2021 Survey of Parents and Carers

Leigh Primary School

2021 Parental Survey - Summary

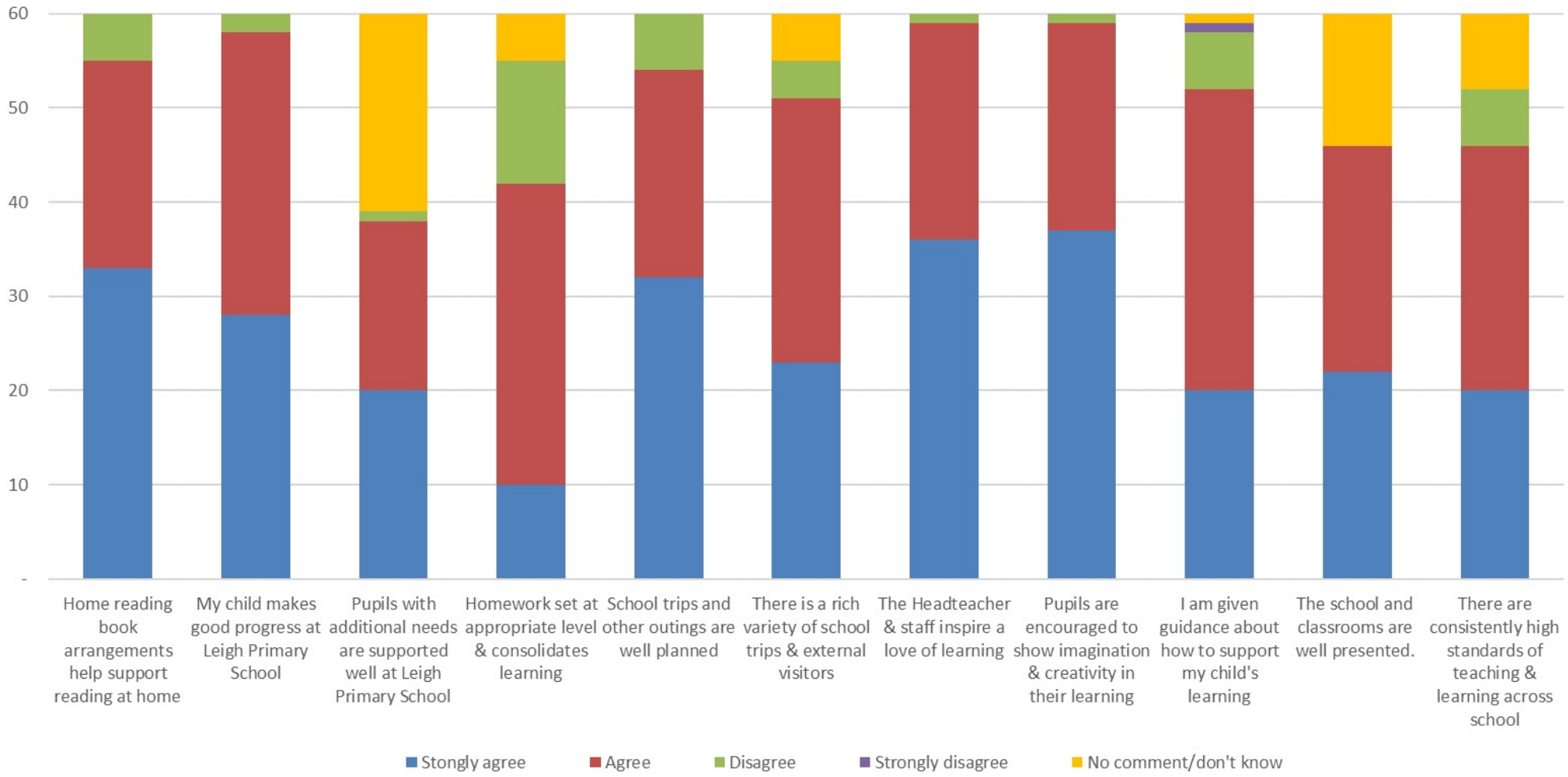
- **Survey conducted in July-Sept 2021**
- **60 responses** – slightly more than 2018 (57 responses)
- **Significant improvements** over 2018 survey findings included:
  - Willingness to recommend Leigh Primary School
  - Most aspects of Teaching, Learning and Assessment, Communications
  - Most measures of the school's strengths
- **Measurable declines** compared with 2018 survey largely the result of lockdown:
  - Appearance of school & classrooms, school facilities and extracurricular activities
- **Positive evaluations** of COVID and home learning measures
- **Concerns voiced** over inconsistency between different teachers' guidance, support and feedback for children during lockdown

NB throughout comparisons are with findings from the previous Parental Survey in 2018
To be 'significant' a rating must have improved or declined at least 5%

Areas covered

- Teaching, learning and assessment
- Communications
- Personal development, behaviour and welfare
- Leadership and management
- COVID response
- Children's well-being during lockdown
- Aspects of home working, past and future
- Leigh Primary School's greatest strengths
- Information used to help in choice of primary school
- Recommending school to other parents
- Transition to secondary school
- Supporting children at home
- Suggestions for improvement
- Concerns over children's emotional or academic development
- Other comments

Teaching, Learning and Assessment - summary



Significant **improvement** in ratings of Home reading, SEN support, Imagination & creativity, and Guidance on supporting learning

Significant **decline** in ratings for Presentation of school & classrooms

Teaching, Learning and Assessment – further detail

Over 50% of respondents Strongly Agree with the following statements

- Pupils are encouraged to show imagination & creativity in their learning (62%)
- The Headteacher & staff inspire a love of learning (60%)
- Home reading book arrangements help support reading at home (55%)
- School trips and other outings are well planned (53%)

Over 90% of respondents Agree or Strongly Agree with the following statements

- The Headteacher & staff inspire a love of learning (98%)
- Pupils are encouraged to show imagination & creativity in their learning (98%)
- My child makes good progress at Leigh Primary School (97%)
- School trips and other outings are well planned (90%)

At least 10% of respondents Disagreed with the following statements

- Homework set at appropriate level & consolidates learning (22%)
- School trips and other outings are well planned (10%)
- I am given guidance about how to support my child's learning (10%)
- There are consistently high standards of teaching & learning across school (10%)

Only one statement registered Strong Disagreement from any respondents

- I am given guidance about how to support my child's learning (2%)

Teaching, Learning and Assessment – positive comments & suggestions

Positive comments

- “I like that the children get to experience different styles of teaching”
- “we have certainly been impressed with our child’s teachers”
- “Leigh is an open school with great teachers who are always on hand to support children and parents”
- “Most teachers and staff are amazing”
- “really love how creative the school is”
- “lessons are conducted in a fun way and this keeps the children engaged”
- “Communication at Leigh is outstanding and we truly appreciate having interested teachers [who are] happy to talk any time and always come back really quickly with answers to any questions and never make you feel like you’re bothering them”
- “We love forest school and would love if they could do that more often! They get so much from it”
- “Our children are doing so well academically and we feel this is down to the amazing teaching along side all the other fun activities”
- “Could not have wished for a better school, wonderful in every way. Feels like an extended family”

