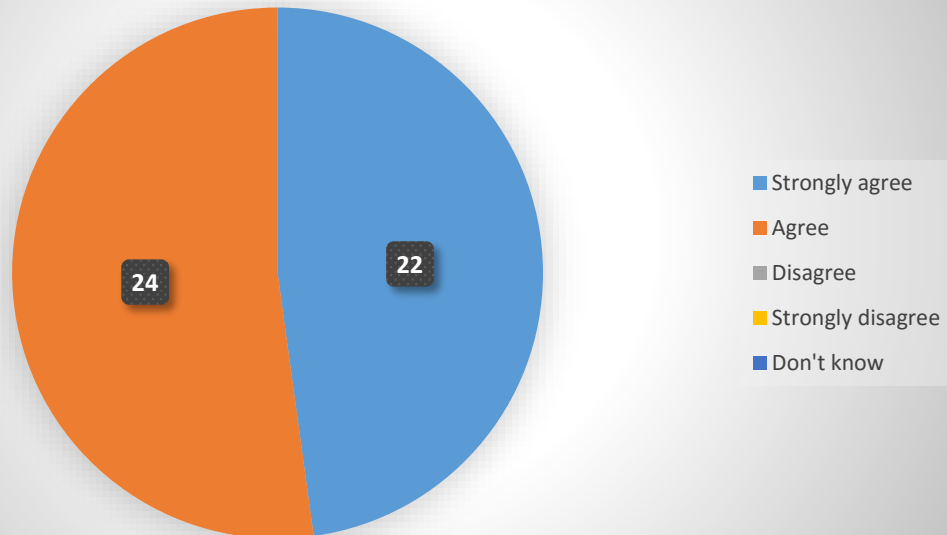
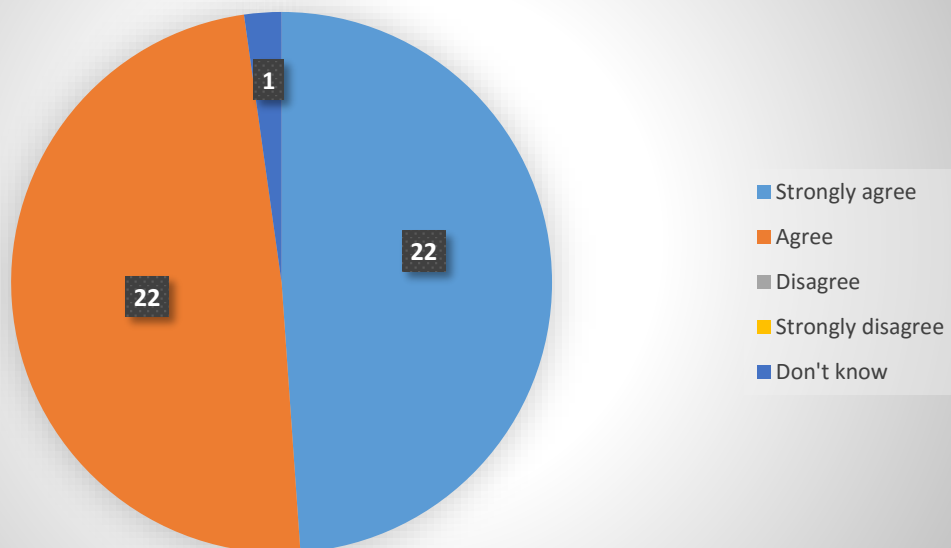


