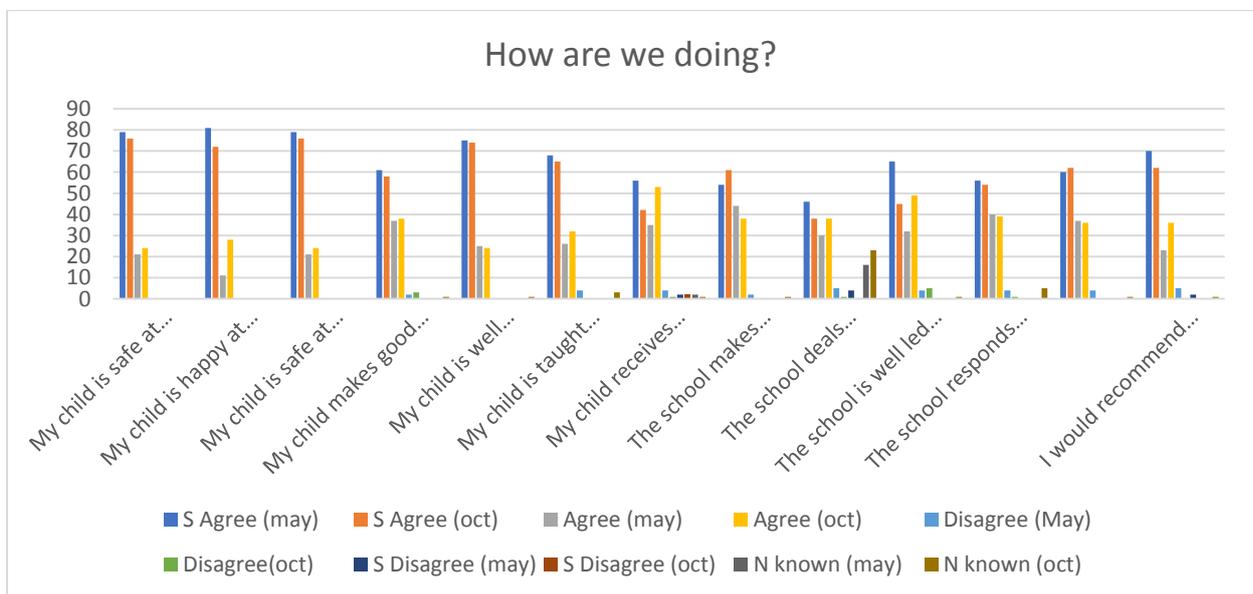


Parent View Report – May 2017.

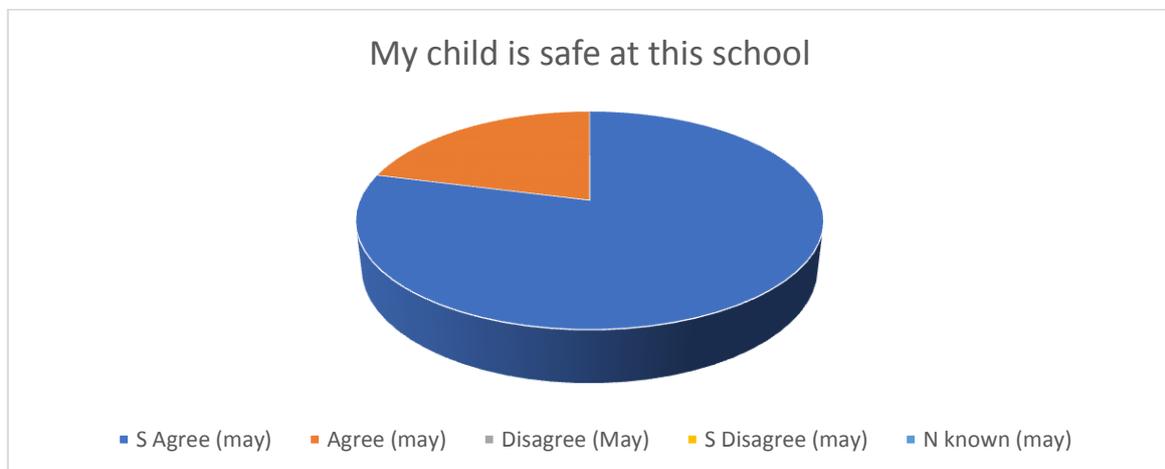
In all we received 54 results which is fewer than the last time we asked for your views. The Governors at Lenham want to ensure that whole school community could comment on the school performance as we start to plan for the next school year. I would like to thank those that completed the survey, as without your feedback it would be more difficult to establish if the school is meeting everybody’s needs and expectations.