Teaching, Learning and Assessment – homework issues

Homework issues

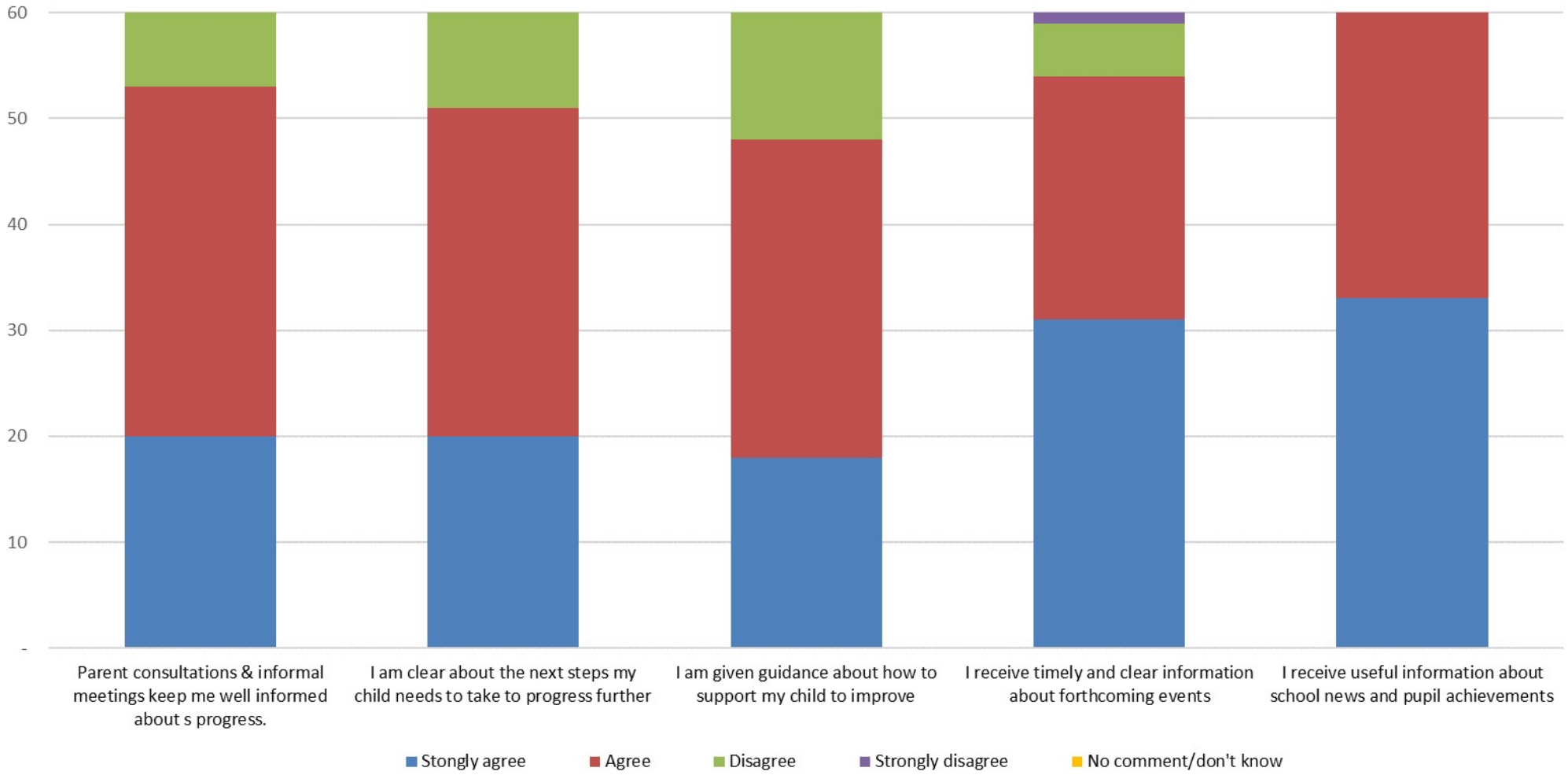
- Inconsistency of homework setting and feedback (multiple comments)
- “although the reports show us what our children need to focus on, it isn’t written in a very user friendly way”
- “There was direction for phonics learning at home, but never any focused maths work”
- “A short sheet to consolidate learning each week would be great and would help parents understand what level their child should be working at/ towards.”
- “I do not think that primary age children should be set lots of homework (beyond reading, spellings and times table practice).”

Teaching, Learning and Assessment – other areas of concern

Other areas of concern

- Requests for more guidance for parents on how to help children from teachers (multiple comments)
- “the SEN support has been friendly but completely mystifying.”
- “It would be nice to see more attention made to the creative arts”
- “classrooms could be set up in the same way [particularly for KS1]. Children love routine and I really think this would help some children’s confidence.”
- “We’d like the top field to be used more for lunch play etc as it’s such a great space”
- “The documents that are shared on the learning for the term can be quite abstract (especially when unfamiliar with how topics are taught)”
- “When planning school trips working parents are often forgotten about”, “pick-up timings can be quite awkward”

Communications - summary



Significant **improvement** in ratings of Parent consultations & informal meetings, Guidance on supporting child's improvement, Clear & timely information

No significant **decline** in any Communications ratings

Communications – further detail

Over 50% of respondents Strongly Agree with the following statements

- I receive useful information about school news and pupil achievements (55%)
- I receive timely and clear information about forthcoming events (52%)

Over 90% of respondents Agree or Strongly Agree with the following statements

- I receive useful information about school news and pupil achievements (100%)
- I receive timely and clear information about forthcoming events (90%)

At least 10% of respondents Disagreed with the following statements

- I am given guidance about how to support my child to improve (20%)
- I am clear about the next steps my child needs to take to progress further (15%)
- Parent consultations & informal meetings keep me well informed about s progress (12%)

Only one statement registered Strong Disagreement from any respondents

- I receive timely and clear information about forthcoming events (2%)

Communications – additional positive comments

Positive comments

- “The school emails and newsletter are very helpful and informative”
- “It's always possible to get hold of the information you need, quickly”
- “The free text part of reports is always the most useful section.”
- Multiple comments that the “Weekly parent newsletter is very useful”
- “Communication between the school and parents has improved hugely over the last couple of years”

Communications – suggestions and areas of concern

Suggestions and areas of concern

- “I don’t find reports very easy to understand. I would prefer them printed and handed out.”
- Multiple requests for more notice of events - “to allow working parents sufficient time to arrange leave or switch working hours to attend”
- Multiple comments on clarity of school reports - “I find the format of the school reports unhelpful. I appreciate that teachers need to report against the prescribed levels of attainment (below, expected, exceeding) but these mean little to parents”
- Multiple comments that “Teacher communication varies a great deal”
- “Parent consultations [during COVID] have been limited”.

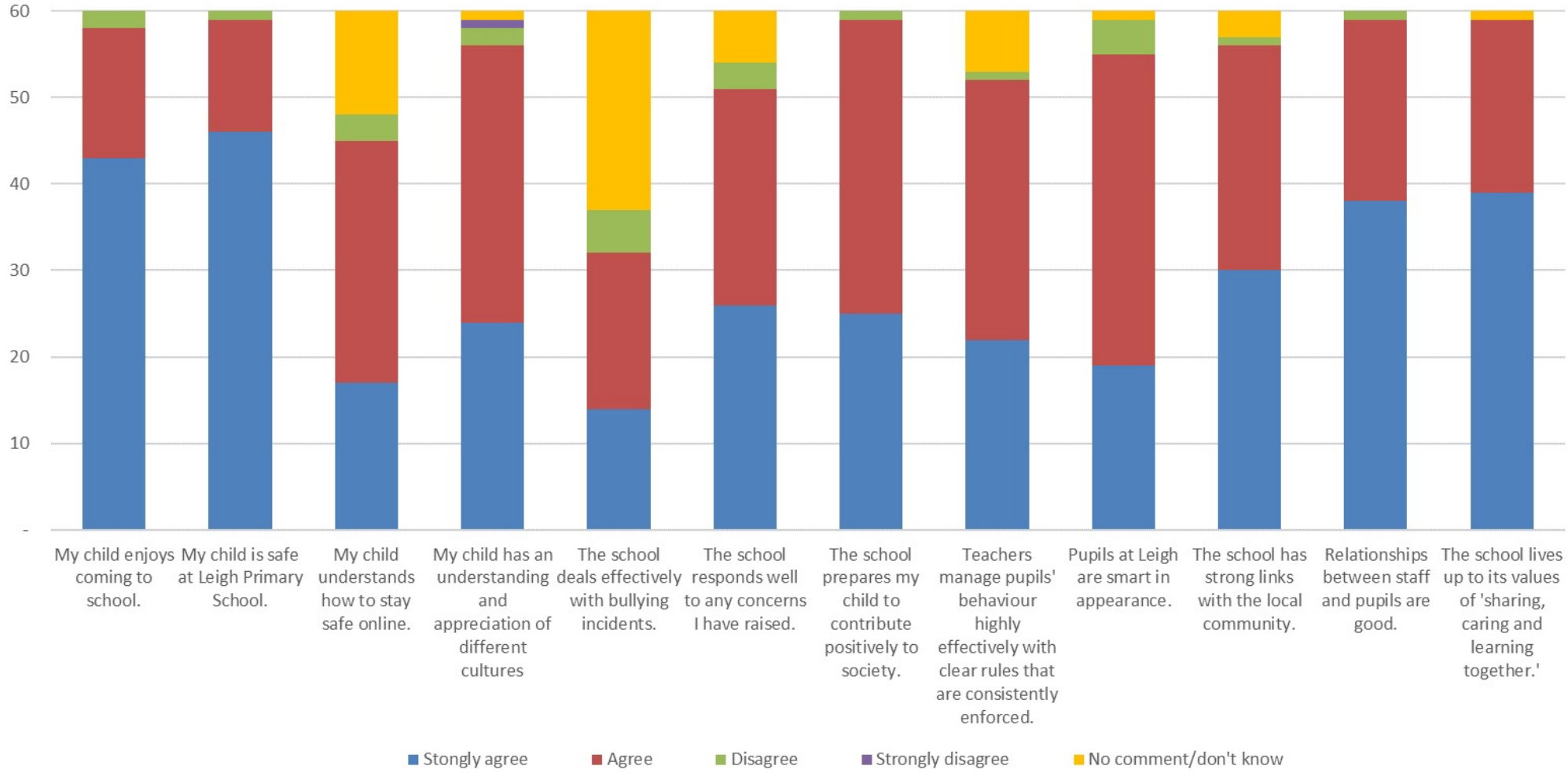
Comments on and suggestions for the weekly newsletter

- “I would like a weekly update from each classroom - but probably not in the newsletter.”
- More achievements for children that are based upon their kindness and creative achievements ... not just extra circular activities.”
- “The weekly newsletter could benefit from being presented in a different way.”
- “It’s great”
- “No, it is excellent as it is.”