Parent View Questionnaire Results July 2019

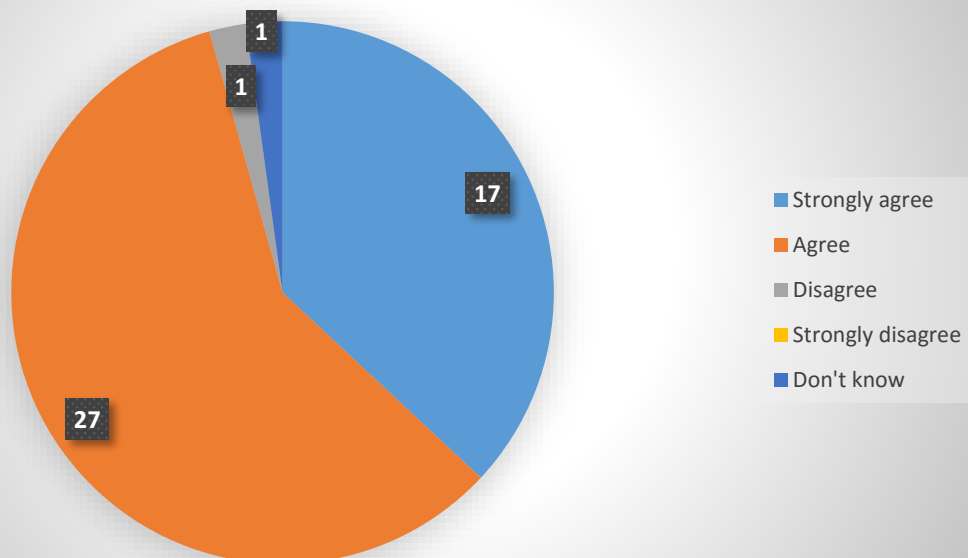
My child is happy at this school



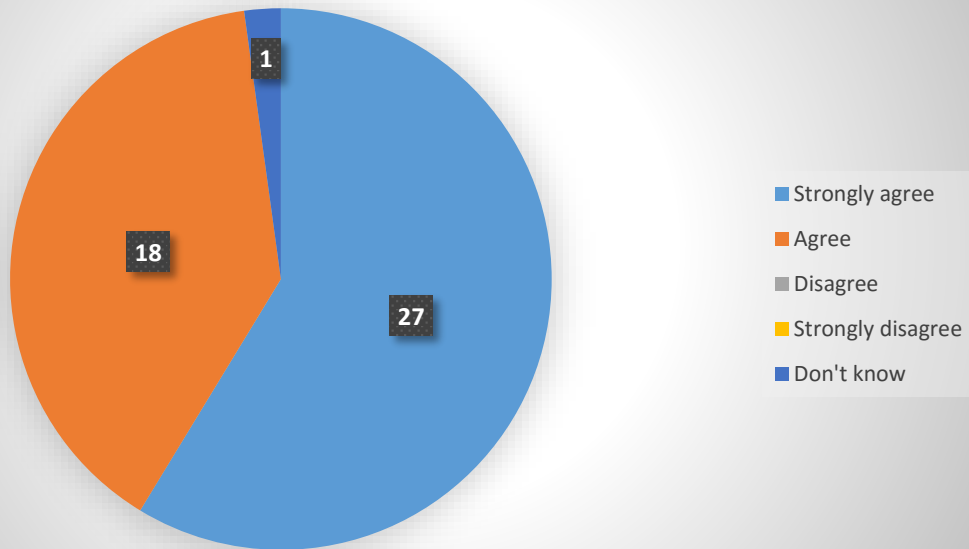
My child feels safe at this school



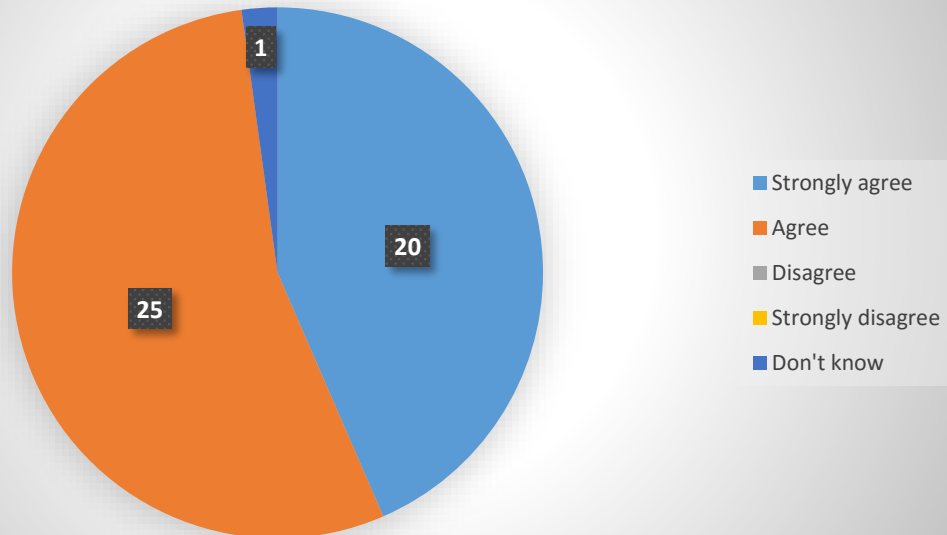
My child makes good progress at this school



