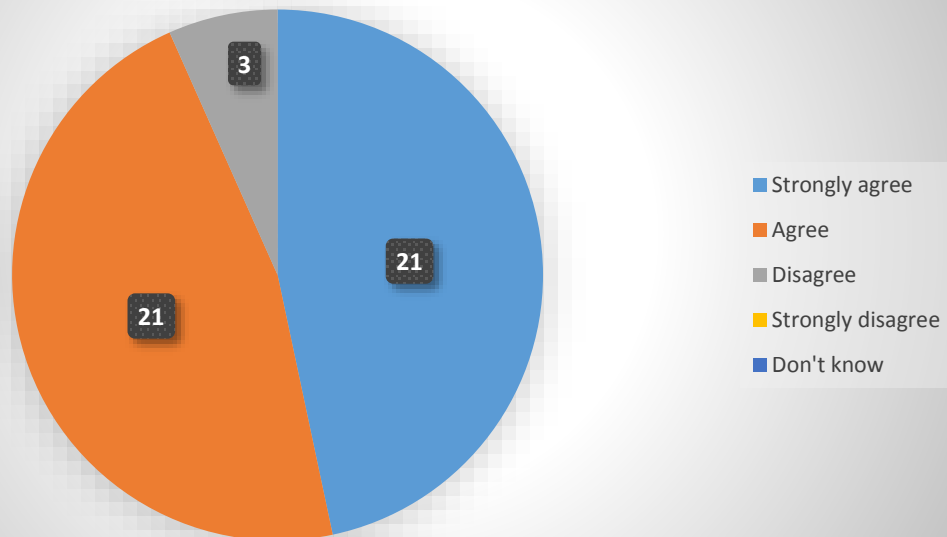
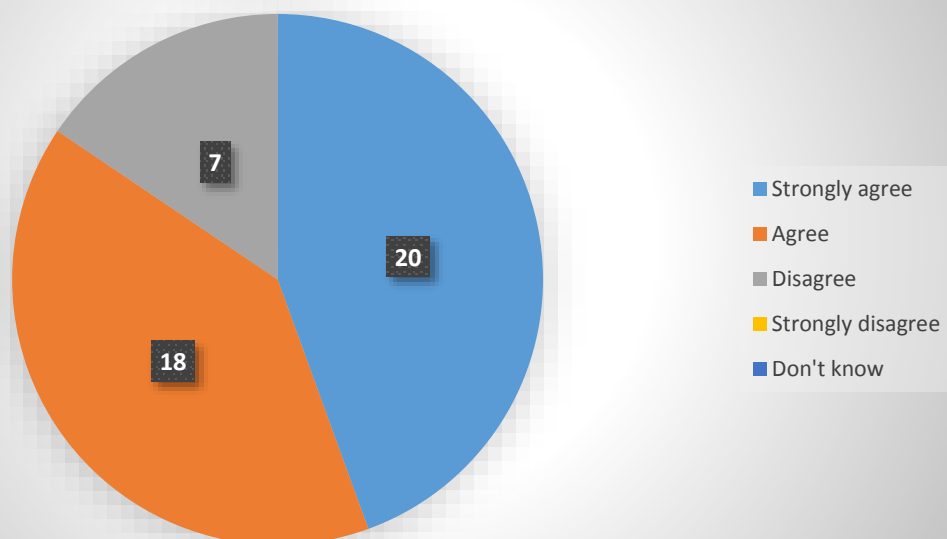


