

**ST. MARY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
SURVEY OF PARENTS 2022
RESULTS**

Introduction and Methodology

Survey questionnaires were sent to all 52 families in the first half of the summer term. Responses were returned from 30 families, a response rate of 58%, slightly lower than in 2021 (62%).

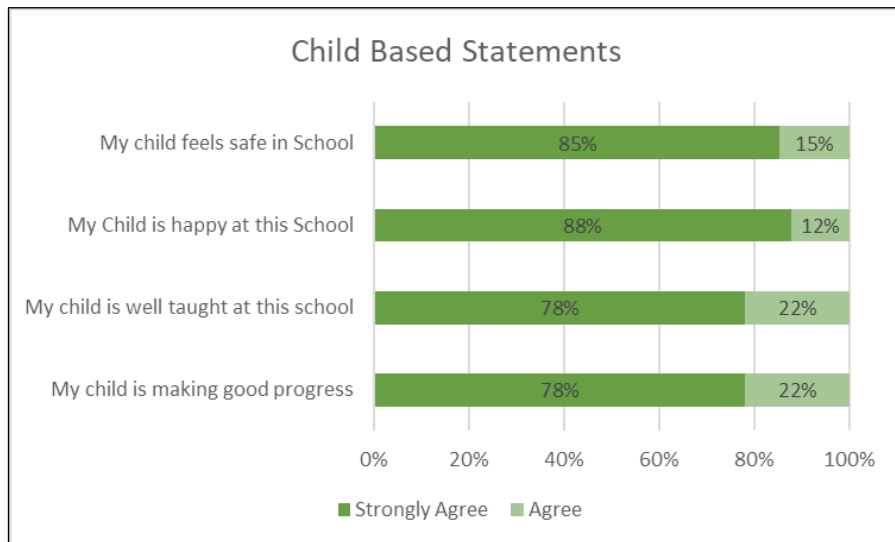
Respondents were invited to tick whether they “strongly agreed”, “agreed”, “disagreed”, “strongly disagreed” or “Don’t know” to each of the following statements:

My child / children feel safe in School	The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum
My Child / children are happy at this School	This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.
My child / children are well taught at this school	This school deals effectively with any bullying.
My child / children are making good progress	This school responds well to any concerns I raise.
	I receive helpful information about my child's progress.
	This school keeps me well informed about events and activities
	This school is well led and managed
	I would recommend this school to another parent
	I find email communications helpful
	We are happy with the current school uniform

In addition they were invited to tell us why they chose St. Mary’s and also to give any other comments.

Child Based Questions

The answers to this part of the survey were based on the parental agreement or disagreement with statements about the experiences of 41 children captured by the survey. Nineteen of the children were in the Infants section, 15 in the Lower Juniors and 7 in the Upper Juniors. The chart below indicates the strength of agreement with four statements. All children were considered to feel safe and happy in School and were thought to be well taught and making good progress.