So how are we doing? I have hopefully captured a comparison of how we did last time, compared to now. The numbers are the percentages and the questions are displayed below with the colours representing the breakdown in data for each question.



From initial glance, in most areas we have improved since October- which is great news.

However, let’s look at the individual questions and establish what the view is.

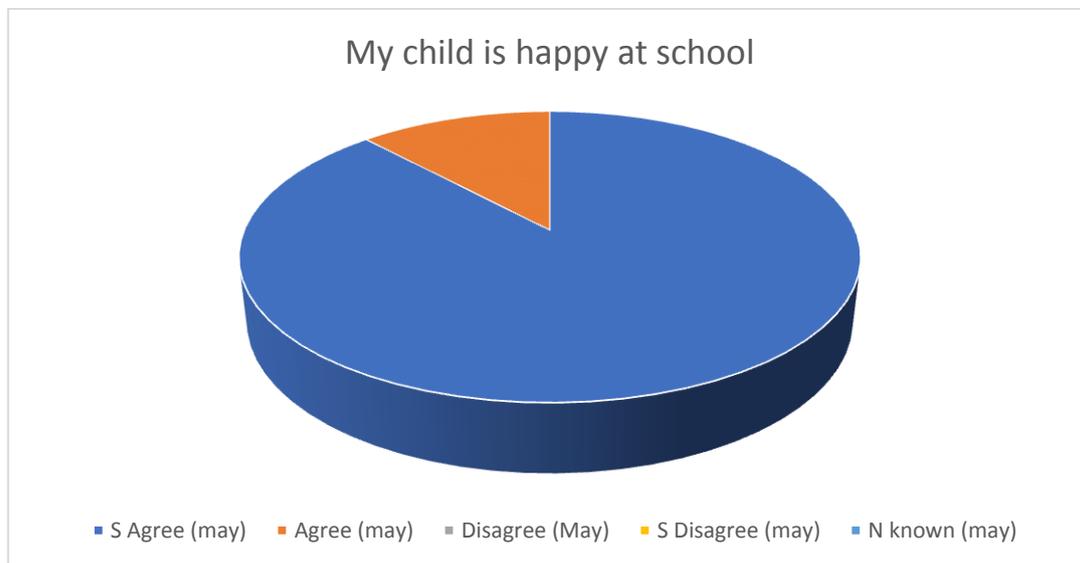


All parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child is safe at this school. This year the school has worked hard and focused on special assemblies with experts from outside the school coming in to help the children stay safe, not only at school but when they are with their friends outside of school. The governors have reviewed the schools risk assessments and processes for ensuring the children remain safe not only when they are at school but also when they travel away to exciting places on school trips. The Premises governor is also looking to enhance security from the pedestrian gate into the car park by installing a secondary fence along the footway preventing access to the school via the nursery. This is in the current programme of works for the forthcoming action plan period.

This is what parents had to say..

“Happy, safe environment”

“School is a safe place for my children”