How could communications with parents and carers could be improved?

- Regular comms on classes work, pictures, blogs written by students and fortnightly updates from the class teacher on google classroom
- “Advance communication of whether clubs are running/ trips that require parents to transport the children”
- “Increased use of social media - Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and Instagram to update parents and send reminders.”
- “It would be great to have more regular updates on Google classroom about progress and stretch activities”
- “Green drop off has worked well for communication and seeing the teachers interacting with children. Also to help children see other teachers too”
- “The newsletter is very tiny to read on a phone, which most people probably use to read it. Maybe more pages of a larger font format might work instead of one side of A4?”

Personal development, behaviour and welfare



Significant **improvement** in ratings of Understanding how to stay safe online, Appreciation of different cultures, Dealing with bullying, Responses to concerns raised, Relationship between staff and pupils, and Living up school values

No significant **declines** in any Personal development, behaviour & welfare ratings

Personal development, behaviour and welfare – further detail

Over 50% of respondents Strongly Agree with the following statements

- My child is safe at Leigh Primary School (77%)
- My child enjoys coming to school (72%)

Over 90% of respondents Agree or Strongly Agree with the following statements

- My child is safe at Leigh Primary School (98%)
- The school prepares my child to contribute positively to society (98%)
- Relationships between staff and pupils are good (98%)
- The school lives up to its values of 'sharing, caring and learning together.' (98%)
- My child enjoys coming to school (97%)
- My child has an understanding and appreciation of different cultures (93%)
- Pupils at Leigh are smart in appearance (92%)

No more than 8% of respondents Disagreed with any of the statements

Only one statement registered Strong Disagreement from any respondents

- My child has an understanding and appreciation of different cultures (2%)

Personal development, behaviour and welfare – additional comments

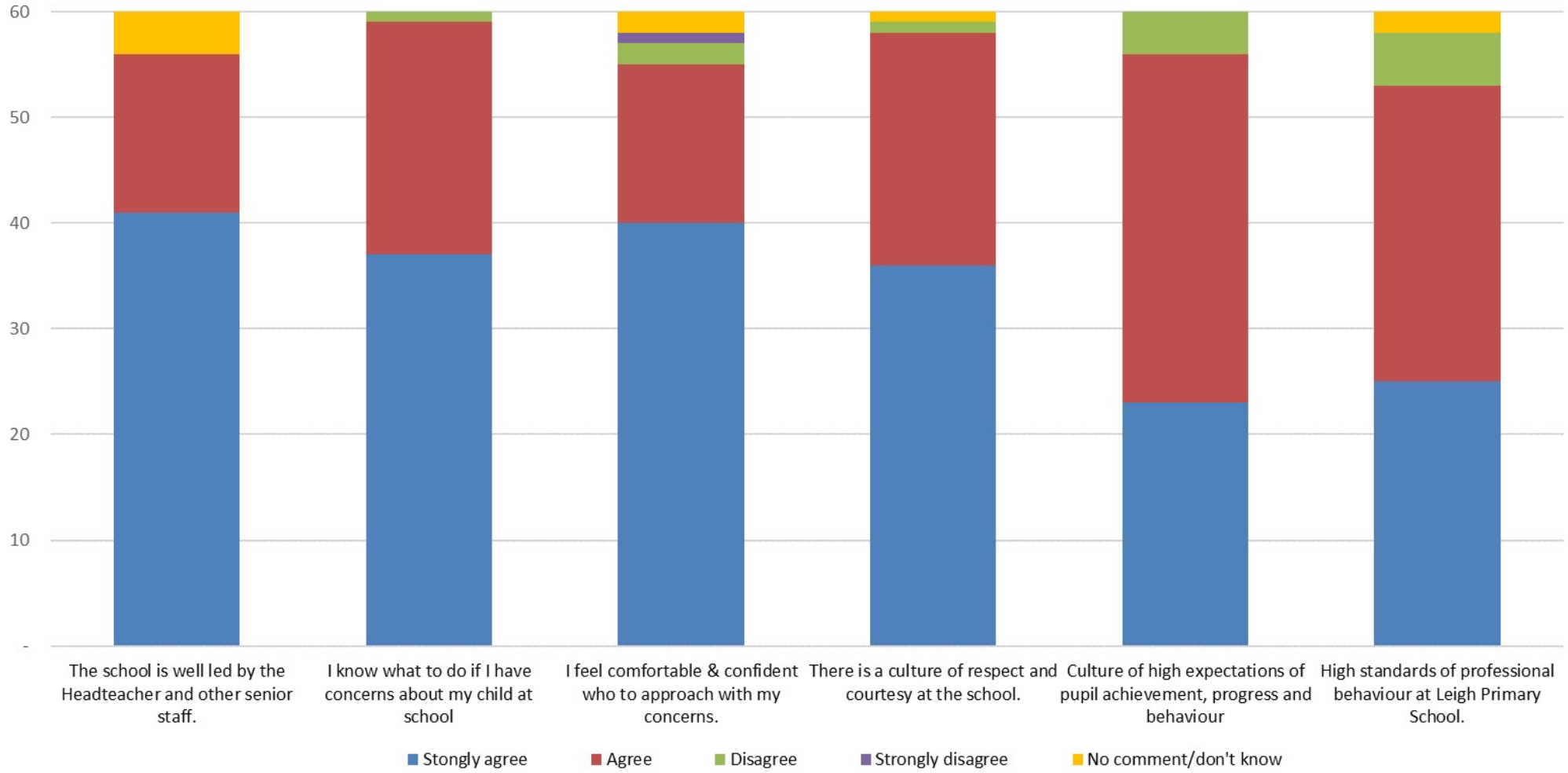
Positive comments

- “I love that the children have lovely relationships with the staff”
- “My children have always felt happy and safe at Leigh”
- “The Headteacher and all the staff are extremely caring and kind, and put so much effort and hard work into every aspect of school life”

Suggestions and areas of concern

- “Smartness of the children can be let down by a minority”
- Difficulties experienced by some children starting school on the Green, hoping for improvement with classroom starts from September

Leadership and Management



No significant **improvements** in any Leadership & Management ratings

No significant **declines** in any Leadership & Management ratings

Leadership and Management – further detail

Over 50% of respondents Strongly Agree with the following statements

- The school is well led by the Headteacher and other senior staff (68%)
- I feel comfortable & confident who to approach with my concern (67%)
- I know what to do if I have concerns about my child at school (62%)
- There is a culture of respect and courtesy at the school (60%)

Over 90% of respondents Agree or Strongly Agree with the following statements

- I know what to do if I have concerns about my child at school (98%)
- There is a culture of respect and courtesy at the school (97%)
- The school is well led by the Headteacher and other senior staff (93%)
- Culture of high expectations of pupil achievement, progress and behaviour (93%)

No more than 8% of respondents Disagreed with any of the statements

Only one statement registered Strong Disagreement from any respondents

- I feel comfortable & confident who to approach with my concerns (2%)