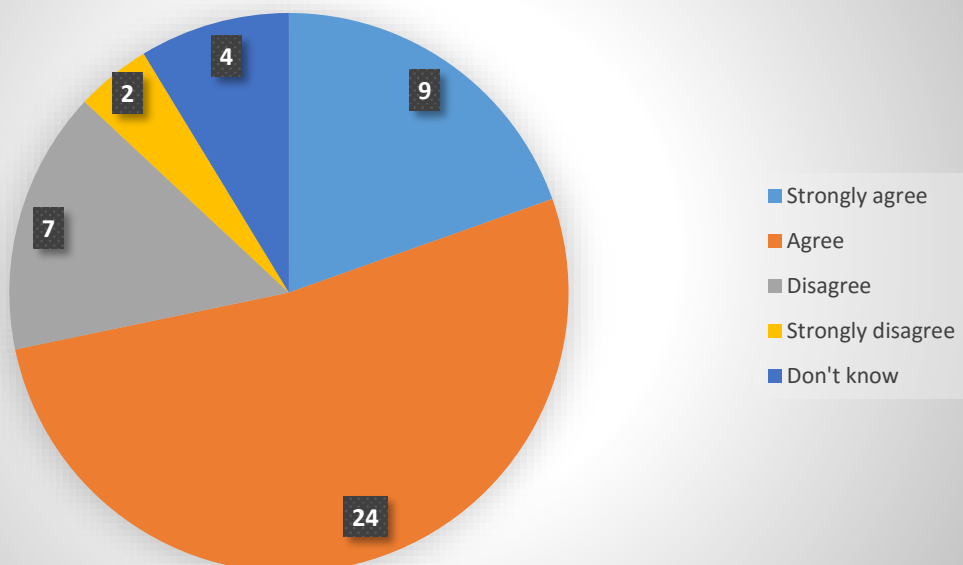
My child is well looked after at this school



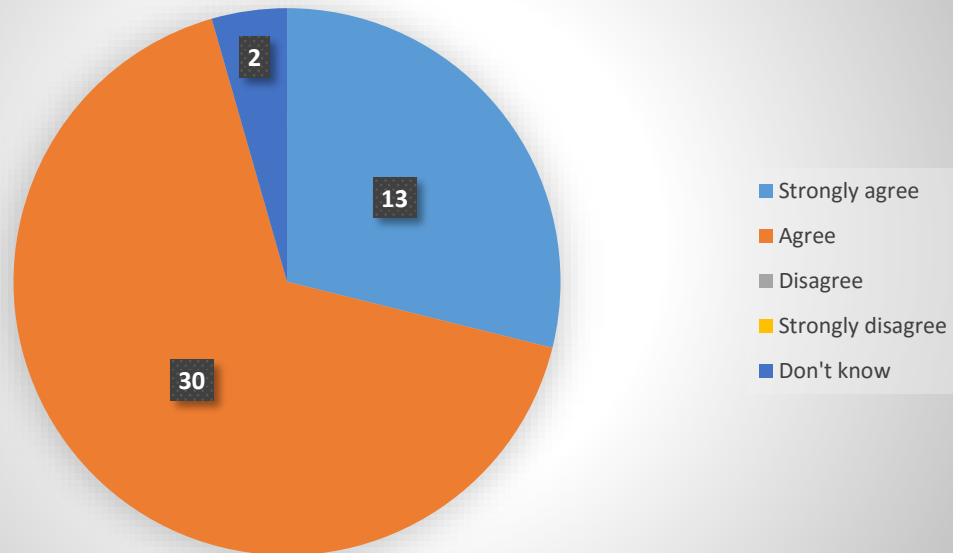
My child is taught well at this school



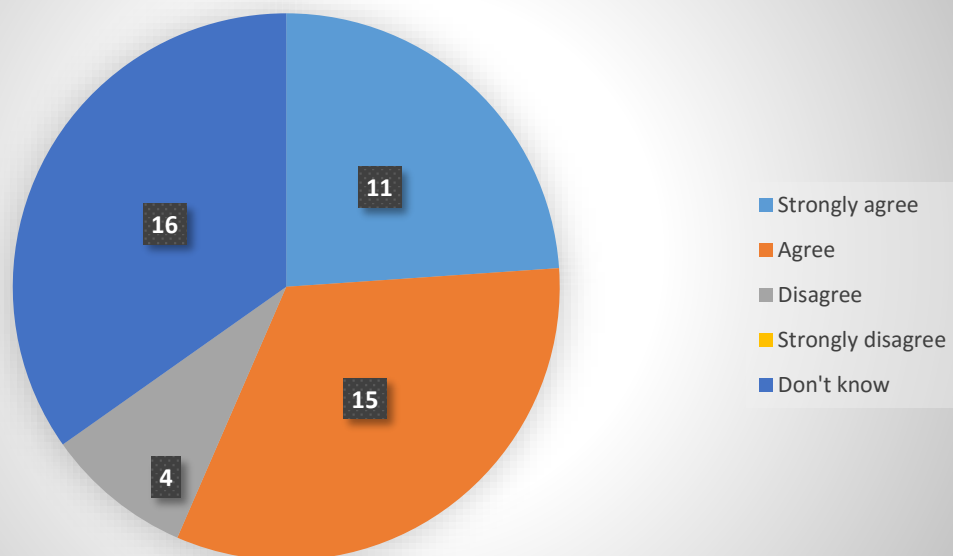
My child receives appropriate homework for their age