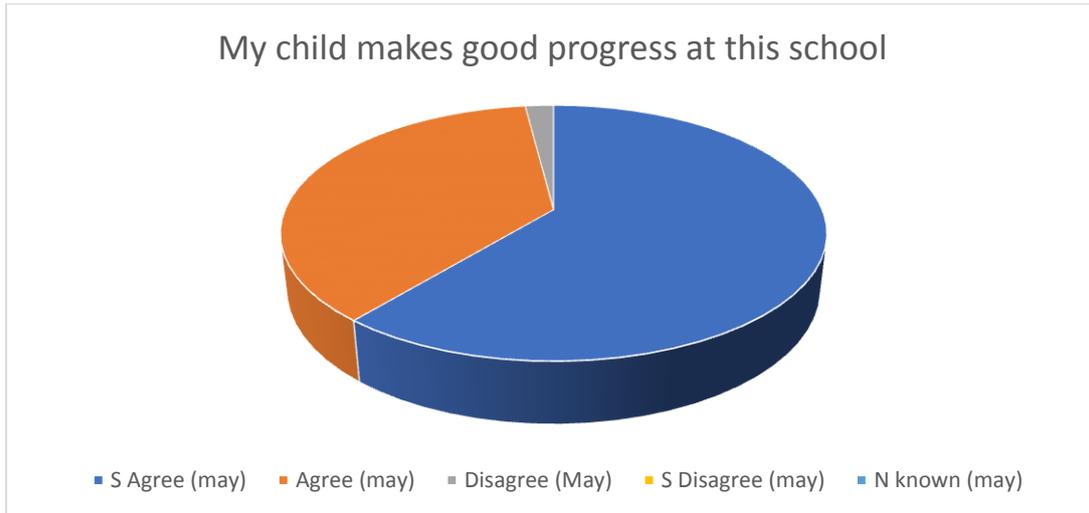


It is great to hear that all our pupils are happy at Lenham. The PRIDE values are the foundations within our school and the children respect and value each other's opinions throughout the school.

“My daughter loves the school and is very happy”

“The school is such happy positive environment”

“Love the PRIDE focus and how sporting values underpin the school's ethos”



It was encouraging to see that we have improved in this area since our last parent survey. This year we have focussed on providing stability across all the classes and monitored consistency in delivery and quality across the whole school. We appreciate that we still have a way to go yet, and this will remain a key focus as the children transition into the next school year.

“Our children love to learn and this is a positive reflection on the school”

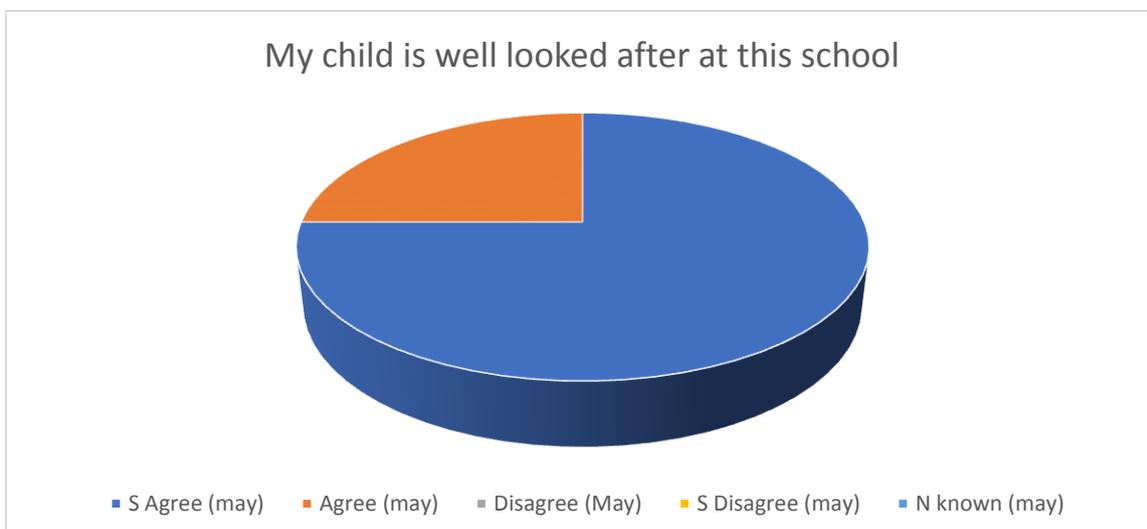
“...is progressing well, I’m extremely pleased with all teaching aspects of the school”

“Both of our children have made excellent progress this year”

We appreciate some of your comments that for some of our SEN children, parents had difficulty fully accessing and raising concerns.