Leadership and Management – additional comments

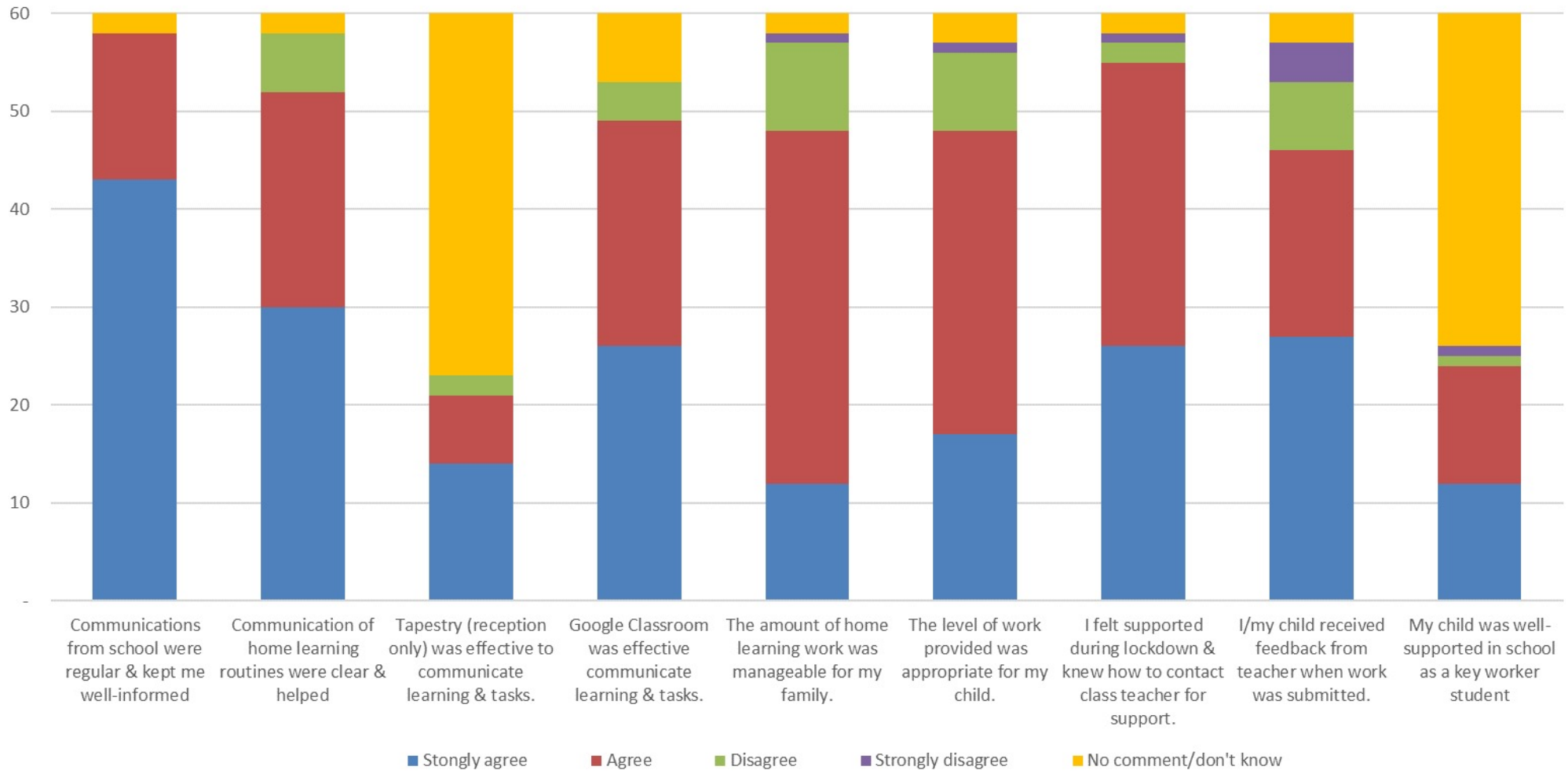
Positive comments

- “Your staff and teachers are amazing. It is So difficult during the past 18 months”
- “Jane in the office is a credit to school. So wonderfully helpful”
- “All the children were extremely polite and respectful when they came to our farm for a visit. They asked very intelligent questions and had excellent manners”

Suggestions and areas of concern

- “We need to know what classes are working on each week. Parents want to help and support but often don’t know how to, and comms would help”
- “School reports have continuously been a disappointment in terms of the level of detail and also accuracy”
- “The school meal ordering system could benefit from review”

COVID Response



New question, so no comparison with previous survey findings

COVID Response – further detail

Over 50% of respondents Strongly Agree with the following statements

- Communications from school were regular & kept me well-informed (72%)
- Communication of home learning routines were clear & helped (50%)

Over 90% of respondents Agree or Strongly Agree with the following statements

- Communications from school were regular & kept me well-informed (97%)
- I felt supported during lockdown & knew how to contact class teacher for support (92%)

More than 8% of respondents Disagreed or Strongly Disagreed with the following statements

- I/my child received feedback from teacher when work was submitted (18%)
- The amount of home learning work was manageable for my family (17%)
- The level of work provided was appropriate for my child (15%)
- Communication of home learning routines were clear & helped (10%)

More than 5% of respondents Strongly Disagreed with the following statement

- I/my child received feedback from teacher when work was submitted (7%)

COVID Response – additional comments

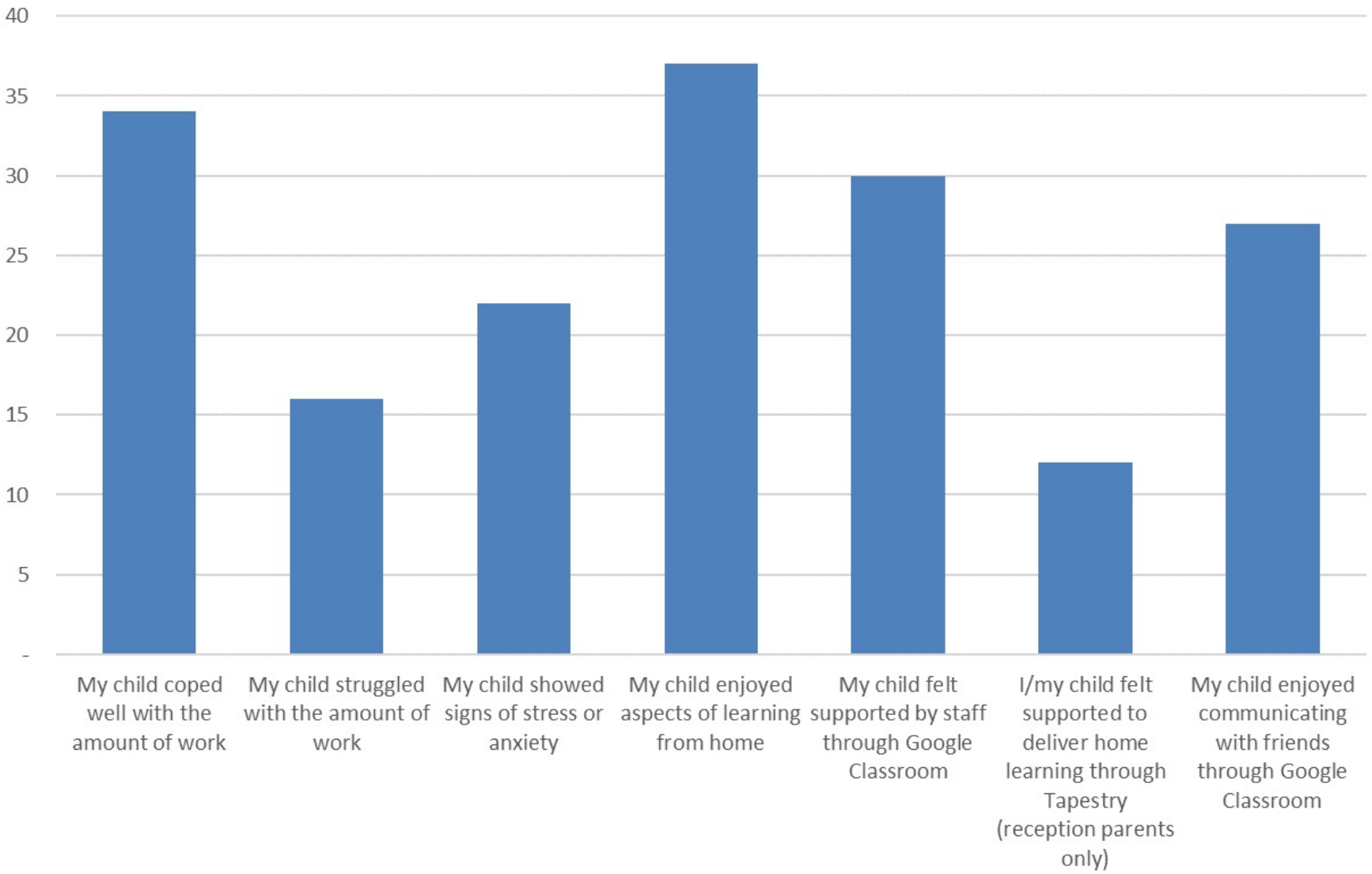
Positive comments

- “You were wonderful and did the best you could”
- “Leigh responded amazingly well to the Covid lock-downs”
- Several teachers and Tas singled out for praise for their clear planning and support
- “The school couldn’t have done more, you were wonderful”
- “All support and teaching during this difficult period was excellent”

Suggestions and areas of concern

- Multiple comments on inconsistency between levels of support, guidance and feedback from different teachers
- Multiple respondents preferred Google Classroom to Tapestry
- Multiple requests for more video lessons rather then written instructions
- “We never rec’d proper feedback on Google Classroom. Maybe a choice the school made?”
- “There were times when there was a lot of work and perhaps too much well-being work”
- “Work set during lockdown relied heavily on parents being available to assist children, and was both frustrating and unrealistic for working parents”

Children's well-being during lockdown



New question, so no comparison with previous survey findings

Children's well-being during lockdown – further detail

At least 50% of respondents agreed with the following statements

- My child enjoyed aspects of learning from home (62%)
- My child coped well with the amount of work (57%)
- My child felt supported by staff through Google Classroom (50%)

Less than 25% of respondents agreed with the following statement

- I/my child felt supported to deliver home learning through Tapestry (reception parents only) (20%)

