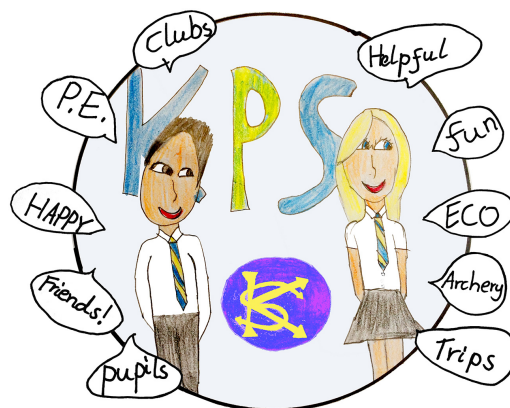


Kirkshaws Primary School & Nursery Class



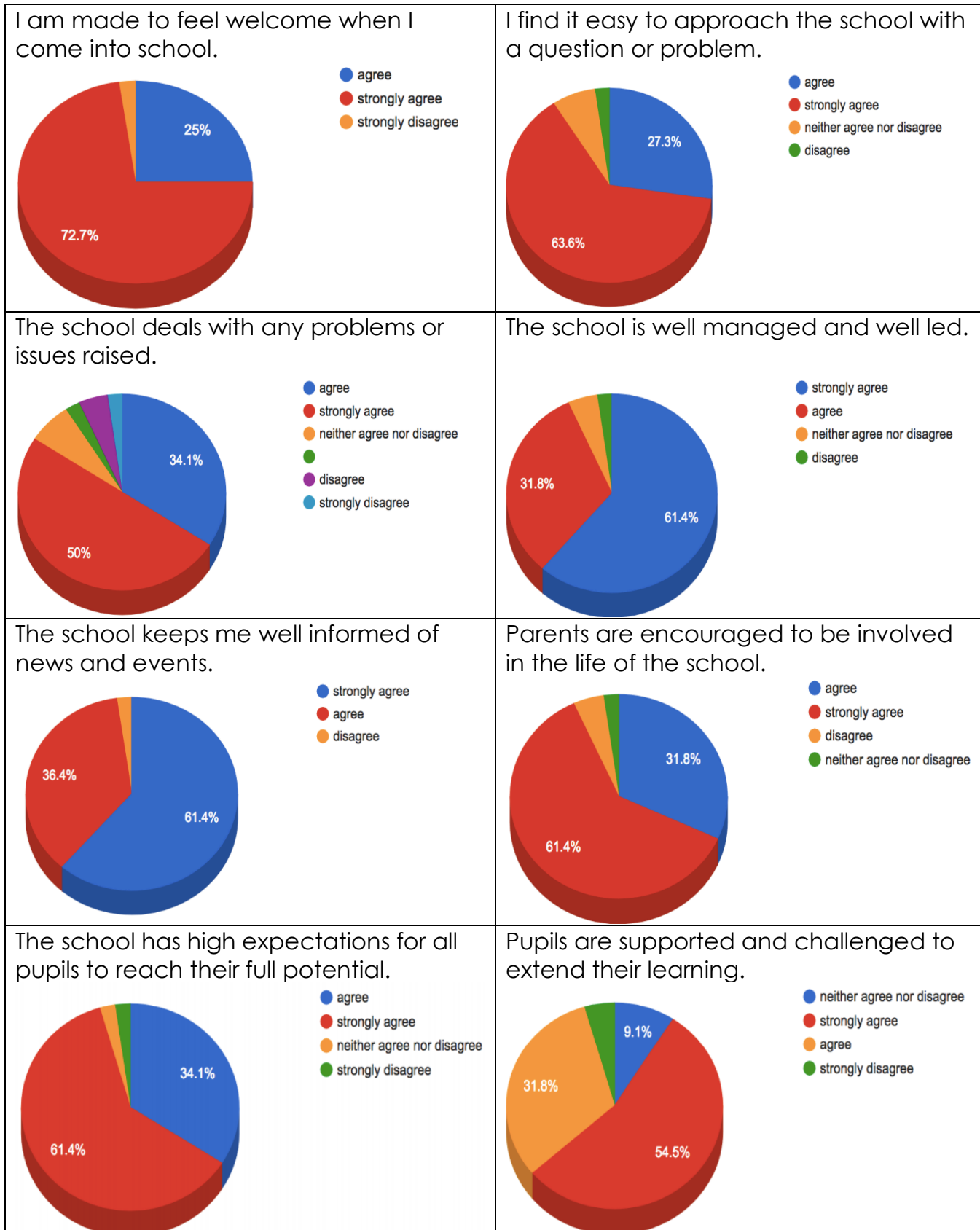
How Good is Our School?