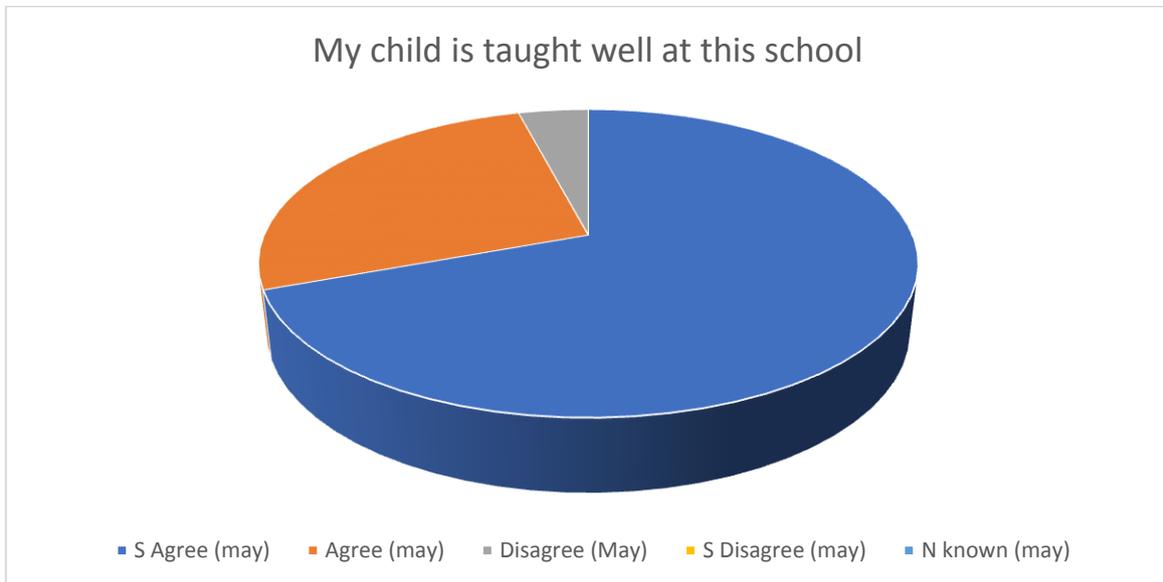
“Children with additional needs do not seem to be getting the help they need”

September 2016 saw the school move away from a full-time inclusion officer to one working only 40%, in line with our identified need at the start of the year. As a school, we have increased this to 50% from September 2017 to hopefully address some of those concerns. Governors will be reviewing this closely and on a termly basis.



100% of you agreed that all the children at Lenham were well looked after. It was lovely for governors to read the positive compliments for individual teachers, and although many were filled in anonymously, we were still able to pass these messages to the respective teachers.

“Providing a lovely learning environment for my daughter”

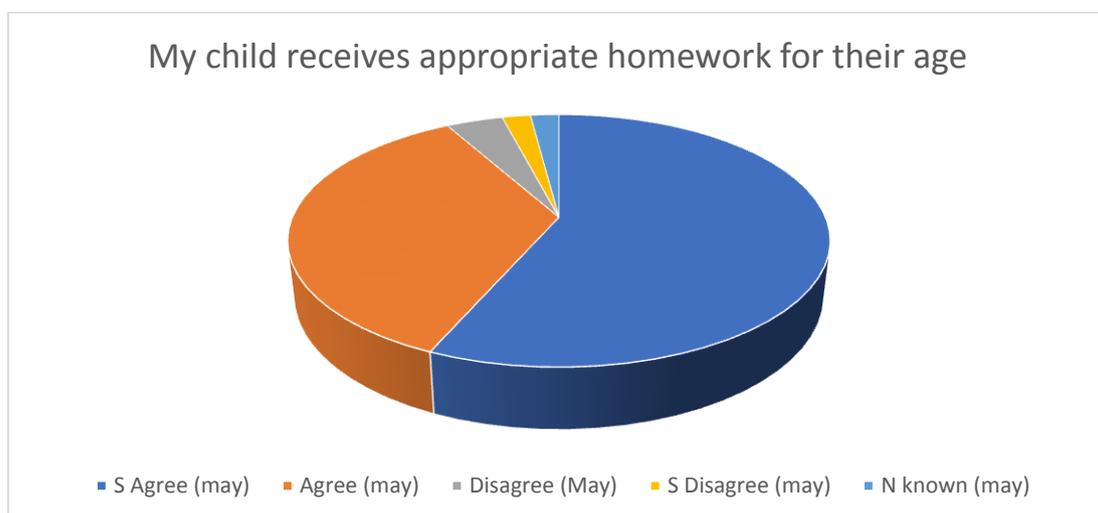


It probably goes hand in hand that if parents are happy with the children’s progress then this is reflected in the positive impact our teachers have made this year with the children’s learning.