Children's well-being during lockdown – additional comments

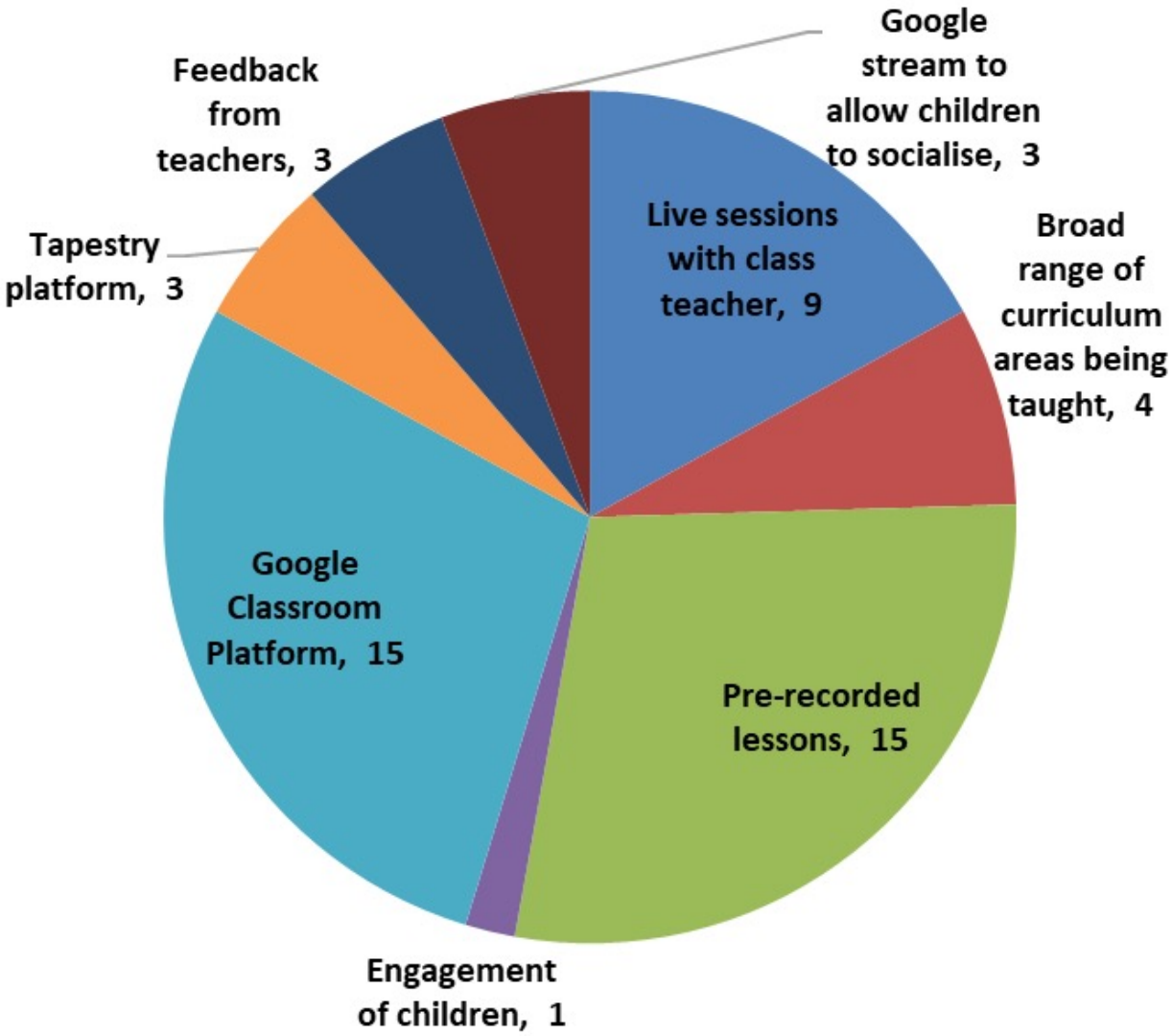
Positive comments

- “Reception teachers and Mrs Marsh were outstanding. Amazing.”
- “My elder child coped far better with the second lockdown period … her mental health was better, unfortunately she got used to home learning”

Suggestions and areas of concern

- Multiple respondents commented on inconsistency between support provided to different classes
- “Would have been good to have more facetime with students and teachers”
- “My older child did become anxious at times”
- “Our children stagnated socially during the lockdown. One in particular has become more insular and found it difficult initially to re-engage with peers”
- “There were times when they struggled with the amount of work but on the whole they were fine. They preferred speaking to their friends outside of Google Classroom”

What aspects of home learning worked well?



NB Respondents were only allowed to select a single aspect of home learning

New question, so no comparison with previous survey findings

What aspects of home learning worked well – comments

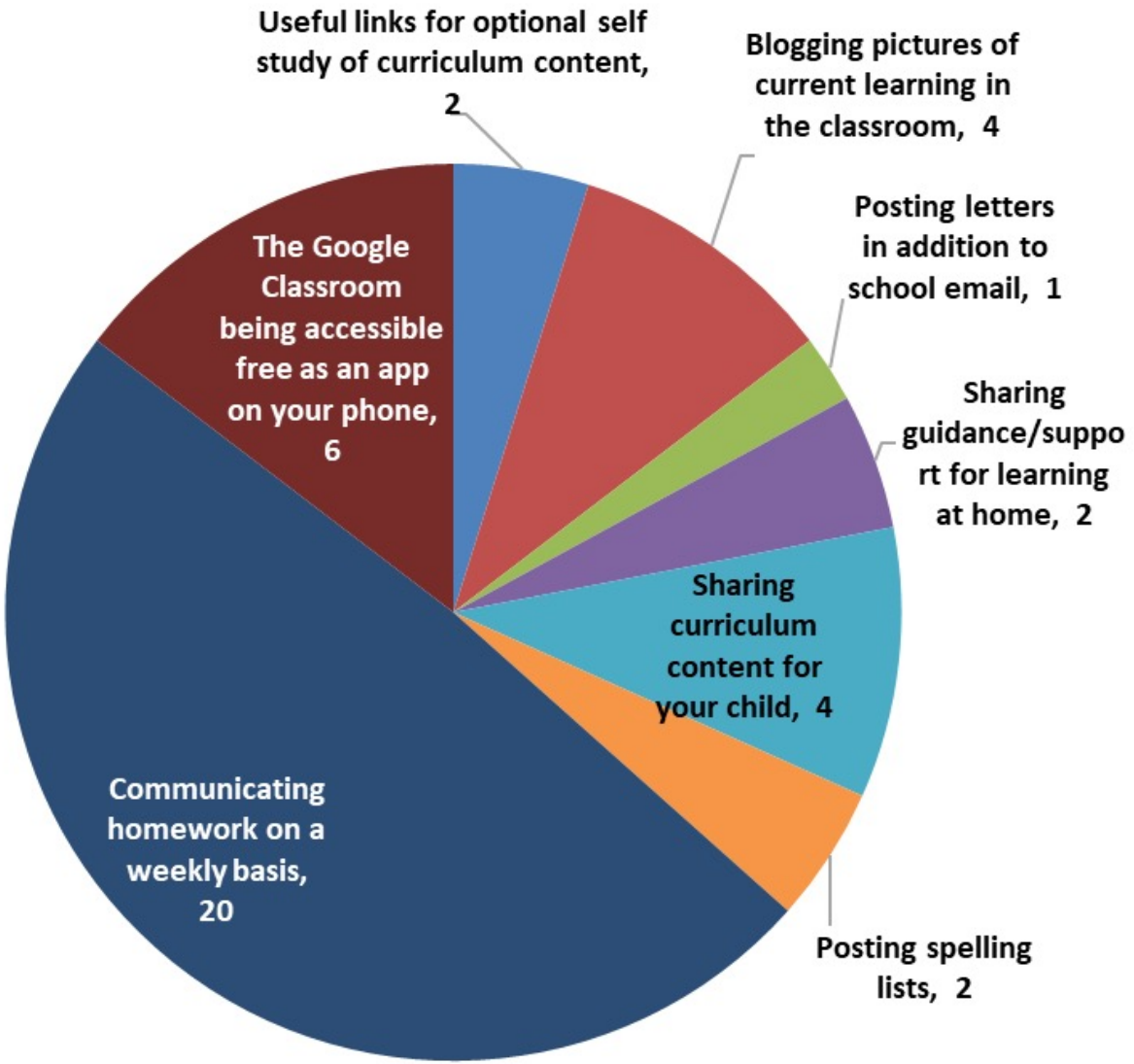
Positive comments

- Several respondents would have preferred to be able to select multiple aspects that worked well
- “Pre-recorded lessons were good as it is more personal when the children can see their own teacher providing guidance”
- Multiple comments that feedback from teachers and TA’s “made it feel all worthwhile”
- “The work being posted the night before (during the second lock-down) was invaluable to me”
- “I really enjoyed feeling more involved and having a daily insight into her work and what they were studying”
- “Google classroom worked well, recorded lessons were good, feedback from teachers was excellent and the huge variety of subjects and projects was lovely to see.”