Parent View Questionnaire Results 2019

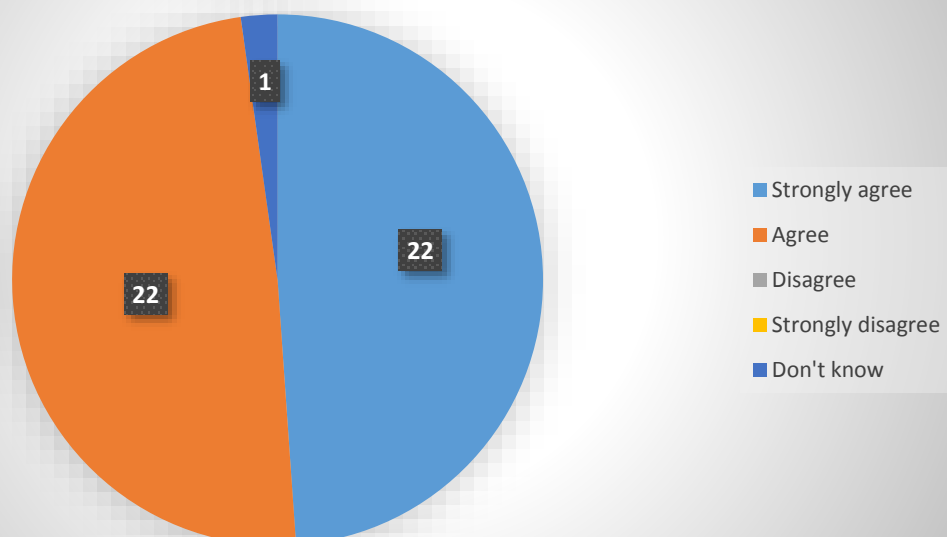
My child is happy at this school



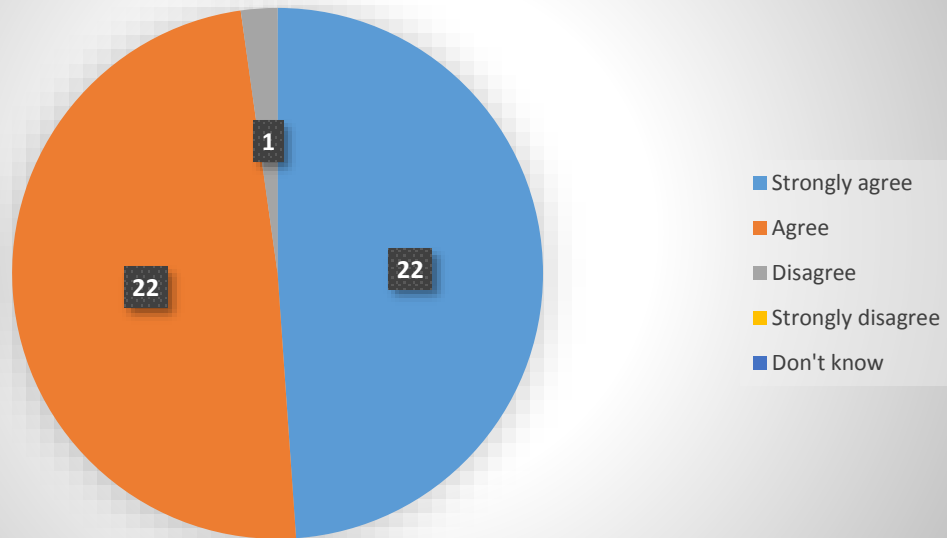
My child makes good progress at this school