This has been the main focus for the school’s leaders this academic year, with many new teachers having started with us in September. The support that existing staff have given the new staff members should also not go unnoticed; helping them to settle at the school is clearly reflected in the comments from many parents.

“...providing a good quality learning experience for our children”

“Our children love to learn and this is a positive reflection on the school”



This was another area of improvement. This is always a difficult area as parents have differing views on the benefits of homework. We have promoted reading this year through our competitive Wednesday reading challenge. We thank the parents that have supported their children in listening to them read aloud this year.

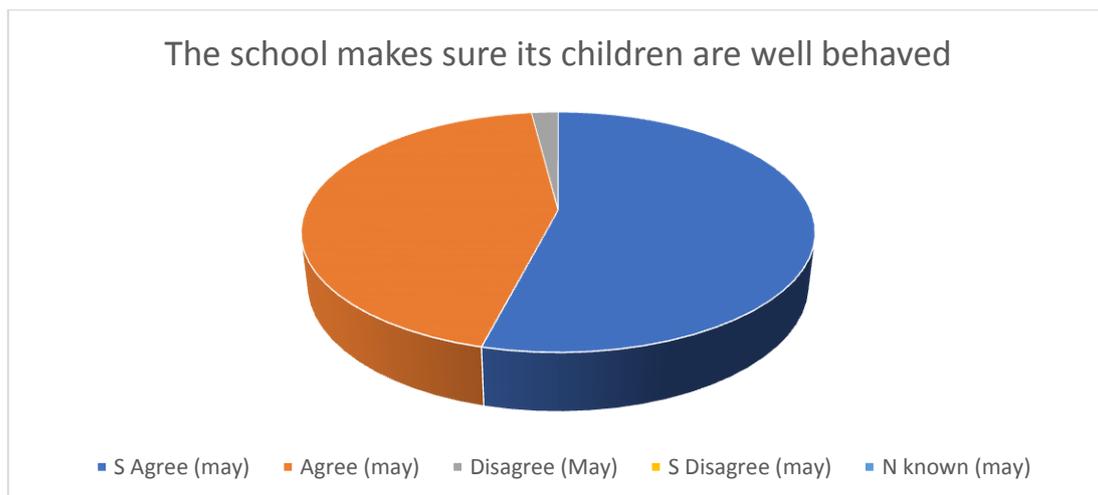
We also sought advice regarding parent's views on homework back in October through a parent survey and for those that took the time to complete it, I hope that you feel your views have been considered in our new homework policy.

There were also some concerning views expressed

"We feel under a great deal of pressure...our time after school is rushed"

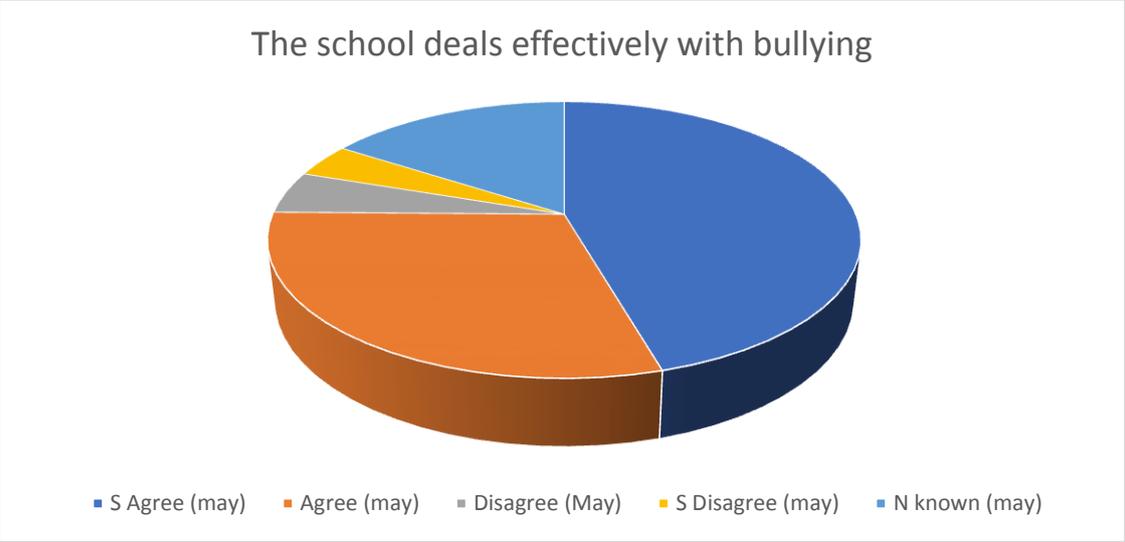
"The homework we receive is inconsistent"