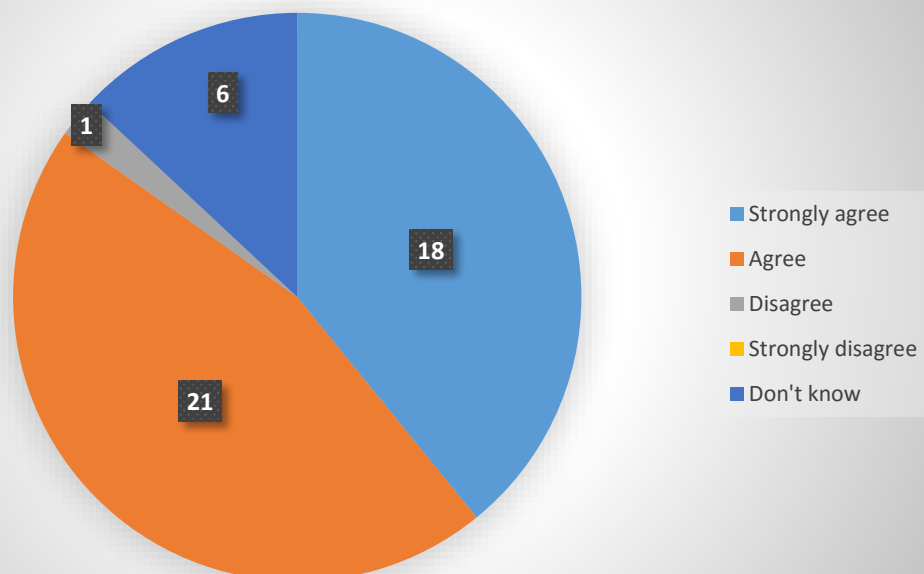
This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved



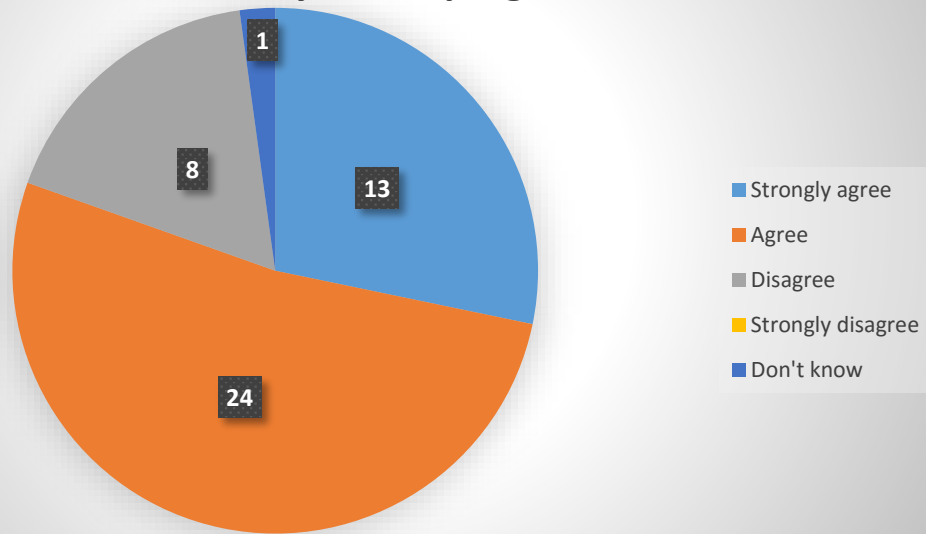
This school deals effectively with bullying