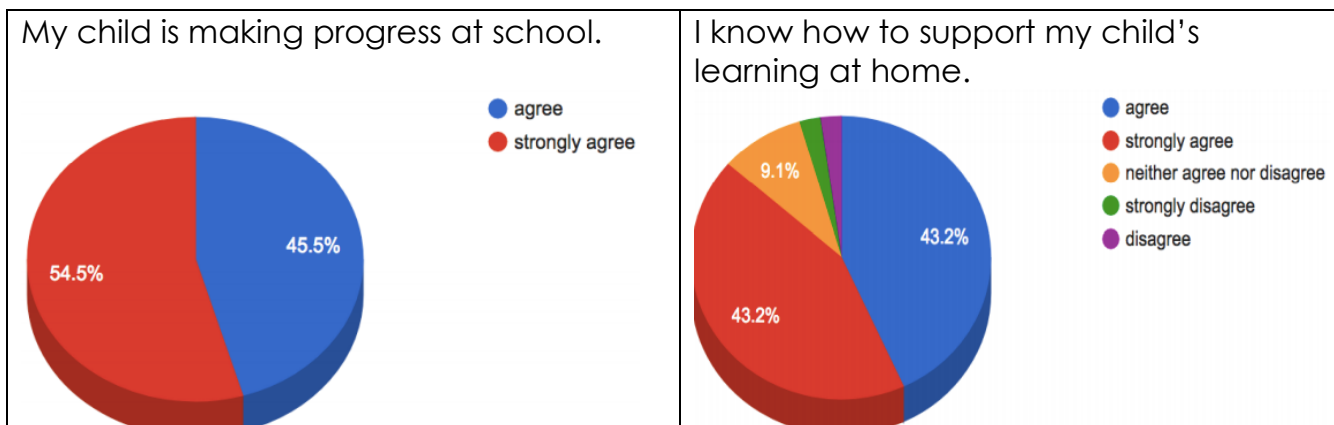
Parental Views, May 2019



Over the past few weeks we have asked all parents and carers for feedback using a range of questionnaires. The results of these have been collated and are summarised within this newsletter. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to share their views. These will all be used to shape our school improvements next session.

We asked you to evaluate a number of aspects of school life in April 2019. You said:





There were 44 completed responses to this survey, with the following additional comments added:

- Nothing needs improved
- Try & pick up any discrepancies or changes in learning faster & relay to parents ASAP. Listen to parents more and act on actions from pupil ASAP.
- Continue with family after school clubs
- Would like things to help with at home to tie in with day to day learning
- Opportunities for parents to help with after school activities and programmes
- Maybe more support for parents to help with homework
- Unfortunately, most of the stuff where parents are invited to attend are during the school day. I understand why this is done but I find it difficult to do because I work and I feel guilty not being able to join in.
- Continue parent participation and information events.
- Overall very happy, don't have any issues to disclose. As I am not on social media if school could text or letter in advance about holidays or activities at school as my child gets mixed up trying to explain.
- I strongly believe that homework is not a constructive way for my child to learn as I feel with busy family life, when we get home from work/school/after school, homework is rushed & causes stress and frustration when trying to have family time, e.g. dinner, spend a few hours of quality time together.

Our Response

- ⇒ We are delighted that so many parents and carers feel valued, welcomed and listened to in our school, but we will continue to work on this to ensure that **no one** feels unhappy with the response of staff when you need us.
- ⇒ We will continue to inform you of school & nursery events using our school app, Twitter and the school website on a weekly basis. Text messaging will be used for urgent or emergency notices, with letters coming home when we require a written response. Check the website on a Sunday evening for a summary of the diary for the week ahead. The app is the easiest way to stay up to date with news.
- ⇒ We are delighted, but not surprised, to see that 100% of parents identify their children are making progress in school. We will continue to support and challenge pupils appropriately to ensure they achieve their potential.
- ⇒ Homework remains an area of contention. Some families ask for more challenge and variety, while others do not see home learning tasks as worthwhile. Kirkshaws teachers are currently reviewing our homework policy, trying to devise a programme that will provide structure and flexibility. This will be launched in September 2019 and will be accompanied by parental workshops to support learning at home.
- ⇒ Family learning through after school clubs is now an established feature of life at Kirkshaws and will return next session. We will look for ways to extend this to draw on the talents and interests of our parent body and welcome volunteers to help lead these clubs.
- ⇒ We will extend the number of ways we can share our learning with parents. Following the success of our Maths Open Afternoon, we will host two Open Hours next session: with a focus on two different curricular areas.
- ⇒ While parents will be invited to join us during the school day, we will also aim to deliver workshop opportunities in the early evening, to suit our working parents.
- ⇒ We aim to inform you of your child's progress more frequently, by sending home a Snap Shot jotter four time in the year; once each term.