Suggestions and areas of concern

- Multiple mentions of different levels of support and guidance from different teachers
- “In future I would say that 1 live or pre-recorded session a day would be helpful [for children]”

If the school were to use Google Classroom to communicate with children and parents, what aspects would be useful to support your children?



NB Respondents were only allowed to select a single aspect of Google Classroom

New question, so no comparison with previous survey findings

What aspects of Google Classroom would be useful – comments

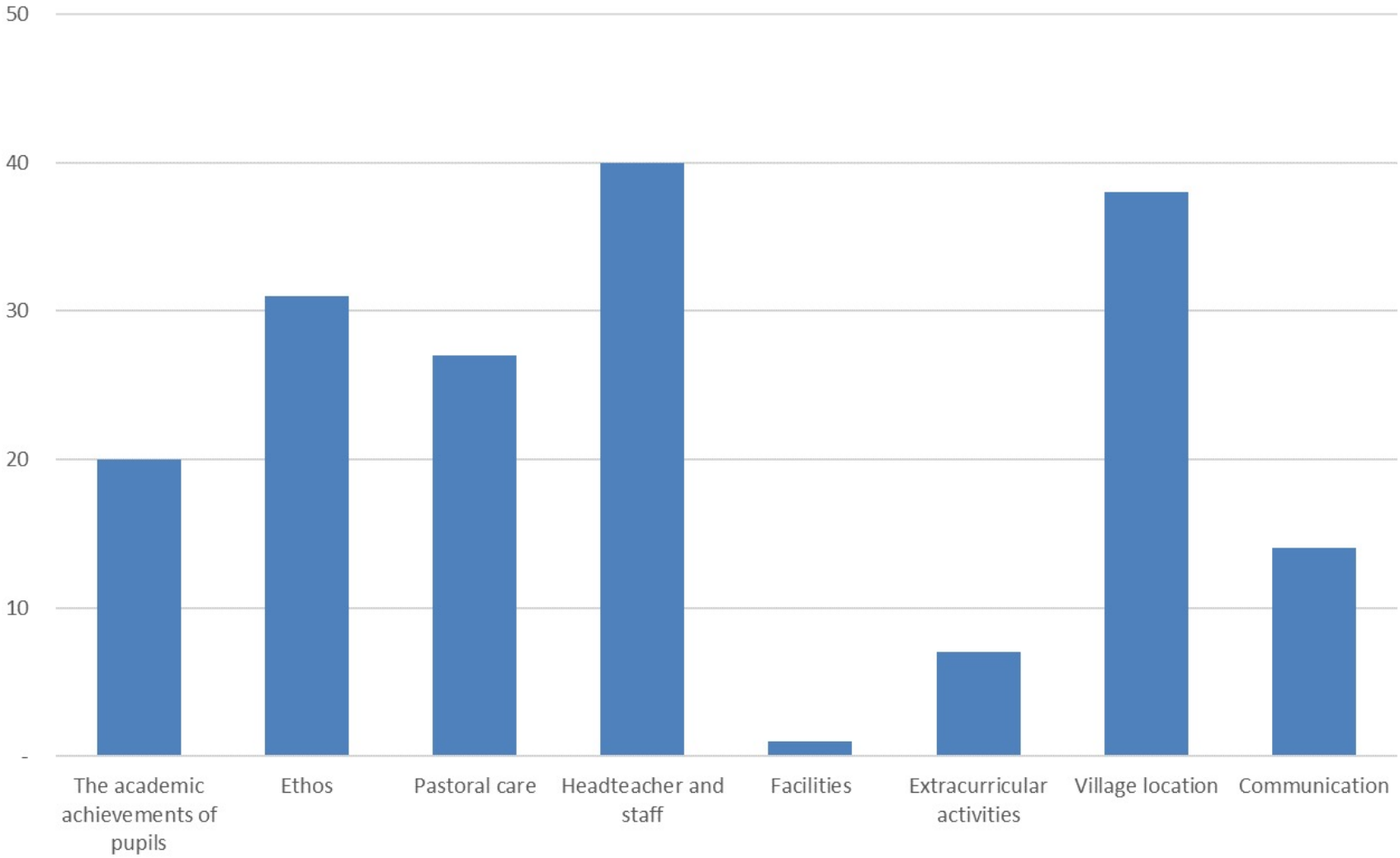
Positive comments

- Several respondents would have preferred to be able to select multiple aspects of Google Classroom
- “Children/parents can see all their tasks and whether they have submitted or not”

Suggestions and areas of concern

- “I think introducing another point of contact would make things even more confusing for parents and students than it already is.”
- “Also accessible as an app on my phone. Links for optional self study would also be helpful”
- “I was happy using Google classroom during lockdown but personally prefer the homework to come home on paper with the kids do they can take responsibility more easily.”
- “Also homework being set on Google classroom”

What do you consider to be among Leigh Primary School's greatest strengths?



Factors that **increased** in popularity: Academic achievements, Ethos, Pastoral care, Village location

Factors that **decreased** in popularity: Facilities, Extracurricular activities

Leigh Primary School's greatest strengths – further detail

Over 50% of respondents identified the following characteristics as greatest strengths

- Headteacher and staff (67%)
- Village location (63%)
- Ethos (52%)

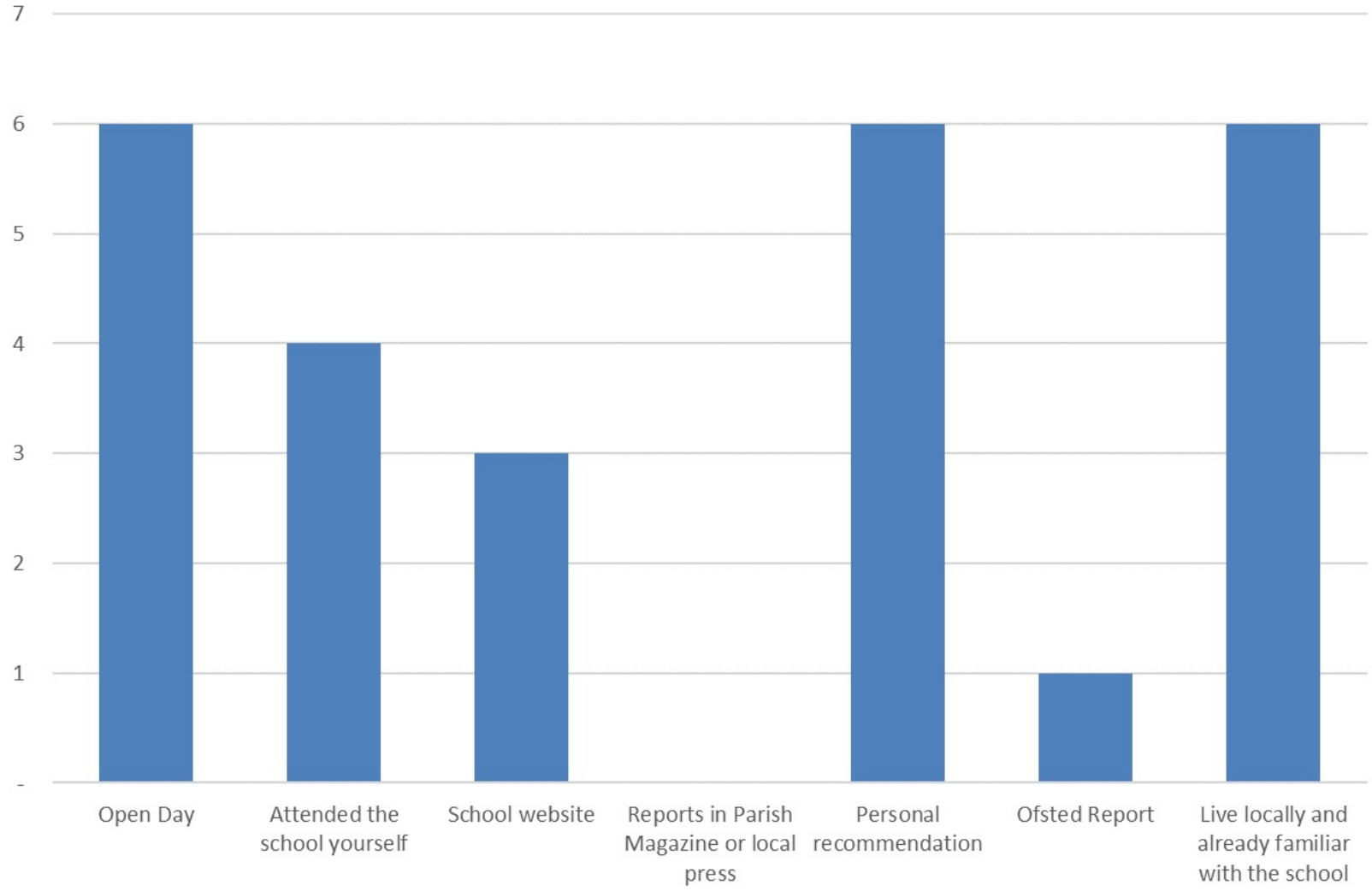
Less than 25% of respondents identified the following characteristics as greatest strengths

- Curriculum (23%)
- Extracurricular activities (12%)
- Facilities (2%)

Leigh Primary School's greatest strengths – additional strengths identified by respondents

- **"Continuing to utilise all the outdoor spaces including the school field/ forest school"**
- **"Academic progress is important but I love the way Leigh has always focused on the whole child"**
- **"Care for the children and friendliness"**

What information helped you make your choice of primary school for your child?