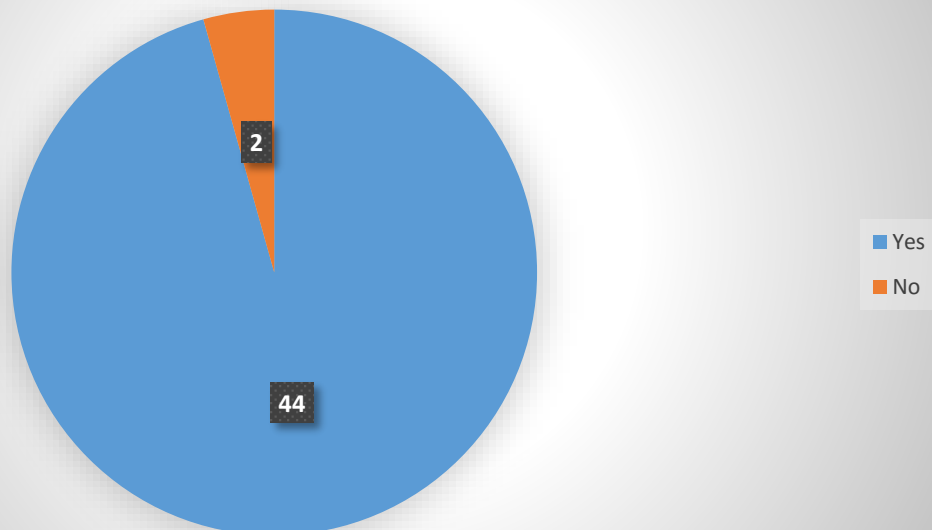
This school responds well to any concerns I raise



**I receive valuable information from the school
about my child's progress**



Would you recommend this school to another parent?



Please tell us the strengths of Alfriston School. What do you like about the school? What does the school do well?

- Friendly. Well organised. Responsive
- My grandson is happy to come to school and that to me, indicates you are getting things right. I've never had an issue with the school or any of the teachers. It will be a sad day for both of us when we are no longer a part of the school.
- Encourages children to get involved and child led - clear message about expected behaviours and values. Small, friendly and individualised.
- I really love the way my kids know the names of everyone in the school, different year groups play together. It has a lovely family feel.
- The stand out for me are the staff, which is always going to be the most important thing in any school. Our children love their teachers and they seem to be able to engage them in their studies. The non-teaching staff are also brilliant (Tanya in particular). Of course none of this would happen if Mrs Hudson was not an amazing headteacher. I think there is a good balance between the academic studies and instilling good life skills, politeness etc.
- It feels very nurturing.
- Community / school spirit, makes the most of the facilities it has to offer, friendly staff, clean and well kept, safe, good general school info communication
- They do listen and communicate well, although sometimes it can be compartmentalised, without meaning to be. The children are happy and confident and accepted which is wonderful. The staff knowledge of all the children is outstanding and the way the staff are able to adapt is excellent.
- I love how all the staff know my child's name and know his personality. I love the teachers they are so incredible and dedicated and have made the year so enjoyable and rich with learning. I'm immediately informed of any issues and any concerns are dealt with sensitively and with compassion. He has made amazing progress in so many areas, we are delighted. I love how happy the children appear and how supportive they are of each other. There is so much support for the school from the staff, governors, friends/PTA and the parents.
- Integrate all years together
- Making sure kids are well behaved
- Very easy to speak with any member of staff re any problems.
- The school is very quick to respond to any issues that may arise and deals with any situations fairly and promptly. I feel that my child is very well looked after at school and feels comfortable to report anything to teachers if he needs to.
- Pastoral care is very good
- I feel the school is extremely well led by Mrs Hudson with the right balance of fun and discipline.
- Community atmosphere. Children seem happy and settled.
- Staff listen and act on any concerns raised.
- Great school. Staff are lovely and always have time for the children.
- Great community feel and ethos. Good open door policy with regards to being able to raise concerns.
- Teaching staff including TA's are the school's strengths.
- Alfriston School has a strong bond between children and staff. It is a safe environment for all the pupils. Pupils who are struggling, for whatever reason, are treated with kindness, understanding and empathy. It is a wonderful school where they look after the whole person, not just the curriculum. The head is a strong leader which is imperative.
- Caring community within the school and the relationships built with the parents and outside community.
- Being a small school I like the friendly family feel and also that my child is always happy to go to school.
- Key stage 1 environment.
- Transition from nursery, transition into year 1, communication via newsletter and class teacher. The supportive nature of students to one another which was reflected in the recent sports day.
- I think the PTA is amazing and a real asset to the school.
- Two big strengths are Tanya and Mrs Bliss. Both are kind and friendly and the children feel comfortable around both with any problem they might have. They are a value to the school.
- As a small school no child falls through the cracks. Also, despite it being a small school there is surprising depth and breadth activities during school time and after school.
- It is a caring school and looks after the children's welfare. It is a friendly school.
- Lovely atmosphere... small, friendly.
- Very good staff, nice community feel.
- A well taught curriculum by teachers who obviously care and respect the children under their tutelage. All staff are knowledgeable and friendly.