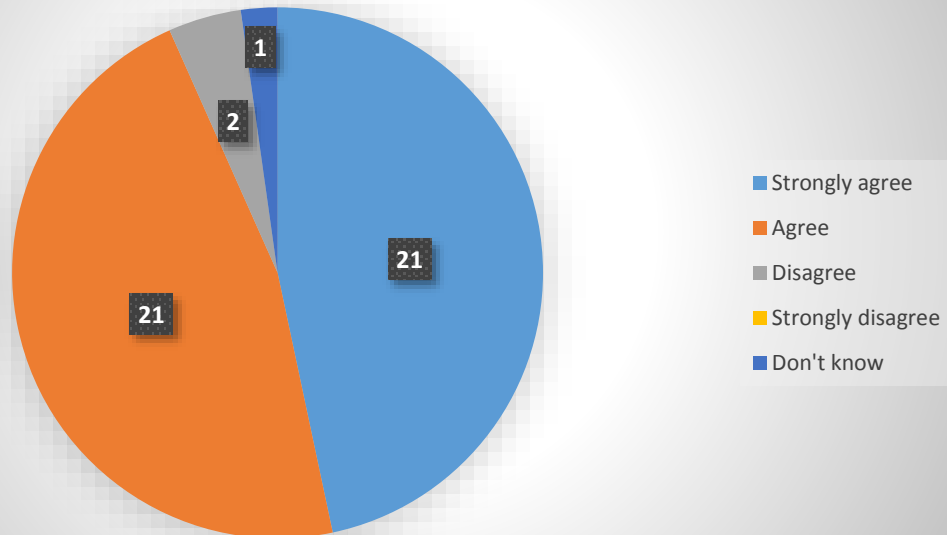
My child feels safe at this school



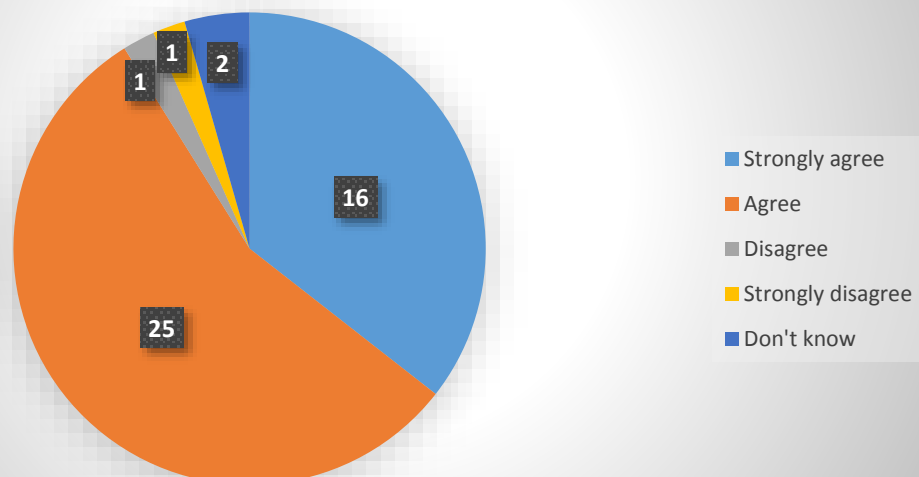
My child is well looked after at this school



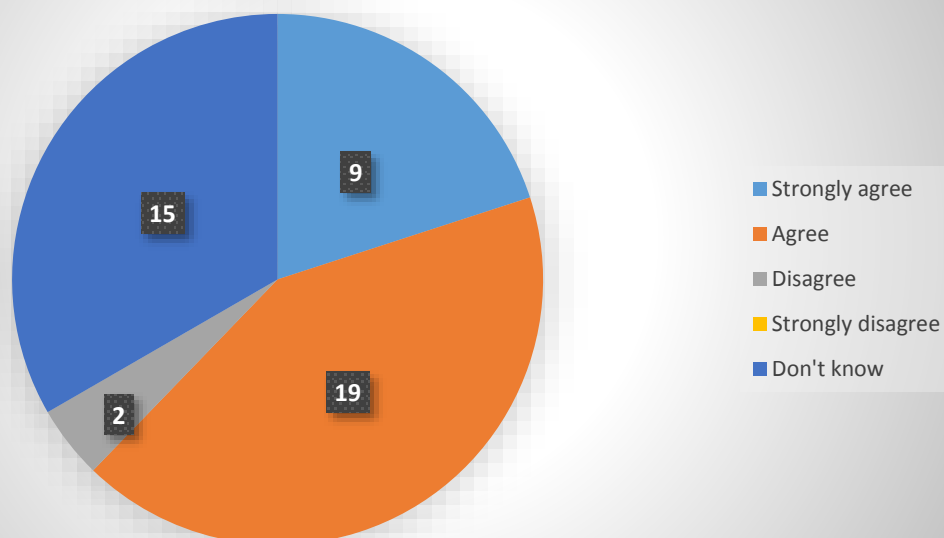
My child is taught well at this school



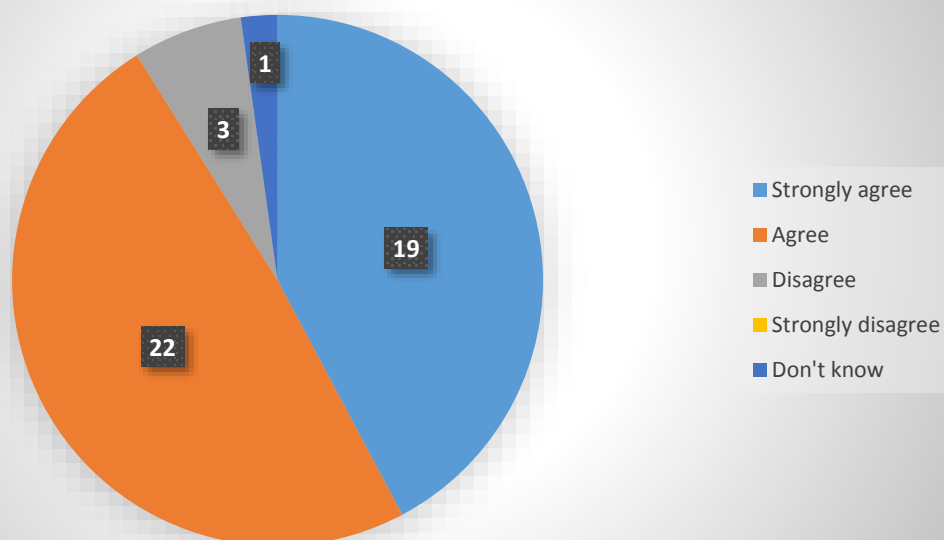
This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved



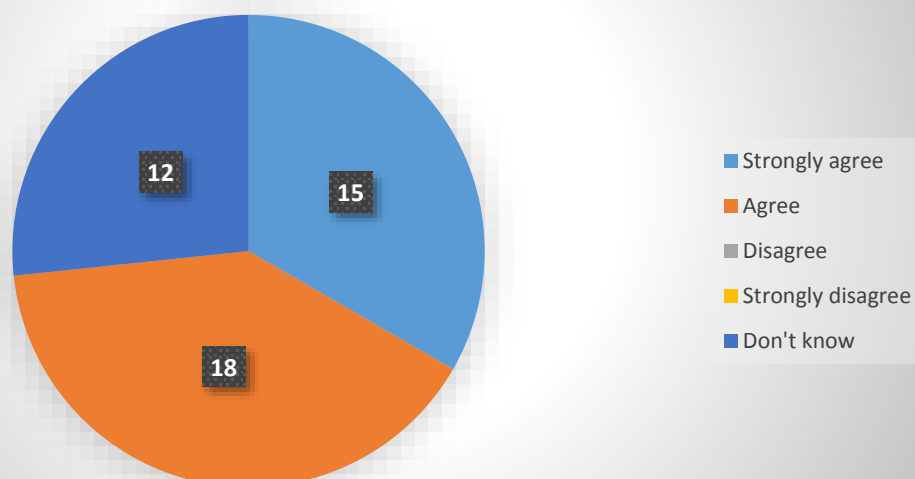
This school deals effectively with bullying