If you are worried about the amount of homework or the inconsistency, then please speak to the class teacher.

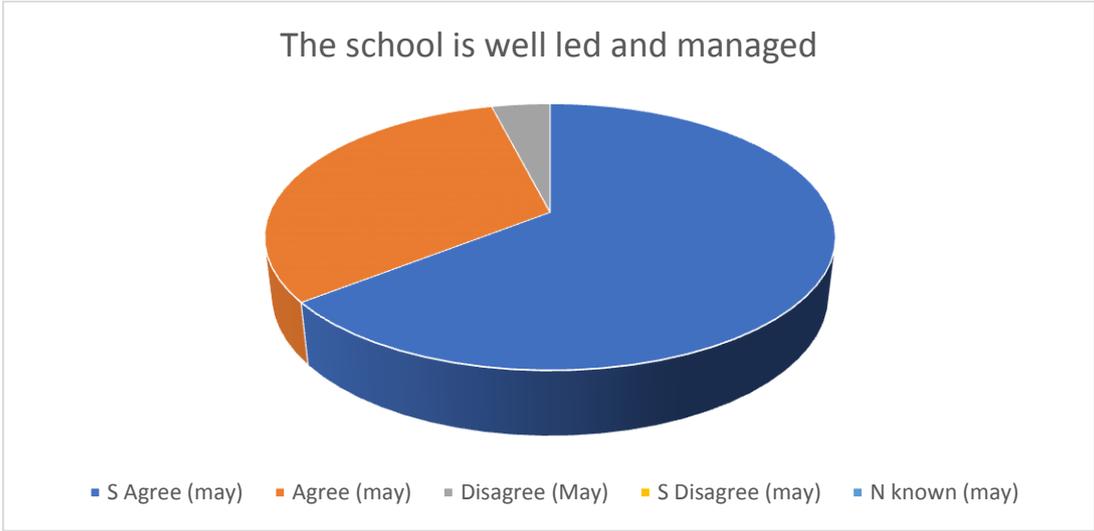


This was another area of focus this academic year. The school consulted the school community through pupil voice, staff and governors to write the schools behaviour policy. The classes each year agree the ground rules for expected behaviour in each class and the pupils are then rewarded for exceptional behaviour. This sits behind our PRIDE values where we encourage all the children to "take pride and be proud"

"Great ethos on rewarding children for good work and good behaviour"



It was disappointing to see that a small percentage of parents disagreed with this statement. The school and the children in it will tell you that we operate a zero tolerance for bullying. In Term 1 we had a focused approach across the whole school in understanding what bullying means and the impact it can have. We have only had one reported instance of bullying and this matter was resolved satisfactorily. I appreciate the percentage is low, and one response was based on another parent's experience. However, if we look at this question directly against the 100% of the same sample that said that their children were happy at school, we can perhaps conclude that it was only the one isolated incident. However as this is inconclusive governors will continue to monitor this area next academic year.