Is there anything you would like to see improved at Alfriston School. Can you give any suggestions?

- All good so far.
- For me personally, I can't fault anything. The school is a happy safe place, with lots of things to do and great care is shown to pupils and parents alike.
- Sometimes it's hard to speak with teachers in the mornings of after school as they are busy with parents of other children if you just want a quick catch up rather than a formal meeting.

Class teachers are very busy before school preparing for the day ahead so are unavailable to speak to parents. When they come out on the playground to collect the children it is important the children are their focus. If you have an urgent matter that needs to be passed on to the class teacher please speak to Mrs Fitzgerald who is outside by the front door each morning. We are sorry if parents find it difficult to speak to the teachers after school as they are busy with other parents. You are more than welcome to speak to the school office and ask for a phone call from the class teacher rather than arrange a formal meeting if you only want a quick conversation.

- Not always on top of friendship up and downs soon enough.
We always take time to support the children with sorting out friendship ups and downs when we are aware there is an issue. We always encourage the children to speak to an adult in school if there is a problem, some children don't always do this and we only become aware of a problem when we are informed by a parent. Please encourage your children to come to a member of staff if they have a worry, we will always take time to help them.
- My concerns are mostly to do with government rote learning requirements, which the school unfortunately cannot change. I also strongly object to SATS testing. However I am satisfied that the school does what it can to minimise the harm caused by these national policies, within the constraints imposed on them.
- Communication with parents can always be built on and the successes of the school shared - maybe a Twitter site or App.

We are always open to suggestions and will look in to this.

- Be good if all classes finished their school day on time.
We have been aiming to get classes out by 3.15pm and will do our very best to ensure this happens as often as possible.

- Clubs

We always try and offer a mix of different after school clubs for different age groups and will continue to review this regularly.

There are very strict requirements relating to insurance and qualifications for anyone running an after school club, this means, in general, only professional companies/individuals can meet these requirements.

Space is a consideration when arranging after school clubs. It is not usually possible for clubs to be run from classrooms after school as teachers are still working, we therefore only have either the hall or playground available and can therefore only run a limited number of clubs.

Clubs require a minimum number of children to attend to make them viable. As a small school if too many clubs are offered we have found that we don't always get the numbers for them to run.

As employers, we have to consider the wellbeing of our staff and whilst some staff kindly run after school clubs, this is not something we can insist on.

- As with any school I suppose that we have concerns about some spitefulness which upsets us when we hear about it, but it is very tricky to know what can be done about it in practice.

Firstly, always come to speak to us if you know of anything like this happening. We will always take action, if we aren't already, and listen to what others know or are experiencing. Our 'behaviour mantra' is "Kind hands, Kind feet, Kind words, Kind everything" and this is emphasised around the school no matter what. If we see a child being unkind to another we will always intervene. We want children to feel happy and safe. We always encourage children to talk to an adult if they feel someone is being unkind. If a child reports something to an adult, the adult will listen to the child and will reassure them. Depending on the circumstances the issue will be looked into and dealt with by the member of staff the child spoke to and then the class teacher updated or it will be reported to the class teacher to look in to and act on as appropriate. We know that some children just don't have the skills yet, for whatever reason, to be able to conduct themselves or interact with others in the most appropriate way and so these skills have to be taught and practised. We also know that some children

are neuro-diverse and so will find social interaction very difficult so although we don't lower our expectations, we do provide reasonable adjustments and extra support in order for all children to gain these important life skills. We can do this in various ways, for example via roleplay, role-modelling, using the Thrive Approach and mental health work, and this could be in groups or with individuals. Working on these interpersonal skills does take time and always improves faster when the school and parents work in partnership.

- I would like to see more use made of the wonderful countryside that the school sits in. Also, a lot more exercise or opportunities to do so, please.

We are very lucky to be situated in such a lovely location and do regularly visit places such as Friston Forest and Cuckmere Haven, we go down in to the village and use the recreation ground, both for sport and for other curriculum activities. If there are any specific suggestions you may have please let us know.

As you may have seen we have been awarded our School Games Gold Mark. The criteria we have to meet, for our size of school, to receive this award includes proving we have lots of children engaged in sporting activity, we play many different sports and we provide and enter sporting competitions.

