a Maths calculation policy detailing the school's approach to teaching Calculation methods - A consistent approach to teaching reading skills - We are currently working on a whole school writing approach to complement the writing approach used in Benhall Infant School. <p>We will continue with this work and endeavour to ensure any inconsistencies are addressed</p>
<p>Could there be an option for online reading books?</p>	<p>Yes, we will certainly explore platforms to give children access to reading books online. We hope to be able to integrate this into our home learning provision in the coming months</p>

We have endeavoured to respond to as many comments and suggestions as possible, either through the commentary after each question in the main survey or within the above Year Group specific section.

If you have any concerns that have not been addressed and would like a response, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Fitch at school.

Year 5

Parents Suggestion / Comment	School's Response
Could there be more opportunities for me to find out about my child's learning / progress, particularly in relation to Grammar School / 11+ prospects	Yes. We will ensure Grammar School prospects are a specific part of parent consultation evenings with Year 4 and 5 parents as appropriate. We are looking forward to holding more parent events (book looks, pop-ins, face-to-face parents evenings) to increase level of communication around progress and attainment. Interim reports (discussed as Autumn and Spring Parent Evenings) also detail progress and attainment to date.
Could the school consider other communication platforms? It would be helpful for parents to be able to text school / have direct communication with teachers via an online learning platform / email	This is something we will explore. Direct communication with teachers in this way has been limited in order to aid teachers' workload and wellbeing. However, we will explore further strategies / platforms that enable increasingly effective communication
Addressing negative behaviour has not always been consistent	The school has high expectations for behaviour. As a result, we have once again revisited our behaviour policy and ensured there is increased clarity and consistency of these expectations for both children and all adults within the school.
Please ensure that the school works well for boys as well as girls e.g. teaching methods, behavioural policies	This is something we take very seriously and strive to ensure we are meeting the needs of all children. We will continue to review our curriculum provision and behaviour approaches, researching further ways to maximise both engagement for both boys and girls. If you have a specific concern about this, please see Mrs Fitch immediately.

We have endeavoured to respond to as many comments and suggestions as possible, either through the commentary after each question in the main survey or within the above Year Group specific sections.

If you have any concerns that have not been addressed and would like a response, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Fitch at school.

Year 6

Parent Suggestion / Comment	School's Response
It would be great to see further opportunities for children to learn 'life skills' such as cooking and first aid	As Covid restrictions ease, we will be able to build these opportunities back into the curriculum. First Aid training for all children has been booked for June 2022.
Homework in preparation for Secondary School	Some comments asked for less homework, some for more! Whilst this remains to be a tricky balance to get right, we will explore how our homework provision enables children to prepare further for secondary school. This could include increased online (optional) provision.
More Extra Curricula / Sports Clubs / return of FACE Clubs	This year we have increased our after school and lunch-time club provision. Unfortunately, we do not have enough staff to run FACE clubs effectively, in school time. As Covid restrictions ease, inter-school sports tournaments will become more regular.
Consistency of communication – sometimes dates on the website and newsletters do not always correlate	We take this on board and will continue to work hard to iron out any discrepancies!
It feels too heavily 'Christian' – is there a balance in the exploration of other faiths as well as Christianity?	I am delighted that many families have commented on the vision and the values of the school being a strength. We fully recognise that we are a school, serving the community, for those with faith and of none. With this in mind we have deliberately chosen school values that can be shared across all belief systems and are fundamentally inclusive. Prayer is always invitational; we encourage children to engage with challenging questions and to explore of their own ways of living, believing and thinking. As a Church of England school, by law, we must fulfil the requirements as set out by the Church of England Education Office. The content of RE teaching is also stipulated as Christianity taking 50% of the RE Curriculum time. Other major world faiths and world views (including Humanism) are also a very important part of the curriculum. The following link provides more information about RE in Church of England Schools RE Statement of Entitlement for Church Schools.pdf (churchofengland.org)

We have endeavoured to respond to as many comments and suggestions as possible, either through the commentary after each question in the main survey or within the above Year Group specific sections.

If you have any concerns that have not been addressed and would like a response, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Fitch at school.

Any other comments?

'Thank you for all your hard work - the staff do so much that is brilliant. My child is enthused and engaged by the teaching, which is fantastic.'

'Keep doing what you do! Just amazing and seeing the help and support my child has seen is incredible. My son is engaged with learning and the balance of help and support is working well really well for him.'

'Your response to covid has been excellent and cannot have been easy. Thank you for the way you have looked after our children.'

'I think the school is fantastic and I recommend it to anyone who asks. I think the new head has steered the ship incredibly well during the last 2 covid years, as well as introducing some lovely well-being initiatives. Whilst I'm interested in my child's ability, I'm very aware that she needs a whole toolkit in order to grow as a person and take the leap into 'big school', and I'm really pleased that St Marks uses lots of different resources to get the children to look at feelings, emotions and social situations that they may find themselves in.'

'A great school, with brilliant staff and happy environment.'

'Thank you for helping to give our child one of the best educations I think the country offers.'



Once again, thank you so much for taking the time to complete the school survey.

We are thrilled with such a positive response and have taken on board all of your suggestions to make the quality of education at St Mark's even better.

We will keep you updated with actions taken in response to these suggestions later in the year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Fitch'.

Mrs A Fitch, the Staff Team and Governors