NB Question only applicable to those with children that joined in the past 12 months.

Factors that **increased** in popularity: Open day, Personal recommendation

Factors that **decreased** in popularity: School website, Ofsted report, Familiarity with the school

Information used in choice of primary school – further detail

Question only completed by 15 respondents with children who joined the school in the previous 12 months

The following sources of information were used by the largest proportions of respondents

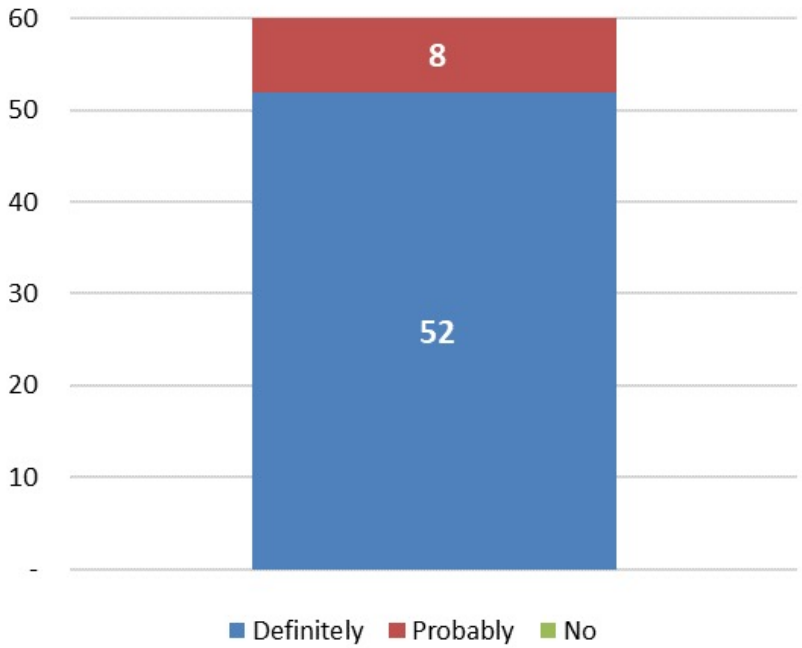
- Open Day (40%)
- Parental recommendation (40%)
- Live locally and already familiar with the school (40%)

No respondents used information from the Parish magazine or local press and only one respondent used the Ofsted Report on the school

Other factors mentioned in survey responses

- Speaking with the Headteacher
- Recommendation from a friend
- A chat with Mrs Burbridge in the office

Would you recommend Leigh Primary School to another parent?



87% of respondents would definitely recommend the school to another parent

100% of respondents would definitely or probably recommend the school to another parent

No respondents would not recommend the school to another parent

Significant improvement over 2018 survey

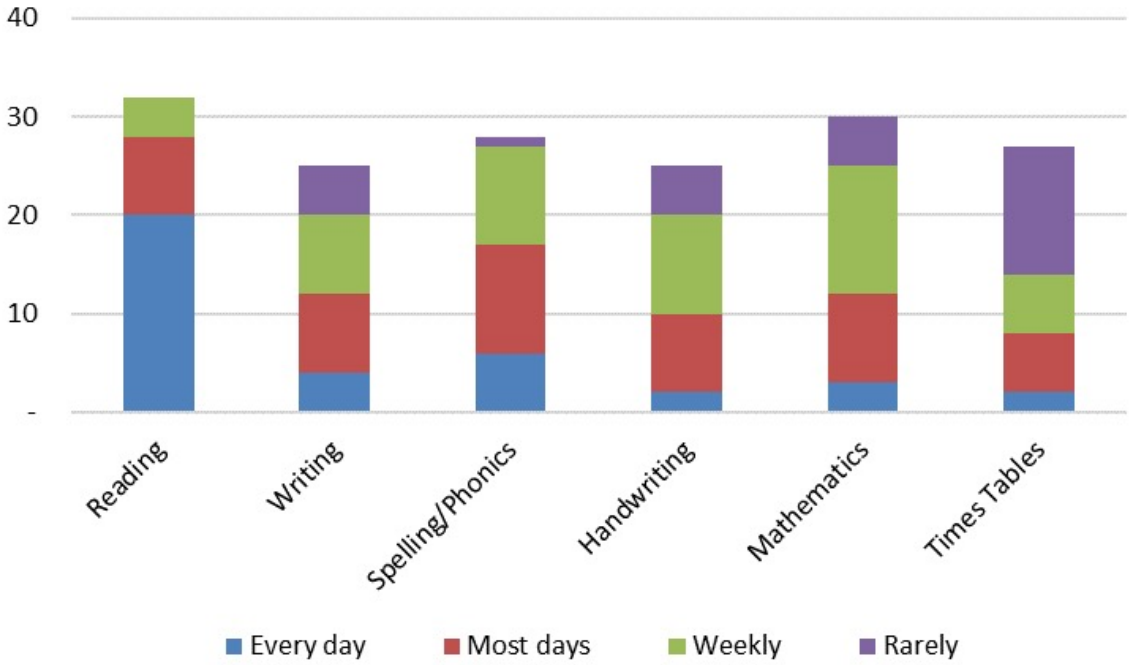
\+ “Very happy”, “friendly atmosphere and ethos”, “pastoral care is superb”, “welcoming and supportive”, “nurturing experience”, “extremely happy”

\- “The class split system is not for everyone and causes problems every year.”

Significant **improvement** over findings of 2018 Parental Survey

Supporting children at home: KS1

"How often do you help your Key Stage 1 child/children at home?"



63% of respondents help their children with reading every day, 88% every or most days

16% of respondents help their children with Writing every day, 48% every or most days

10% of respondents help their children with Maths every day, 40% every or most days

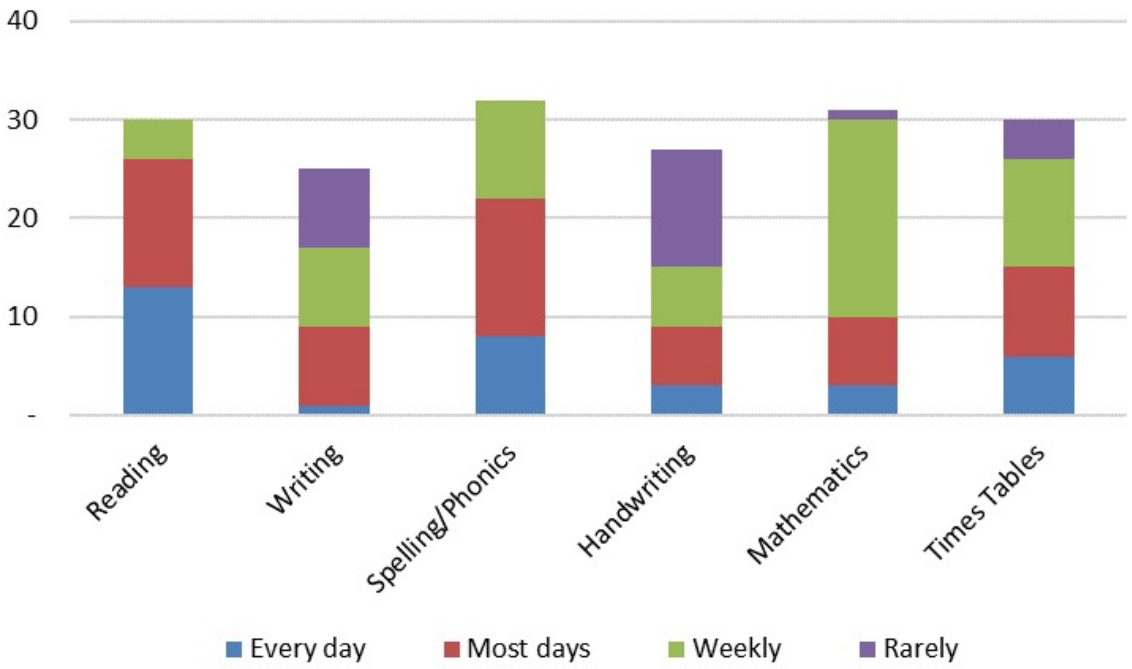
48% of respondents rarely help their children with Times Tables

Significant **decline** in proportion of respondents helping with Writing Everyday or Most days

Have not previously asked about help with Spelling/Phonics, Handwriting and Times Tables

Supporting children at home: KS2

"How often do you help your Key Stage 2 child/children at home?"



