



# Highwood Primary School

Mead Way, Bushey, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD23 2AW

Tel: 01923 256210 E-mail: admin@highwood.herts.sch.uk

Promoting Resilience, Achieving Potential

Headteacher Mrs B Rai

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Parent/ Carer Survey Outcomes and Next Steps

Thank you very much to parents and carers for completing the questionnaire in November and for your comments and responses about our school. We had 111 responses. We have compiled the results and are pleased to present them to you. The results of this will be discussed and shared at the next governors' meeting and with staff so that we can make our school an even better place to be for pupils and parents. Parents' suggestions are gratefully received and will be considered as we set our school development priorities for the future.

| Question                                                                                                                | Number of responses % |       |          |                   |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|
|                                                                                                                         | Strongly agree        | Agree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't Know |
| The school is a safe and happy place                                                                                    | 40.5                  | 50.5  | 5.4      | 2.7               | 0.9        |
| Pupils in the school behave well                                                                                        | 14.4                  | 68.5  | 9        | 1.8               | 6.3        |
| Pupils are praised and rewarded for good work and behaviour                                                             | 35.1                  | 58.6  | 4.5      | 0.9               | 0.9        |
| The teachers give the children the encouragement and confidence they need to believe they can do it.                    | 40.4                  | 47.7  | 3.7      | 0                 | 8.3        |
| There is an adult in school who my child feels they can talk to if they have a personal problem                         | 24.3                  | 53.2  | 6.3      | 0.9               | 15.3       |
| The school teaches my child how to lead a healthy and active lifestyle and how to keep physically and mentally healthy. | 24.3                  | 58.6  | 5.4      | 0                 | 11.7       |
| The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.                                                  | 34.2                  | 59.5  | 6.3      | 0                 | 0          |
| The school supports my child's wider personal development.                                                              | 22.5                  | 54.1  | 9        | 1.8               | 12.6       |
| My child reports that they find their lessons interesting and often fun.                                                | 26.1                  | 59.5  | 7.2      | 0.9               | 6.3        |
| My child has SEND and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.                                           | 8.6                   | 13.3  | 7.6      | 0                 | 4.8        |
| <b>(Not applicable= 65.7)</b>                                                                                           |                       |       |          |                   |            |
| I would recommend this school to another parent.                                                                        | 45                    | 44.1  | 3.6      | 2.7               | 4.5        |



SILVER VERY GOOD TRAVEL PLAN 2021

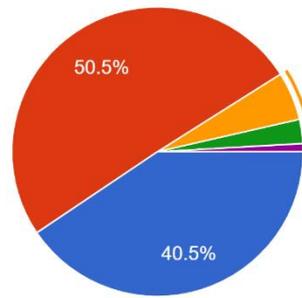


Eco-Schools Silver Award



The school is a safe and happy place.

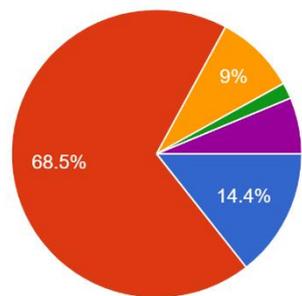
111 responses



- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Pupils in the school behave well.

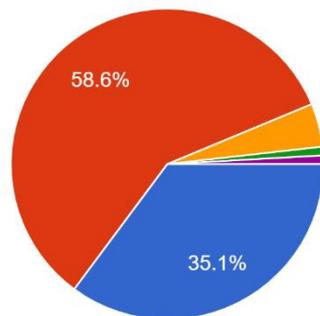
111 responses



- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Pupils are praised and rewarded for good work and behaviour.

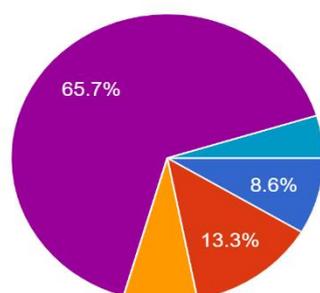
111 responses



- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

My child has SEND and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.