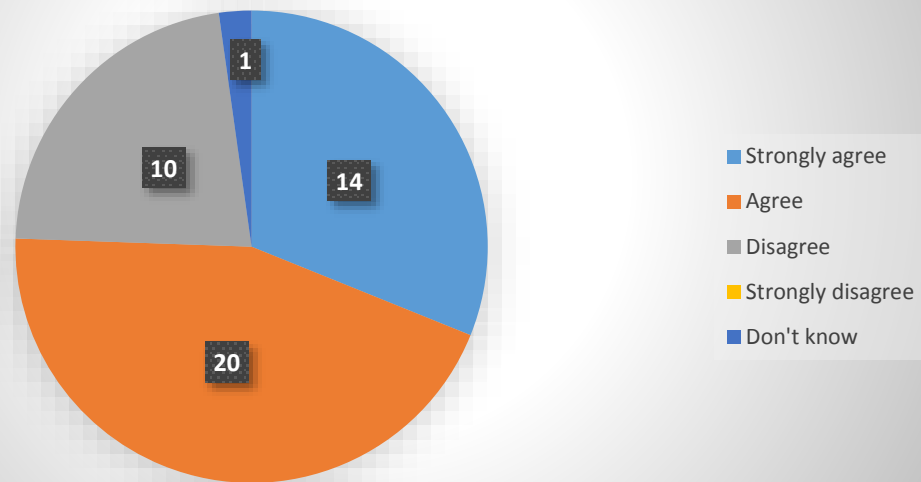
This school is well led and managed



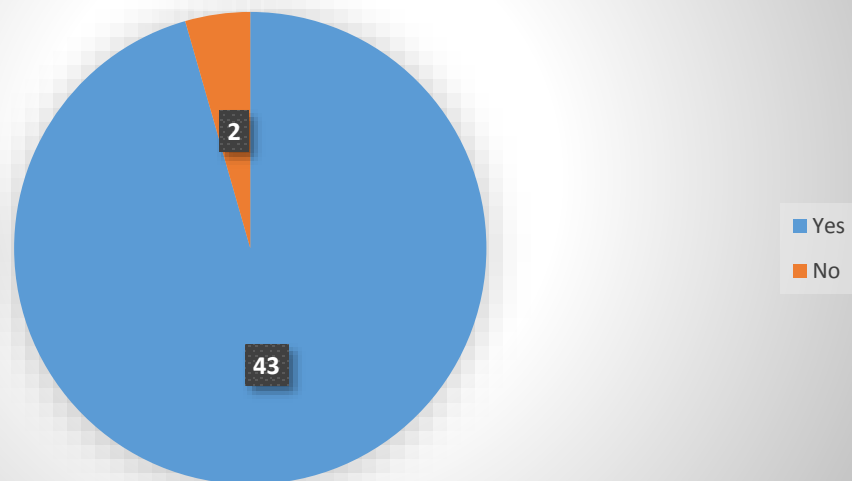
This school responds well to any concerns I raise



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?

- My daughter is always happy to go to school which says a lot about the school
- We like the attitude of the staff and the overall school principles
- For children who are going to school for the first time the staff in Pearl Class get to know the children personally and that then helps the children settle in so well. Alfriston has a great community feel and I enjoy the close link to the church and activities such as sports day which are always so successful. Office staff are also great at welcoming everybody at drop offs and pickups and good at organising parents and children when needed.
- The school is nurturing and has a massive community spirit. The head is amazing, firm, fair and fun for the kids. Always there to listen to the parents and deals with any problems in a professional caring manner. Really great school!
- Small and friendly. Everyone knows everyone giving it a very cohesive feeling. I like that the headmistress knows all the children and their parents. Impressive!
- No one gets left behind - which is an awesome USP (unique selling point) for a small school. Excellent opportunities for such a small school.
- I think that the school takes improving itself to heart.
- Small class sizes make giving extra help when required a real possibility
- Is a nice small school where everyone knows everyone
- Like the smallness of the school, every child is known well.
- Nice and local. Very safe now all changed. Teachers do good job.
- My child feels comfortable speaking to other students and adults. The fact the school is so small means that she is known by many and this helps to make her feel confident and happy at school.
- Community feel and ethos. I like the fact that all the staff are visible to parents and appear accessible if I needed to speak to them. The school celebrates the successes of the children well. Regular communication with parents by way of the weekly newsletter
- Staff know the children well. They have shown sensitivity and understanding of character in the way they encourage children to grow in confidence and to learn.
- Friendly and fair. Nice atmosphere
- Lovely atmosphere, very caring, well organised, pupils seem confident and teachers promote a positive attitude towards learning. So far so good!
- The children get along with all year groups. Community spirit.
- I love the friendliness of all the staff, the way they always do their best to help me and my child. They listen and understand my concerns. I couldn't ask for a better school.
- Fantastic staff, nothing's too much trouble, they help children to flourish in a nurturing, safe environment with good local connections to the community. Great welcoming feel to the whole school and positive attitude.
- Community family feel. Inclusive.
- I love how much my daughter enjoys school, she is happy.
- A well led school with happy children keen to learn and encouraged to do the best they can.
- All the staff are very caring with the children's best interests in mind. Any issues raised are dealt with promptly, appropriately and with compassion as necessary. The teaching is varied utilising all available resources including outdoor learning where possible.
- Because of the size of the school all the children know each other and look after and help to each other. Parents are very involved in school and are welcome to talk to teachers any time.
- Understanding of each child's strengths and weaknesses. Strong & inclusive parents/friends group.
- Very caring. Good communication all round. Dedicated staff.
- All staff are very proactive with regards to the health, happiness and education of every single child. A good balance of teaching, support, communication and fun!
- My child is happy to go to school every day and 99% of the time, when I ask how his day has been, I get a 'good'. That's praise indeed! You know my child well and allow him to develop in all areas at his pace.
- The strengths are undoubtedly the teachers and staff, from the top down. We could not be happier with the school and the values it instils in the children. By the time the children reach the later years they are, it appears to us, always so polite and real ambassadors for the school.