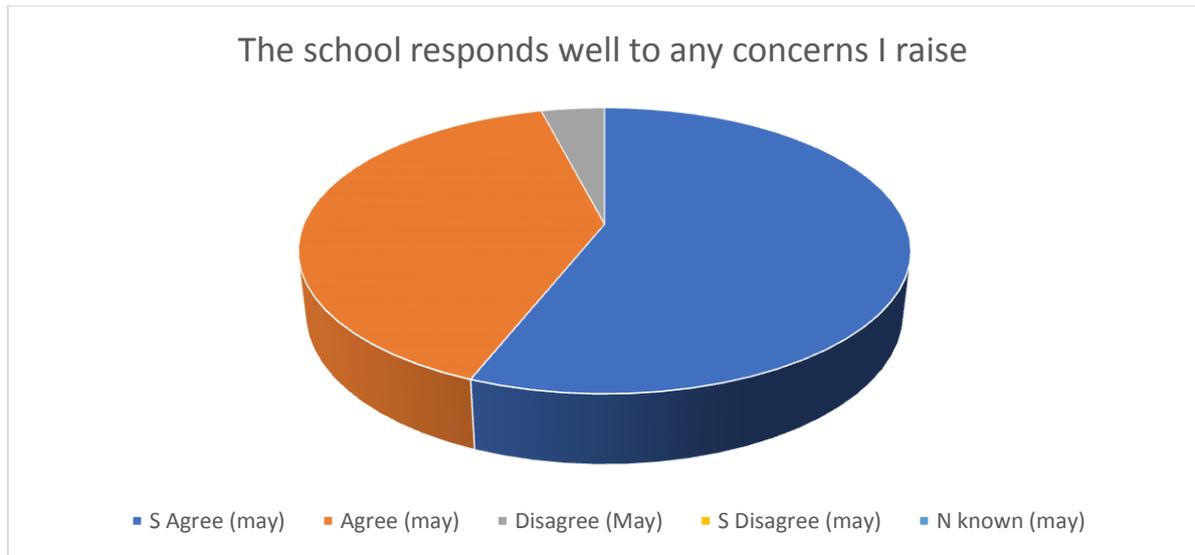
We started this year without a Headteacher and one of the promises that governors made was to commence and appoint a new Headteacher. Ms Howell formally took up the role in February. It was great to see that since we last took the survey this statistic has increased.

“Improvements are being made since Ms Howells appointment - keep doing it Ms Howell!”

The small percentage of 4% that disagreed, clarified that this was not due to the leadership but the management. One quantified it by saying:

“Documents held on the school website are poorly managed”

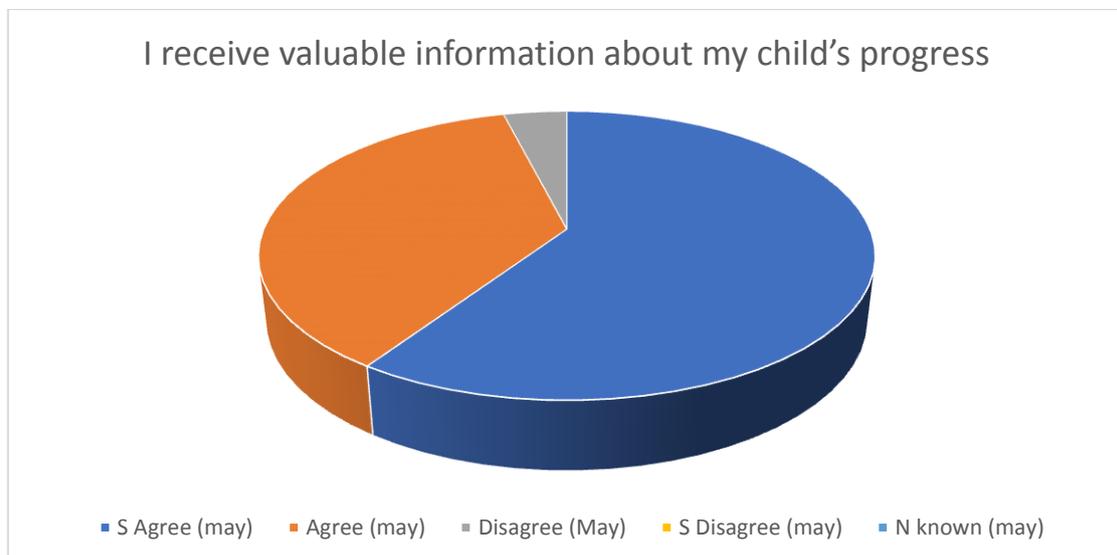
This is an area that governors will look at next year. The school’s leadership team has worked hard to be effective communicators with parents and if our biggest communication tool (the website) is not clear and meets its purpose then we will need to review how this is managed.