We appreciate not all children like playing competitive sport so we provide opportunities throughout the day to encourage all the children to be active. All children have two break times a day, the younger children have three. During morning break the children have lots of space to run around, they can also play on the activity trail and use the stage to put on performances. In lunch break there is equipment available for the children to use, this may be space hoppers, hoops, balls (and we are in the process of ordering more of this according to what the children enjoy using the most). We are in the process of creating specific activity areas in the playground according to what the children enjoy doing, such as a place where they can dig and build camps. The children have two PE sessions a week. On top of this children often do 'active learning'. This may, for example, be going out on to the playground to 'hunt for dinosaur bones' then the children would write about this experience in English.

- I do think that pupils could be challenged more and stretched in their abilities. More after school clubs and offer a breakfast club.

We have high expectations for all the children. It is important to get the right balance between giving them the confidence and challenging them to stretch themselves. Our curriculum has been redesigned to ensure high expectations across the school and to take account of different learning styles enabling all children to be challenged.

We previously looked in to the viability of running a breakfast club and at that stage there was insufficient interest. If this is something parents would like, please let the school office know and if there is enough interest we will look in to it further.

We always try and offer a mix of different after school clubs for different age groups and will continue to review this regularly.

There are very strict requirements relating to insurance and qualifications for anyone running an after school club, this means, in general, only professional companies/individuals can meet these requirements.

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As employers, we have to consider the wellbeing of our staff and whilst some staff kindly run after school clubs, this is not something we can insist on.

- When it rains it would be preferable to see a quiet area away from the hall and the entry way that the nervous and separation sensitive children could go. It would also be nice if the dogs weren't tied right next to the gate, because the children want to stroke them all and if one bites one day it's a challenge to stop them so close to the entrance and exit, also the dogs toilet through the bars where the children play.

When it is raining and the children need to gather in the hall before school we always ensure we have 2 members of staff in the entrance to enable us to support any children that are finding it difficult to separate from their parents. When children enter the hall they sit in their class lines which is something they are familiar with doing in school. With the children sitting down it ensures that the hall is calm and not too noisy.

- I think the road between the school and the rec is dangerous at pick up and. Drop off time. The limit of 20mph is too fast for driving so close to cars where we are loading and unloading children - often in a rush. I don't think the school bus should have its engine running when it's sat right next to where students are walking by and outside the pearl classroom area.

Although we regularly remind parents in the newsletter about driving and parking safely near the school this is not something we are able to enforce.

We will monitor the school bus situation and ask the driver to turn off the engine while the bus is stationary.

- More sports.

As you may have seen we have been awarded our School Games Gold Mark. The criteria we have to meet, as a small school, for receiving this award includes proving we have lots of children engaged in sporting activity, we play many different sports and provide and enter sporting competitions. Throughout the year, in our PE lessons, we do lots of different types of sport.

- I think you can be better at giving every child a chance to shine, instead of always giving 'speaking parts' to the same children.

We always give all children the opportunity to 'audition' for any part they are interested in. We encourage all children to have a go but won't force any child to do something they don't want to do. Children shine in different ways and we try to make opportunities for all children to be given the chance. We have an annual talent show which any child can put themselves forward for (there is no audition for this) and can do whatever they want to perform in front of the whole school and parents/carers. For Friday assemblies, we encourage any child to come up and share their achievements outside of school and tell us about their birthday. When a class is presenting in assembly every child is given the opportunity and encouraged to perform or have a speaking part.

- It would be nice if you could spend more time on education on environmental issues. Compared to schools in Seaford where pupils are learning about plastic free lifestyle and are involved in beach cleaning, our school seems to be slightly behind on this subject. - Health and safety policies seem unnecessarily strict. It was a real shame children were not even allowed to touch snow, for example, as it could have been an amazing opportunity of science for them.

We already have plans afoot for raising the profile of environmental issues in school. We will communicate this further very soon.

Our number one priority is always the children's safety. The children were allowed to play with the snow at break times and had great fun doing so. When we had the slight snowfall this year we didn't allow the children to throw it as it was more dirty ice.

- More consistent homework, policy is clear but homework is sporadic.

If you feel this has not improved please speak to your child's class teacher.

- I think the information regarding holidays and dates for the diary could be better advertised and let parents know the plans for the year.

We ensure dates are advertised in the weekly newsletter and updated as and when new dates are set.

- Nothing to mention at present.