- The school has many strengths but our girls are really nurtured and encouraged to develop as children and learners. I feel their abilities are well catered for which is a challenge for a teacher with 2 year groups in one class. I also feel the class teacher knows the girls very well and responds to their needs.
- Communication.
- Small school.
- Friendly staff, caring environment.
- All staff contribute to the strength of the school. I like the small school environment and think this helps build confidence.
- When concerns are raised they are dealt with quickly and professionally
- I have been extremely impressed with the school so far and my son has made a good start to his school life. The school is very welcoming, friendly and the staff are outstanding. I have been particular impressed with the schools activeness in extra supporting learning such as Pets as Therapy, THRIVE, healthy living week etc. I am also so happy to see feedback being as of parents through the likes of this questionnaire and also the up and coming parent forum. Some really excellent things happening here and this should be highlighted in Open Days as I feel this was completely missed out when we looked around and it's such positive progress.
- Quality of teaching staff. Happy, encouraging environment. Plenty of extra-curricular hobbies/activities offered to all.
- The combined classes work really well for my child whilst still being a part of a small year group. All the children throughout the school play together which my child loves. The teaching appears to be of a high level.
- Good school ethos and leadership...great values and welcoming atmosphere.
- Friendly school
- Strengths are the schools values and ethos, these are communicated and led by example throughout all the staff, it's wonderful to see the relationships that all the staff hold with all the pupils whether it's their form/teacher or not

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

- Better after school clubs.

We always try and offer a mix of different after school clubs for different age groups.

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.

- Breakfast club and doing 1 mile run in the morning round the rec once a week which would be great for children to let off steam and help them concentrate for the day ahead.

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.

Taking the whole school over to the recreation ground for a 1 mile run at the start of the day 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.

- Consistent homework and spellings. In addition when the homework is given, it is given at the start of the term and not 3 weeks into term.

We will look in to this and ensure that all teachers are following the policy agreed with parents in May 2018.

- External learning. Using the fantastic environment on your doorstep. e.g allotments, woods, the river.

Thank you for highlighting this area, we will look in to arranging more of this.

- Feels a bit weak academically, maybe homework occasionally could help. Probably it is an ok level for the struggling pupils, but the brighter ones could become lazy or bored. Weekly homework could easily be organised in some sort of journal. With progress checklists for this would be easy to produce and print out and stick into pupils home learning records. Sorry if this sounds harsh, I appreciate there are young children with a broad ability range

We do have a home learning policy that was written in conjunction with parents in May 2018. We will look in to ensuring that all teachers are following the policy.

If you have concerns about your child's academic progress please speak to their class teacher.

- Friendship and resources can be limited due to its size. Improving transparency about goals and achievements would be appreciated. Consistent and appropriate (home) work setting, marking and feedback might help parents keep abreast of what is expected of their children and if they are achieving those goals. A few more challenges for children who enjoy a topic and want to go further would it would be useful. Thank you.

We do have a home learning policy that was written in conjunction with parents in May 2018. We will look in to ensuring that all teachers are following the policy.

In addition to written reports (the end-of-year report includes details of pupil's achievements) and formal opportunities for parents/carers to come in to speak to us about their children, we are keen to speak to parents whenever they have questions or concerns. They are welcome to catch us on the playground or to call the office for an appointment. We can explain any 'sticking points' for individual pupils in a more focussed way, which is probably more helpful than giving a general assessment. I hope that parents feel that they are welcome to do this.

- Homework for year 6 children to be more in line with preparing them for secondary school. Homework would appear to be minimal for this age group. More outdoor activities for Emerald Class - educational trips?

We will look in to this and ensure that all teachers are following the home learning policy agreed with parents in May 2018.

Thank you for your comment about having more outdoor activities and educational trips, we will look in to arranging more of these. There are some trips coming up over the next few months but we are always conscious of the costs involved in arranging more educational trips, particularly in Emerald Class due to the amount parents who are already paying for the Hindleap Warren residential.

- Homework is too inconsistent. I don't know what they are doing in maths, apart from timetables which they've been doing for 3 years now and they keep going back to basics. Would be nice to have one book where all homework was posted so you could look back over the weeks and see what they've done. Each week put spellings in there, a couple of example sums /problems so I know what my child is learning in maths. Maybe add some text on the topic with a few questions to research. Now we have several weeks with no homework, then suddenly spellings AND a project. It's too inconsistent. I don't understand what my child is supposed to learn from the projects. That plan they are given is never followed up upon and they don't seem to get much feedback on the finished project. Either decide to be consistent and predictable on homework or decide to be a homework free school. Anything is better than the current situation.