43% of respondents help their children with reading every day, 86% every or most days

4% of respondents help their children with Writing every day, 36% every or most days

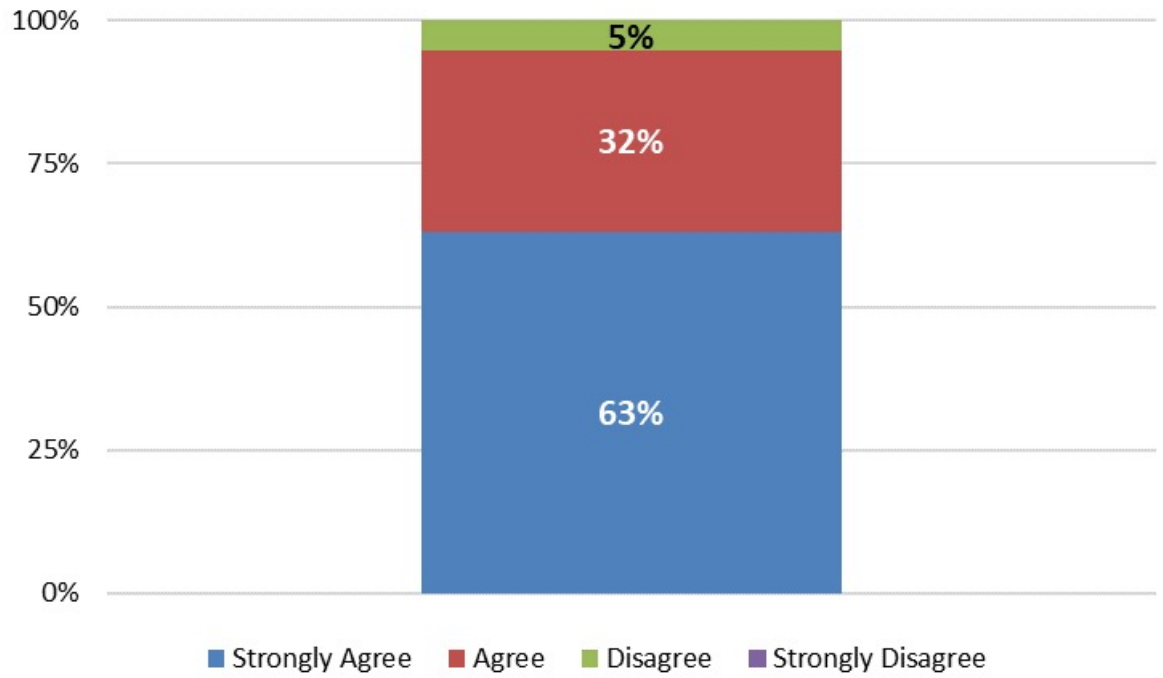
10% of respondents help their children with Maths every day, 33% every or most days

44% of respondents rarely help their children with Handwriting

Significant **increases** in proportion of respondents helping with Reading, Writing and Maths Everyday or Most days

Have not previously asked about help with Spelling/Phonics, Handwriting and Times Tables

Child acquired a wide range of skills in preparation for transition to Secondary School



95% of respondents Agreed or Strongly Agreed – significantly higher proportion than in 2018 survey

NB Only parents of recent Year 6 leavers asked to respond.

Significant **improvement** over findings of 2018 Parental Survey

Additional comments re transition to secondary school

- “My child acquired a wide range of skills at Leigh and was well prepared for transition to secondary school.”
- “The main gap was modern languages and computer science. Maths of year 7 and 8 were so far behind Leigh that my daughter was bored in maths lessons for the first 2 years of secondary!”
- “Despite the challenges of the pandemic my child was well prepared for secondary, well as much as is possible, time will tell!”
- “My child has been happy and confident in year 7.”
- “Mrs Pearson was instrumental in my child adapting to the move to secondary. She is an absolute gem.”

Suggestions on how the school could be further improved

- More teaching about climate change and environmental awareness with a focus on actions that can be taken
- A more consistent approach to setting homework and providing feedback across the classes
- Introduce a seventh class to eliminate the need for split year classes
- Greater use of the school field at break and lunch times
- More warning when help with transport is required from parents

What aspects of your children's emotional or academic development are you concerned about after the recent disruption to their education?

- Opportunities to socialise and develop friendships after lockdown
- Filling in gaps in coverage of the curriculum during home schooling
- Anxiety and loss of confidence on return to school
- Reduced standard of written work resulting from disruption of lockdown
- Decline in pupil's motivation for learning

Other comments received

"Wonderful school and staff with the children's wellbeing and development top priority"

"We are hoping for more school clubs"

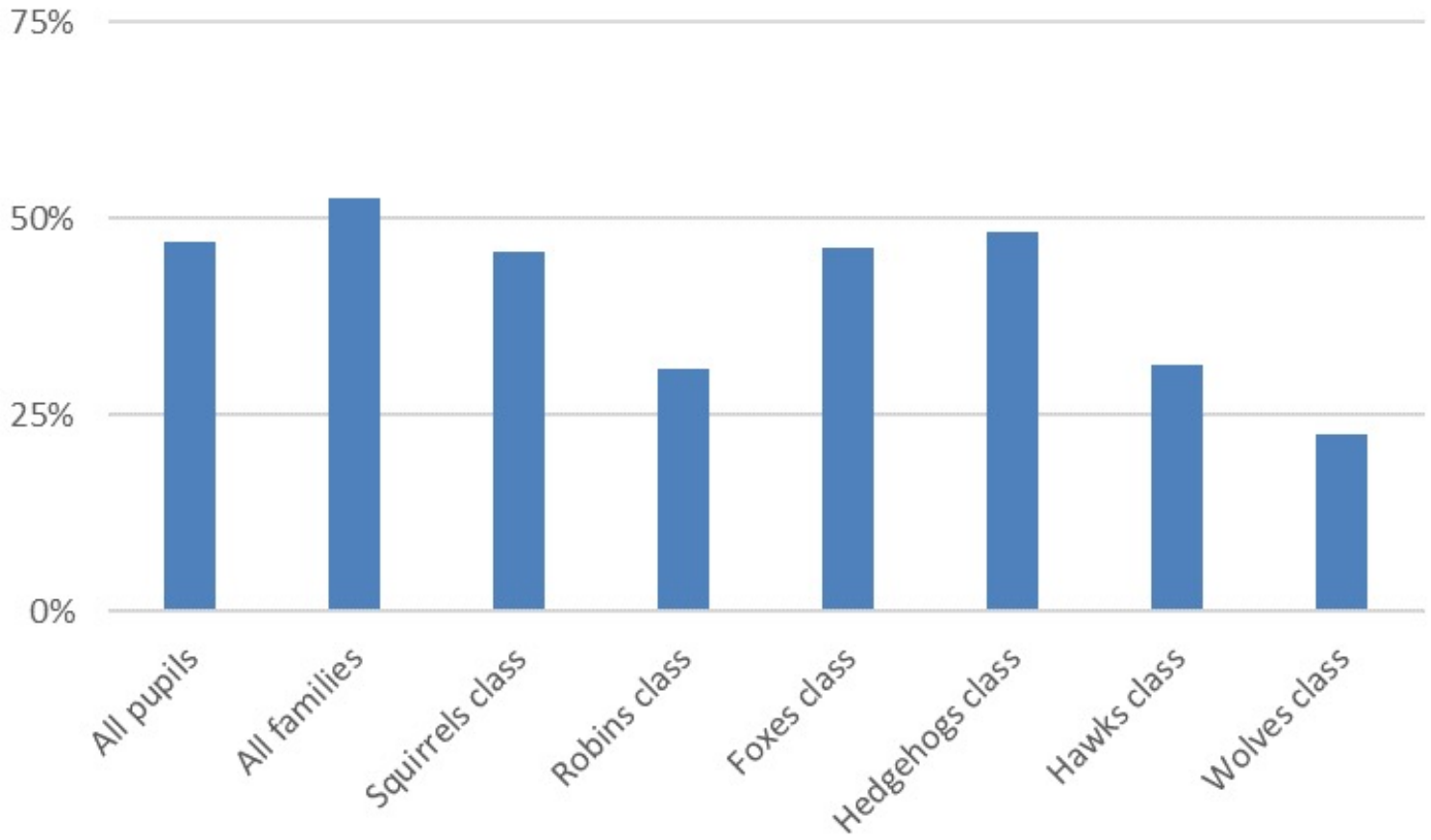
"The greater utilization of the school day (changes in start and end times, PE changing, etc) is excellent"

"Recognise children's achievements more fairly. Often the middle of the road kids get missed"

"Thank you for employing Mr Thacker for PE lessons … his enthusiasm and kindness is amazing"

"Leigh is a great school! I feel my children are cared for & I feel comfy in approaching teachers with any concerns."

Response rates



NB All figures are approximate because 17 respondents (28%) declined to indicate their children's classes