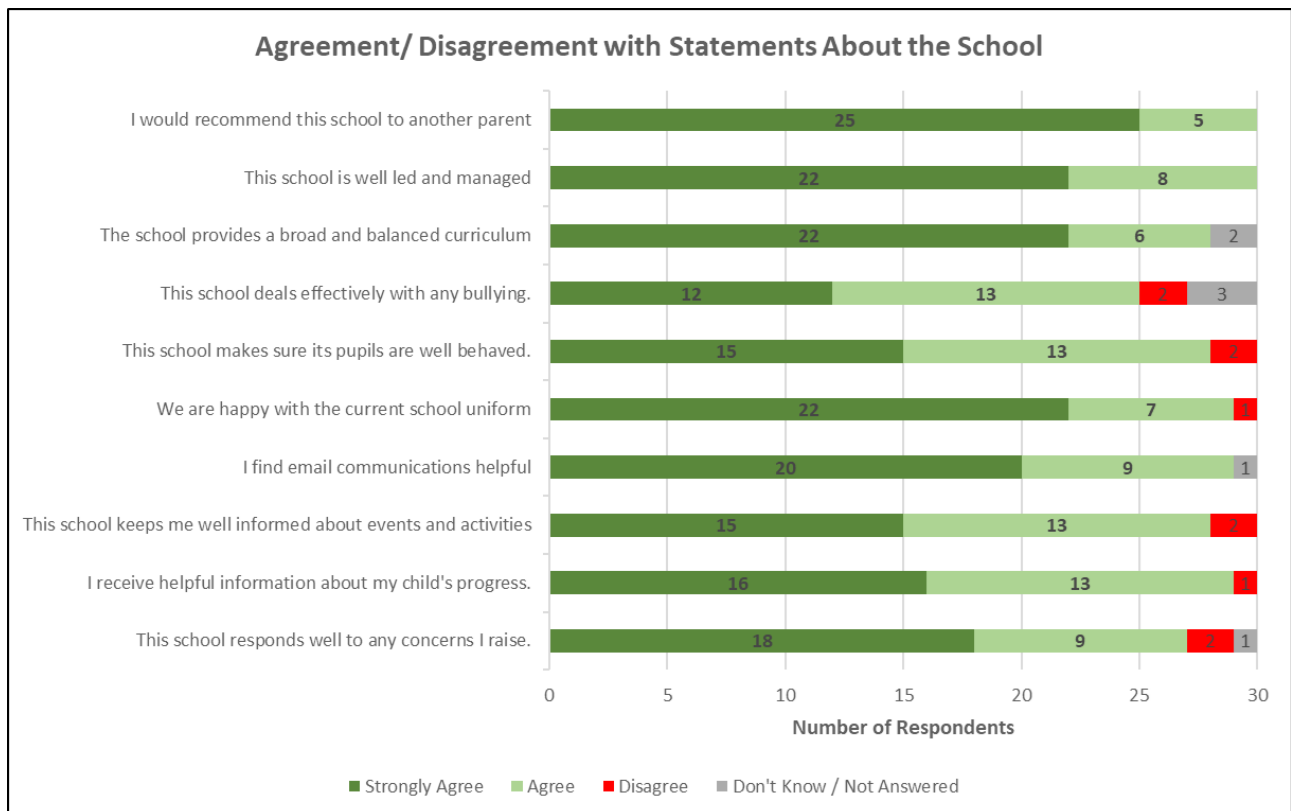


School Based Questions

The remainder of the survey was concerned with opinions about St. Mary's as a school, rather than the experiences of each child.

Results

The graph below shows the numbers of parents strongly agreeing, agreeing, disagreeing or unable to answer each statement. There was no strong disagreement expressed to any statement.



One response represents 3.3% of those who responded

Commentary On Results

Most respondents agreed or strongly agreed with each statement. The results speak for themselves.

Feelings about the School in General / Why St. Mary's Was Chosen

When asked their strength of agreement or otherwise with the statement "I would recommend this school to another parent", 83% of the 30 respondents strongly agreed and the remaining 17% agreed. There was no disagreement with the statement.

Respondents were asked why they chose St. Mary's School. The full list of answers is provided in the appendix of comments. The reasons that cropped up most frequently were based on the School's location and its good reputation. Then, once parents visited the School, they liked with the friendly, nurturing, family atmosphere and community feel. The size of the School and small classes impressed parents, as well as the breadth of the curriculum – particularly the inclusion of forest school, swimming and cookery.

Parents Opinion on the Curriculum

This report has already mentioned that the breadth of the curriculum was an important factor in choosing St. Mary's,

Parents were asked whether they agreed that the School provided a broad and balanced curriculum. Twenty two strongly agreed, 6 agreed and 2 did not know.

There was one adverse comment:

Curriculum feels repetitive. Especially for older year groups and having helped with home schooling this is more apparent.

This is more than compensated by the very positive comments about the curriculum given in the reasons why parents chose St. Mary's.

One parent made a detailed suggestion:

I would like to see more evidence of a structured approach to teaching children to live Christian values. At another school I know about they choose a new value each month, eg generosity or courage. They talk about it in assembly, reading a bible passage relating to it and asking the children what it means to them. They do work in the classroom further exploring that value and have a book in the corridor where children can write about when their friends have shown examples of the value at school, thereby nominating them for an award which is presented in assembly. Teachers can write in the nomination book too. (The School) also tells parents what the value is in the newsletter so parents can talk about it with their children at home.

Parents Thoughts on Behaviour and Bullying

In general parents agreed that the School dealt effectively with bullying and made sure the pupils were well behaved. However, the strength of agreement was not as strong as for statements about the School, in general, and management and leadership.

Two respondents disagreed with each of the statements. One parent of a child in the Infants section contributed the following comments:

Resolving situations involving bullying or disruptive behaviour.

Disruptive, negative behaviour seems to have got worse lately with more hitting and kicking happening.

Parents Opinion on the School Uniform

This statement was included for the first time following the new statutory duty to involve parents in the uniform policy.

Of the 30 respondents, 22 strongly agreed that they were happy with the current school uniform, 7 agreed and 1 disagreed.

Three comments about the uniform were made:

Wear PE clothes to School on PE days to keep things simple

Suggest all children wear the appropriate uniform. Didn't realise Ugg boots and white leggings were part of the uniform?

I think the current school uniform of collared shirts and ties is too formal and uncomfortable for primary school children. I would prefer it to be polo shirts. However I do appreciate that staff are flexible if a child prefers to wear a polo neck. I just don't think they should be expected to in the first place.

Communications

Apart from one who did not answer the question, all the remaining respondents agreed that email communications were helpful.

Although there was general agreement about the other two statements about communications, the strength of agreement was lower and there were a few who disagreed with the statements. This disagreement can be seen in some of the statements (below) respondents contributed on communication issues:

The only improvement I would love to see would be improved communication. If my child has had a scrape / knock or anything that has resulted in time out / ice pack / eye drops then I would like to know.