We do have a home learning policy that was written in conjunction with parents in May 2018. We will look in to ensuring that all teachers are following the policy.

- I think singing in assembly would be wonderful also some more teacher participation assemblies - it's a great idea for the children to present the assemblies in theory but I think everyone would benefit from some rousing speech and sermon from teachers on a regular basis. More access to music & instruments would be wonderful - I imagine its very expensive and funding is tight but I think it's so important my child only started in September so I don't know how the rest of the year will unfold but with the warmer weather I hope they will spend more time outside- nature walks and forest school type activities

We have assembly every day, one of which is devoted to singing. Apart from a Friday assembly they are all led by members of staff or sometimes we have visits from other organisations eg. NSPCC, Seaford Baptist Church. We tend not to sing during the Friday Celebration Assembly due to time constraints - the assembly can be quite long due to the activities that are already included, but we agree that the children do enjoy learning a variety of songs.

In the warmer weather we do spend more time outside but are looking in to arranging more outdoor activities throughout the year.

Music is taught as part of the school curriculum. Sue Whitehead and the East Sussex Music Service offer specific instrument tuition and Mrs Ellis also runs a lunch time choir club. Do talk to the school office if you are interested in your child having access to more music and instruments. There are also other events that happen across the year which include musical opportunities, such as Early Years and KS1 Christmas performances, The Big Sing for Yr 5/6, our whole school Carol Service at the church.

- I would like for the kids in year 5 and 6 to have more homework. I think that that would help theme to get used to doing it before the secondary school ... but I know not everyone has got the same feeling

We do have a home learning policy that was written in conjunction with parents in May 2018. We will look in to ensuring that all teachers are following the policy.

- I would like to see more staff. My children have learning difficulties and more one on one in a quiet environment would be helpful as both of the children say the noise in class can be very distracting. The children would like to have more outdoor learning. Not just trips, they would like to go for a walk and do more hands on learning. Even working outside on a nice day. More cooking, baking and creative learning.

We do appreciate that at times classrooms can be noisy, with 30 or more children in a class this is unavoidable. Teachers are conscious of where they seat the children, taking in to account any needs they may have. As a small school we do have a limited number of additional areas outside of the classroom but when appropriate children are taken out of the classroom either to work 1:1 or in small groups.

There are many areas of the curriculum that have to be covered throughout the school year and as a local authority school we must teach all of these. We make the teaching fun and creative where we can, this includes doing hands on learning when possible. Cooking is something we do in school but is only a small part of the curriculum. Following the responses to this questionnaire we will be arranging more outdoor learning.

- Improve outside storage area and bike rack.

We have managed to obtain a small bike rack to set up around the side of the school and will look in to the possibility of further storage in the future.

- Increase level of physical exercise

Currently the children have 2 sessions of PE a week, a 20 minute playtime in the morning and at lunchtime up to an hour. At lunchtime we have additional play equipment out, encouraging physical exercise. Throughout the year we ensure we offer after school clubs that promote physical activity and provide opportunities for children to take part in either intra-school or inter-school sports competitions. Please let us know if you have any further suggestions.

- More information on how my child is doing. We only get this at parent consultation whereas I would like to be updated more often. The introduction of an online learning journal would be helpful if they do something really well or if there are focus areas, not to be used daily or weekly, as this would take the teacher/TA away from the children but just on a basis when needed.

As from this week the newsletter will include an update on what each class has been doing during. Sapphire Class are planning on setting up Twitter account which will be closely supervised by Mr Sibson. We have set a new school Facebook page which will be regularly updated with news, events and important information.

- More intensity in subject with learning I think home work is too easy and needs improving and making all pupils do it. Less time doing silly projects focus on final year students and making them more ready for secondary school. Pushing the students more in final year please.

Home learning is a contentious issue and there are lots of differing views on the subject. The home learning policy was written in conjunction with parents in May 2018. We consulted parents, children and staff and the policy was written to suit the majority view. We will look in to ensuring that all teachers are following the policy.

Although we do work the children hard in their final year we are very conscious of their mental health and wellbeing and therefore balance this very carefully with other activities. If you have any specific concerns about your child's progress please speak to Mrs Crystal.

- More variety of activities for the pupils

Hopefully this comment has been already answered above, if not please let us know.

- P.E seems to be a little limited but understand space and season has an impact.

Children have 2 sessions of PE a week and all classes have allocated slots to ensure this happens.