- One parent takes the teacher's time at the end of every day preventing other parents from being able to speak to them

We are sorry if parents find it difficult to speak to the teachers after school. We understand that some parents may need to speak to the teacher more often than others but would hope they appreciate other parents may also want to talk to the teacher. Most days Mrs Hudson is on the playground at the end of the day, please feel free to speak to her. You are more than welcome to speak to the school office and ask for a phone call from the class teacher rather than arrange a formal meeting if you only want a quick conversation.

- Often seems like bad behaviour is rewarded which doesn't set a good example to pupils who do consistently behave well.

We have children who come to our school with many different needs and so always have to take these into consideration. Behaviour is usually an outcome of an underlying issue and, as such, in order to prevent it from happening again, children need to learn how to deal with their own emotions and actions. As a school we always deal with any behaviour issues that arise, this may not always be seen by other children as we always deal with children sensitively. Staff constantly praise the children when they are seen doing something good both in the classroom and around the school.

- I would love to see a 'mile a day' or daily walk run on the field for every child during the summer term or when it's not wet. When it is wet maybe a little circuit activity in the school playground to get some fresh air and physical energy burned. Would love to see the continuation of extra mindfulness activities within the school too. Some great work being done at the school and we are very happy.
Taking the whole school over to the recreation ground for a 1 mile run would be very difficult – logistics of supervision, all children would need to change their shoes and this, along with the process of getting to and from the rec would take away other learning time. We do appreciate that it is good for the children to have some physical activity to help with their concentration and where required, this is done in class or on the playground/in the hall throughout the day. We would be more than happy to do a 'Wake up, Shake up' style activity first thing in the morning after the bell has gone and before the children are led in to school if any parents were willing to help us with this. Please speak to us if you can help.
We have continued the mindfulness style activities in school and we also now have an after school yoga club and yoga is being taught as part of our PE curriculum.
- I am disappointed again that class sizes are increasing despite writing in previously, although appreciate the school may not have the final decision. If there was more space and plenty of funding of course this would not be an issue but that is not the case.
As an inclusive and popular school we have a lot of parents wanting to send their children to Alfriston, even from a long way away. When a family moves in to the village or local area there are occasions when the local authority can force us to admit a child. We are confident that even with higher pupil numbers, with our great teachers and teaching assistants we can continue to ensure all children fulfil their potential.
- Nothing I can think of.
- Activities like yoga, mindfulness, and developmental awareness to be incorporated into daily life please.
This is already happening. The class teachers use mindfulness techniques and activities throughout the day which not only helps to provide a good environment for learning but also teaches the children to use strategies which place themselves into the right mode to learn. We have an after school yoga club and yoga is being taught as part of our PE curriculum.
- More use to be made of the swimming pool - even if it's just swimming twice a week in the summer. More playground toys for the older children (bouncy hoppers)
As well as teaching swimming as part of the curriculum we are required to teach other sports. To ensure we are able to do this one PE session a week in the summer term is swimming and for the other session we do another sport.
We are looking in to replenishing our playground toys for the new school year and will ensure there is equipment suitable for the older children.
- Give more homework. Little and often, especially to help prepare the children for year 7. Also, check if the residential trip is suitable for year 5s, or do they need to go for so many nights.
Home learning is a contentious issue and there are lots of differing views on the subject. The home learning policy was reviewed in conjunction with parents in May 2018. We consulted parents, children and staff and the policy was written to suit the majority view.
We decided on the venue for the residential due to the excellent activities and provision of the site. When organising any future residential we will consider the length of the stay and possibly reduce it slightly if we decide it would be better for the children. We will also be clearer to parents and children what the expectations are if they choose to attend.
- More after school opportunities for the younger students.
Throughout the year we do try and ensure there are opportunities for the younger children to attend after school clubs. We are always reviewing our after school clubs and will bear in mind your comment in the future.
- It would be good if common sense could prevail rather than assuming that parents are the enemy. Work with us rather than treating us as children.
We are sorry you feel like this and we hope that you don't consider us to be the enemy. We understand the importance of working with parents in the best interests of the children and always aim to do this. Please do come and speak to us if you feel this is not the case.
- They don't get a lot of homework. And feel come secondary school it got be bit of a shock.
Home learning is a contentious issue and there are lots of differing views on the subject. The home learning policy was reviewed in conjunction with parents in May 2018. We consulted parents, children and staff and the policy was written to suit the majority view.

- Nothing I haven't raised already.
- A breakfast/ after school club for children with working parents would be cherry on top of cake - but I understand it's not possible due to small size of school.

We previously looked in to the viability of running a breakfast/afterschool club and at that stage there was insufficient interest. If this is something parents would like, please let the school office know and if there is enough interest we will look in to it further.