This is another area in which we have improved since October. Only a small percentage of 4% did not feel the school had listened to their concerns

“I sent an email and never received a reply”

Can I ask that if you do not receive a reply to a message that you contact the school. With 208 children on role, many messages are left with the school in a variety of ways and sometimes these communications may not always reach the desired recipient. The school wants to communicate effectively, so please if you receive no response, follow the matter up with a phone call.



This question has seen a slight drop from 98% to 96% of parents being satisfied with the information they receive. Many parents agreed that

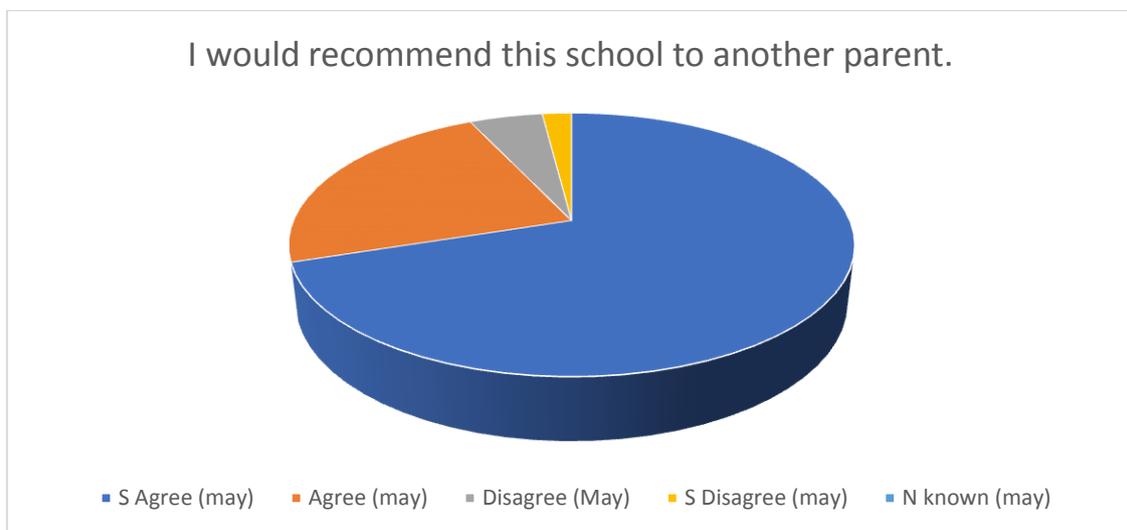
“Communication had improved dramatically”

However, some parents have said they would like:

“Longer on parents evening”

“Parent’s evenings should happen every quarter”

If parents wish to discuss their child’s progress they do not need to wait until Parents evenings. If you are worried that your child may be struggling, or they are worried themselves, you can always book an appointment with your class teacher to discuss this further.



It was disappointing that a small percentage of parents (7%) stated that they would not recommend Lenham to other parents.

“With SEN then no I wouldn’t”

Unfortunately, other parents didn’t elaborate why they wouldn’t. The school leaders and the governing body have worked hard since the last survey to improve on all the aspects of the school that parents had stated we could do better. I would please encourage parents that although this can be an anonymous survey, if you have concerns then please raise them with us. If we do not know why you are disappointed with the school, then we cannot make the necessary changes in order that once again Lenham is a school you can be proud of.

Conclusion

I would once again like to thank all the parents and carers that took the time to complete the survey and make comments on what we are doing well and what we are not doing so well. It was great to see that the focus from the last survey- leadership, quality of teaching and the communication between home and school have improved. As we meet to plan for the next academic year the school leadership team will look at how we can better communicate with our SEN parents to ensure that they feel that their children can also benefit from better access to the curriculum. We will consider

your request for more communication from the Headteacher and consistency in communication across the school. We will look to plan early and in advance, to ensure that more notice is given to parents for planned events. We will review how we can further safeguard our children in these difficult times of extremist behaviour. Finally, we will also review our extracurricular activities and the desire for more sports clubs.

I thank you once again for supporting your children in their education. Please keep open dialogue with the class teachers and the leaders of the school. The governing body welcomes any positive or negative observations you may have, and we thank all of you that have taken the time to highlight these to the school.

Thank you for your continued support

Ceri Norey

Chair of Governors