No response to emails sent to School. Still feel you need a receptionist / secretary full time.

I think parent-school communications has improved this past year and I feel better informed of upcoming events / dates.

I am more likely to read letters home with pupils than emails, however I am happy to keep with emails to cut down on paper waste

Better communication regarding incidents during school hours

It would be great to know the correct email (Head or enquiries etc) when needing to email and who to contact for day to day stuff...Mrs. Pudge?

Also as much notice as possible re key dates, end of term services, sports day etc for working Mums to plan.

Email communications have been excellent. Keep them going.

Answering machine still doesn't work - so in an emergency would it be good enough to leave a message

I think it would be nice each new term to have an update on what the topics will be for each term and so at home we can also research and get involved. Eg If it was castles we could go and visit some or spiders we could become more involved. I have no idea what they are doing at school. A timetable would be lovely?

I would like a weekly or fortnightly news sheet giving a brief detail of what my child is being taught so that I can also cover these topics. I think this support from home would be helpful. We just need to know what you are doing. I have asked before.

It would be extremely helpful and beneficial if the School introduced accident forms that the children take home with them if they are injured, to provide parents/ carers with information on how any injuries were obtained and what treatment was given.

Communication about upcoming events is sometimes last minute and lacking important information.

It would be lovely to be given more detail about the curriculum and to receive more regular progress updates.

A bit more advance warning / information on upcoming events would be helpful.

Only receive any info about progress at parents evening - bit more feedback would be useful

Other Subjects

There were three comments on other subject areas:

Really wonderful to have the 25 minutes drop off time.

When are the temperature readings going to finish as I think now all rules seem to have stopped. Has it helped at all to stop kids spreading virus? Info on this would be helpful.

Breakfast / before school club.

Unsolicited Comments Expressing Satisfaction

These should be read in conjunction with the list, in the Appendix, of reasons parents / carers gave for choosing St. Mary's.

I am really pleased with the School and my children love it here.

Very happy

We never had any kind of issues

Our child is happy in school and loves going

We don't have any negative experiences

We're very happy we chose Dilwyn School.

Thank you, everyone.

Thank you

You have supported our children and family in a wonderful helpful and professional way, enabling our children to learn to the best potential and we will always look back gratefully and fondly for the start that you have given our girls.

Thank you to all staff for everything that you do.

APPENDIX OF COMMENTS ON THE REASONS FOR CHOOSING ST. MARY'S

From the moment we walked in the door we were treated with pure kindness. We all felt there was a proud sense of a family atmosphere.

Local.

*Nice Community / Family Approach Locality and Setting Balanced and Interesting Curriculum
Small Class sizes.*

We moved into the area.

Was the natural progression from playgroup.

A small friendly local School with a great reputation was the obvious choice. Teachers are so nurturing and good progression from playgroup really influenced our decision.

Local school.

Good atmosphere, Environment, Community, Reviews.

We lived in the village, Love the fact that it is small numbers, Feels like a family, Heard good things when child was at the nursery, like the link from nursery to school.

The size of the School suited with all the years mixing. Very friendly atmosphere. Swimming, Forest School, Cooking and Sports Clubs.

St. Mary's is a lovely small caring school, with a strong curriculum and excellent teachers. It has a beautiful countryside setting which is utilised well.

Small nurturing school. Lots of additional activities.,eg forest school, swimming and DT.

The opportunity to do things like Forest School.

Good reviews. Small School. Lots of attention for a child.

I cannot fault St. Mary's- they genuinely care for each child individually, the faith aspect of their education is consistent and expectations are high.

Small classes =more quality time. Excellent teaching. Quiet atmosphere - calming. Varied curriculum- brilliant-including swimming, cookery, forest school.

Best local school.

Recommendation from other parents with children in St. Mary's.

Family went to school there.

We liked the ethos of the School, the community feel, and the reviews we'd heard from other parents.

Free School so we can have holidays as travel is important to us. Small and friendly school.

Values aligned to our own. The polite children when we arrived.

Local School with good reputation.

Good reputation. Good discipline. Good results.

The atmosphere at the School when I looked around - quiet, calm and positive, The fact that it is a small school so my child is more likely to get the day to day support that they need. High ratio of staff to children in the infants. The varied timetable with more time spent on activities such as forest school, dance, swimming and cooking than other schools.

Results and interaction with the children.

There was a lovely community spirit, it was local and so focussed on making learning enjoyable. (text removed) really liked the idea of coming as they went to the playgroup next door and saw how the other children were getting on. Older children looked out for the younger children.

A caring, nurturing environment with high academic standards and favourable reports from parents we knew. We were able to look around during the pandemic (not offered by all schools) and were impressed by what we saw. It was also a natural progression from Dilwyn Playgroup, albeit if we hadn't liked the School we would have looked elsewhere.