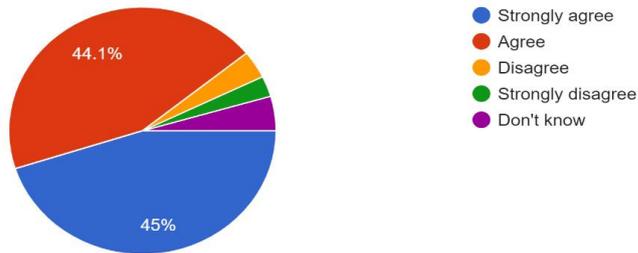
105 responses



- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- N/A
- Don't know

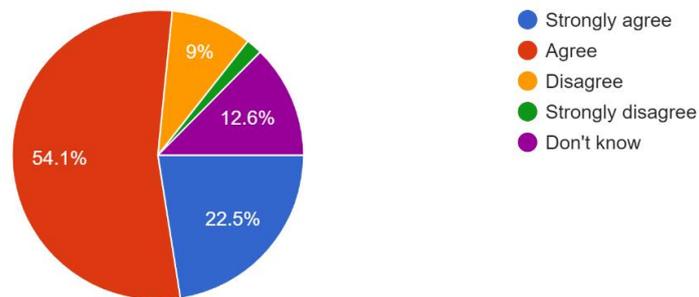
I would recommend this school to another parent.

111 responses



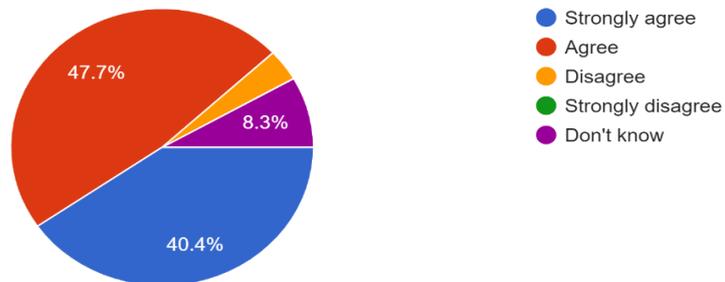
The school supports my child's wider personal development.

111 responses



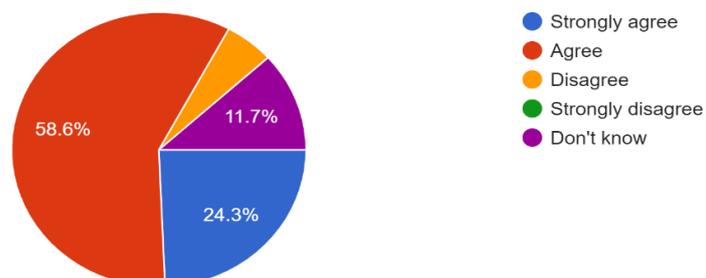
The teachers give the children the encouragement and confidence they need to believe they can do it.

109 responses



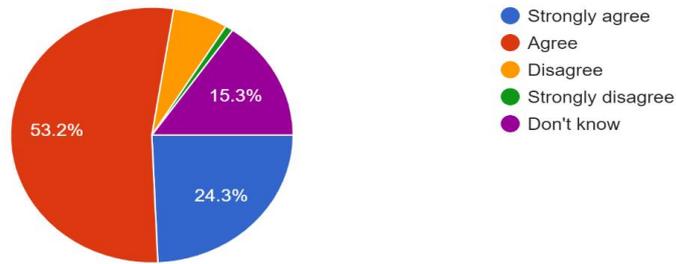
The school teaches my child how to lead a healthy and active lifestyle and how to keep physically and mentally healthy.

111 responses



There is an adult in school who my child feels they can talk to if they have a personal problem.

111 responses



**What are the school's greatest strengths?** 85 responses received.

**Here is a summary of the responses**

- Good communication, welcoming
- School facilities, building, open space
- Community spirit, diversity, social elements
- Acorn Nursery school teachers
- Friendly staff
- Committed compassionate teachers
- Good communication with parents
- Keeping parents well notified of anything happening within the school
- Safe happy place
- Great abundance of co-curricular activities
- Office staff are so kind and know exactly what they are doing. They run the school very well
- It's a school for everyone. The parents and the teachers want the children to have a good experience. Everyone looks out for each other
- Approachable staff members throughout the school
- Education safety
- Diverse team of staff and commitment to strive for meeting each child's need
- Teachers are approachable
- It feels inclusive. I love how my daughter's teachers have discussions with her about the differences people have when issues about skin colour and how people used to be treated. It is encouraging to see.
- Very organised, and best teaching and teachers
- Nurturing the children to achieve their full potential
- Creating a safe environment for the children to learn
- Lots of opportunities to learn about different cultures and helping those in need
- Environment, lovely school with warm ethos and culture
- Email communication
- Encouragement and pastoral care
- Friendly, welcoming, progressing, excellent handling Covid, beautiful environment and facilities.
- A great team. The teachers that have taught my children have all taken time to understand how my children learn most effectively, and what might trigger any anxieties (and this is actively managed and they are gently encouraged and helped to overcome anxieties). The teachers make learning fun and encourage social

development, inclusion and kindness. They were all extremely supportive of both pupils and parents in what has been an unprecedented and very difficult 18 months (COVID).