Pupil Equity Funding

A paper questionnaire was issued during our Maths Open Afternoon to the 70 families who attended. Copies were then sent home to all other families via school bags. 18 returns were received, with the results collated below:

| Looking ahead to the next financial year, Kirkshaws Primary School has been awarded £66,000 through the Pupil Equity Fund. This must be used to target the poverty related attainment gap. <i>If staff are available, it is our intention to request an additional teacher.</i> <i>How would you prioritise the use of an additional teacher's time?</i> | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Curricular Focus | | 1. Top Priority | 2. Mid Priority | 3. Low Priority | 4. Not Appropriate |
| Literacy | Individualised or small group reading support to allow pupils to access the curriculum | 9 | 9 | | |
| | Individualised or small group writing support to allow pupils to access the curriculum | 13 | 5 | | |
| | Extension tasks to challenge more able learners | 4 | 11 | 3 | |
| | Further developing parental engagement (Parent Workshops, drop-in sessions, parent guide leaflets, etc) | 3 | 11 | 3 | |
| Numeracy & Maths | Individualised or small group support to allow pupils to access the curriculum | 12 | 5 | 1 | |
| | Extension tasks to challenge more able learners | 4 | 10 | 3 | |
| | Further developing parental engagement (Parent Workshops, drop-in sessions, parent guide leaflets, etc) | 5 | 9 | 4 | |
| Health & Wellbeing | Personalised nurture and emotional support for all pupils, as and when this is needed | 14 | 4 | | |
| | Outdoor learning | 10 | 8 | 1 | |
| | Further developing parental engagement (Parent Workshops, drop-in sessions, parent guide leaflets, etc) | 6 | 8 | 4 | |

Please tell us of your other priorities for school improvement.

- **Strengthen collaboration between all school staff, pupils and parents/carers**
- **An online student portal system for parents to monitor pupils progress continually**
- **Information of progress between reporting times (Oct, Nov, Mar, May)**
- **The importance of nurture & emotional support was highlighted in 3 returns**
- **The success of literacy support this year was mentioned by one parent**

Our Response

- ⇒ Your 3 priorities have been identified as individualised support in writing, numeracy & maths and emotional wellbeing.
- ⇒ Our school data indicates that we are actually performing above average, compared to other NLC schools, in writing, with 80.56% of learners achieving expected levels in A Curriculum for Excellence. However, we will continue to monitor this within our school improvement plan to ensure **all** learners are being suitable supported and challenged here. We will look at available resources to ensure we encourage learners and equip teachers.
- ⇒ Numeracy support has worked well this year. We will look at ways to build on this success in 2019/20.
- ⇒ We are currently rewriting our Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy, considering the effects of trauma and the resulting emotional needs of children. As a direct result, this will help us focus on nurture at a whole-school and personal level. We will continue to assess how we make best use of the Safe & Sound Room.

- ⇒ We aim to strengthen the relationships between the adults at home and in school by building on our Family Learning opportunities and introducing more Open Hour sessions and curricular workshops.
- ⇒ An online reporting portal is not something we are in a position to purchase, but we intend to inform you of ongoing progress by sending home your child's Snap Shot jotter 4 times in the year. This, added to the 4 formal reporting events each session, should give you a greater insight into your child's ongoing progress.

SWOT Analysis – Parent Council

Our Parent Council completed a SWOT Analysis in May 2019. They were asked to identify the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats associated with our school and nursery. We are indebted to them for the time they spent working on this as it has provided us with valuable insight to inform our future planning.

STRENGTHS

- Fantastic communication between home and school: social media, Piota app, website, texting, letters
- Committed, caring and knowledgeable staff
- Greater variety of learning approaches being used; more inclusive
- Transition support into P.1 and S.1 is thorough and informative
- Opportunities for parents to visit school, see classrooms and lessons in action, assemblies, etc.
- Increased opportunities for pupils and parents to become involved and share skills; e.g. archery programme run by a parent, adults v's pupils sporting events, lunchtime clubs run by pupils, peer support
- Extensive outdoor space
- An outdoor trim-trail
- The range of after-school activities and clubs

Weaknesses

- We have an old school building
- Higher perimeter fencing is not yet in place, which has led to intruders in the grounds in the evenings and weekends
- Nursery facilities
- Broken play equipment
- Large sports field is not used to its full potential. It could be used all year round for outdoor learning.
- We need to raise the profile of the school beyond social media, perhaps by using the local newspaper, to inform the wider community of school success stories.
- Illegal and unsafe parking by some families. Walking to school must be promoted more.

Opportunities

- More family learning opportunities and greater connections with parents and carers
- Opportunities to build upon current links with community groups and local services
- Make use of outdoor space more
- Trim-trail extended and improved
- Increased online access to school information, e.g. reports
- Continue to extend interaction and communication with parents and carers, e.g. through regular surveys
- Collaborative working with other schools, parent councils, fundraising groups

Threats

- Homework could be more challenging to ensure pupils are motivated and stretched to reach their potential
- Security of the building (recent intruders and fires)
- Public perception of our school: an old building does not indicate a lesser learning experience, but this needs to be shared with the local community.
- Road Safety
- Incinerator plans – could the Eco Committee explore this?