- Parent communication, I know teachers say open door and we appreciate how stretched they are but I don't feel it is an open door and can be tricky to talk to teachers as the playground isn't the right time and generally teachers in the playground are surrounded by one or two mums anyway. After school clubs are limited but again we understand this is so hard to create and maintain and some are limited to ages - again appreciate this could be down to insurances, funding etc.

The purpose of our Open Door Policy is to encourage open communication, feedback and discussion. We value the input parents make to the school. Class teachers are busy before school preparing for the day ahead so are unavailable to meet with parents. If in the morning you have an urgent matter that needs to be passed on to the class teacher please speak to either the member of staff on morning playground duty, Mrs Fitzgerald at the front door or a member of office staff. Mrs Fitzgerald is available every morning at the beginning of the school day at the front entrance of the school and will happily make a note of your concerns and ideas then act accordingly to resolve them. When teachers come out to collect the children in the morning, it is important they are able to focus their attention on the children and aren't held up by parents asking to talk to them. Class teachers will usually be available for a meeting at the end of the school day, during handover. If you feel that the matter needs more than 10 minutes to discuss, then please phone the school office to make an appointment. As I'm sure you will agree, the children's learning must take priority, classroom staff are therefore unable to meet or speak with parents during the school day.

We always try and offer a mix of different afterschool clubs for different age groups. There are very strict requirements relating to insurance and qualifications for anyone running an afterschool club, this means, in general, only professional companies/individuals can meet these requirements. Space is a consideration when arranging afterschool clubs. It is not usually possible for clubs to be run from classrooms afterschool as teachers are still working, we therefore only have either the hall or playground available meaning we are

limited in the 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 afterschool clubs, this is not something we can insist on, some staff also have other responsibilities outside of school hours.

- Regular homework sheet each week.

We will look in to this and ensure that all teachers are following the policy agreed with parents in May 2018.

- Same rules for all children no exceptions eg. School uniform - some children appear to be allowed to wear trainers.

We have children in school with different needs and as such there are occasions where we have to make exceptions. We always aim to be fair and consistent and if a rule is being broken will follow this through, if necessary speaking to parents.

- Some primary schools do a 'mile a day' walk/run/jog with every class in the school to aid concentration/ good exercise and good for emotional well-being too. Perhaps every class could walk/run around the cricket pitch (or similar) once a day?

Taking the whole school over to the recreation ground on a regular basis for a 1 mile run at the start of the day would be difficult. We do appreciate that it is good for the children's emotional well-being and concentration to have some physical activity. Where required, the children do have a 'wiggle break' in class 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.

- There isn't a very good library. The outside loo and shower for swimming doesn't work. You don't do a lot of computer lessons (always being told we were meant to do computers but didn't have time or we did it as a whole class)

In our library there is a good selection of non-fiction books, many of which are fairly new and were kindly donated to the school: we have been fortunate enough to receive donation from Year 6 leavers as well as the local bookshop. Each class has a selection of age-appropriate fiction books in the classroom to allow easy access for the children when changing their reading books. We will continue to add to the books we have in school when we can.

We have some pupil Librarians but would be grateful if there are any parents or carers who could spare some time to help us maintain this resource, which is well-used by the children.

In Pearl class, computing is taught in a variety of ways through the week, and is consistently and regularly delivered. In Ruby, Sapphire and Emerald classes, there is a dedicated Computing lesson every week in keeping with our curriculum expectations and these lessons cover the wider computing curriculum. This does mean that computing lessons may not always involve using a computer – computing can cover aspects of PSHE, mental health and emotional well-being, critical thinking, problem solving, public speaking, art and design, online safety and more. Outside of our regular computing lessons, technology is brought in to learning across the curriculum and children are provided opportunities to use computers in subjects including maths, English, DT, history, geography and in after school clubs. Each class has computers that are used throughout the day, whether through whole class learning using interactive whiteboards or through group or individual learning opportunities.

- Unsure if children are allowed to drink water or visit the toilet during lesson time!

We encourage all children to bring a water bottle to school which they are encouraged to drink from throughout the day. Depending on what the children are doing in the classroom, sometimes these water bottles are kept in a central area for the children to access or they are with them. The staff also model the importance of drinking water too. Although we also have specific toilet times throughout the day, if a child needs to visit the toilet during lesson time they are allowed to do so.