- Pastoral care / enriching the curriculum / strong leadership / emotional and mental wellbeing of pupils
- Good community feeling, very inclusive, nurturing, caring, creative and pro active

#### **What could we improve?** 78 responses

- Better communication between teachers and parents. More proactive communication for SEN children, beginning interventions earlier each term.
- More fun, more school trips to make up for the loss of the last two years
- Better choice for school dinners
- Communication regarding classroom issues
- Marking/acknowledging homework weekly
- More time to do homework
- Updating the parents on what their child is learning, wellbeing at school, behaviour and development more regularly
- Variety of after school clubs
- Parking and morning drop off
- Fewer children per class, so they can have more attention
- More reading with teacher one on one to ensure level is accurate and they are excelling
- More trees, more eco-friendly, napkins at lunch
- Some teachers should push the children to achieve their best and give them enough confidence and attention
- Revisiting when children are allowed to use a pen and that writing with a pencil doesn't always mean it will be neater
- Online learning journals for EYFS to have more regular communication with parents and for ease for staff - just a thought, I know they aren't for every school.
- Rotate days of book looks. Introduce spelling tests and times tables from year 2. Also homework feels like a choice not something should be done
- Discipline of disruptive students. Bullying is an issue and must be improved
- Low lying disruption in lessons - which contributes significantly to poor overall achievement
- A little bit more nurturing when children are having a tough time. Drop off for year 1 doesn't always feel safe, they are a bit rushed in a feel lost in the crowd, if the child is struggling to go in or is tearful, sometimes no one to help
- Easier communication with class teacher
- Less homework. Would be nice to have possibility to spend some time with kids in the classroom so they can show us favourite toys and activities (but suppose it's not possible in current situation)
- Give more homework and more opportunities to push the children to excel
- Better and regular information on what topics are covered in the class maybe on weekly basis
- If it is possible to send weekly emails with updates as opposed to several emails in a day and during the week that would be great as it is easy to track the information coming. Unless any emergency information required of course. Sometimes the emails are too many to keep up with and information gets lost
- School updates and changes communicated with more notice.
- Rewarding good behaviour

- The behaviour of some of the children ruin the environment for many of the children. I feel the school has been too lenient on these children. Some of the behaviour has been not only disruptive but dangerous and I find it hard to believe these children remain pupils. This has been an issue since year 1 and slowly got worse through the years
- More SEN staff across the school
- Volume of cars sat stationary with engines running at school gates. Highlighting Co2 emissions
- The return of class assemblies would be great. More maths and English homework
- Dealing with bullying
- Comments on weekly homework are usually a couple of words, would be helpful to have a few more comments so parents know the child is doing ok, also very motivational for the child to have a bit more feedback each week (not just 'well done' or 'good work' but a bit more specific
- Parent app...Dojo ?
- Keep the doors closed on the classrooms - the kids are too cold
- More reminders of school activities via email. Better time management by teachers, or an acceptance that too much is being attempted. I am constantly told by my children that 'we ran out of time, so we couldn't do PE, go to the library, do our spelling test,' etc.
- I believe one of the toughest challenges that this generation of kids face as they grow up is social media pressures, online bullying and online safety. I think it is important for the school and parents to work together to really help the kids to understand key areas of online activity - e.g. how to keep themselves safe, effects and consequences of online bullying and posting inappropriate comments/images, how social media can make you feel about yourself and recognising that not all you see on the internet is real - etc. (This might be covered already in the older years, mine are in year 1 and 3)
- Include more in school and after school clubs
- More pastoral/emotional wellbeing help
- When possible (in view of covid restrictions) to involve parents more within the school, continue to develop the "open-door policy" engagement
- More detail given as to book bands and levels of expected attainment re year groups. Details of how to challenge the kids if they wanted to prepare for the 11+
- More information regarding the curriculum and how you teach particular methods e.g. in maths.
- New to meetings not a convenient time for working parents and neither are book looks. Can you offer more information about teaching in the form of workshops or pre- recorded videos? Would be good to see more enrichment opportunities
- Such a shame there are non-sports clubs run by the school and very few after school clubs.
- Clubs in school, perhaps having them student led. We feel children need a more all round experience and opportunity. For example more exposure to different sports, like table tennis, badminton... And other activities like chess club, coding club, debating club.... Perhaps run during lunch times

### **What are the three most important issues we should address in the next year?**

63 responses

- A lot of activities and providing information for parents
- Environment issues

- Behavioural issues
- Safety
- Internet safety, road safety and understanding emotions

Thank you for taking the time to evaluate the findings.

The school team are already underway with making improvements and we will give you an update towards the end of the spring term.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Bindu Rai  
Headteacher