

Rowsley C of E Primary School

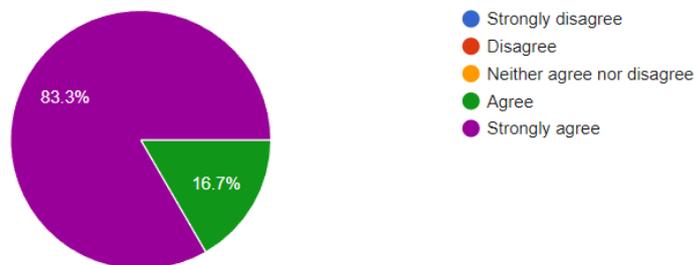
Parent Survey – December 2023

The Results

Thank you very much to parents and carers for completing the questionnaire, and for your comments and responses about the education that we offer your child/ren. We had 36 responses and are pleased to present the results and our comments to you.

1. My child is happy at this school

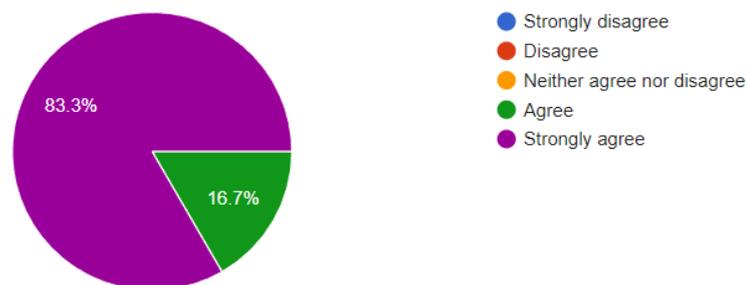
12 responses



100% of parents agree or strongly agree that their child is happy at our school. This makes 100% of our staff happy and certainly reflects what we see from our children in school.

2. My child feels safe at this school

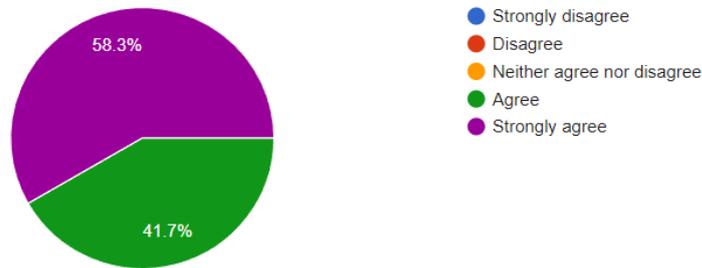
12 responses



100% of you have told us that children feel safe at school. For children to learn properly they need to feel safe. We work hard to make our pupils feel safe and they know that their viewpoints are valued and actioned upon. We have a child-friendly complaints policy displayed in every classroom and all pupils know who our designated safeguarding leads are.

3. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved

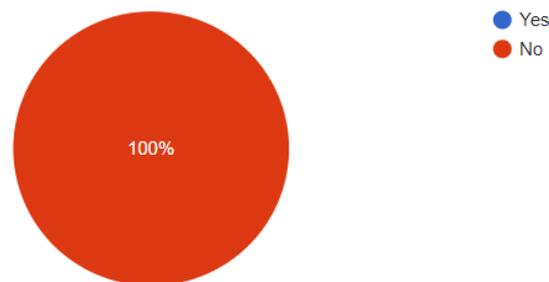
12 responses



100% of parents agree or strongly agree that we make sure our pupils are well behaved. Behaviour is very important to us and we work hard on our behaviour management to ensure that all of our pupils behave well and are respectful of the rules. We believe that behaviour at our school is very good and every effort goes into ensuring that no-one's education is interrupted by poor behaviour. We continue to work on our behaviour strategies and will readily adapt them to suit individual needs. We review our behaviour log regularly and address any repeated behaviours.

4. My child has been bullied

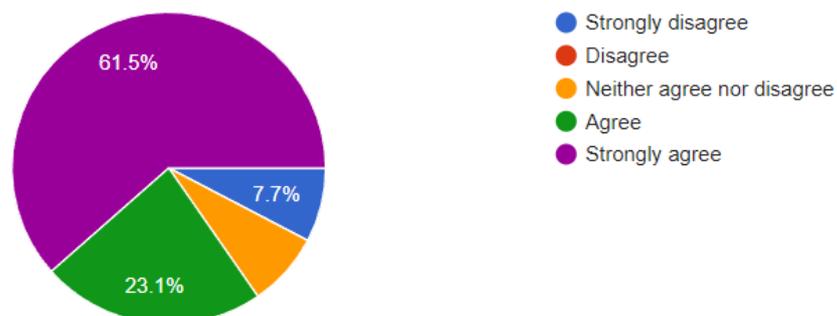
12 responses



100% of our parents state that their child has not been bullied. This is fantastic to hear as we work hard on building positive relationships between all our children. We discuss what children should do and how to report it in PSHE lessons and parents can always talk to staff should they have any concerns.

5. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year

13 responses



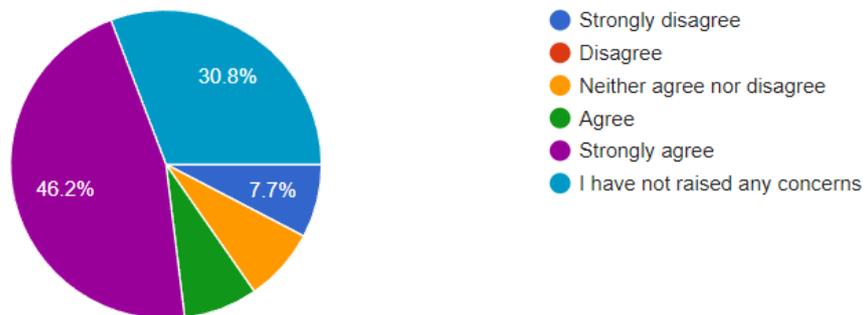
Although the majority of parents felt that they were aware of what their child is learning in school, not all parents felt fully informed.

Please note that parents are provided with one formal written report per year and are invited to two parent consultations during the academic year. This is standard practice at the majority of primary schools.

Work is shared regularly on our social media accounts and is also included on our monthly newsletter. If you would like specific information regarding the learning of your child, please ask your child's teacher. You can speak to your child's teacher, Mrs Wyer or myself, at the beginning or end of every day.

6. When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly

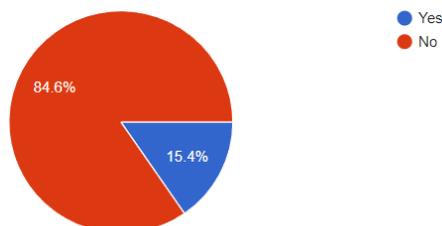
13 responses



I am pleased to find that the vast majority of concerns that you have raised have been dealt with properly. If you feel that a concern you have raised has not been dealt with, or you are not happy with how it was dealt with, please come and see myself or Mrs Wyer. We always take any concerns you have seriously. You can also contact our chair of governors to report any concerns you have that you feel have not been dealt with appropriately by school.

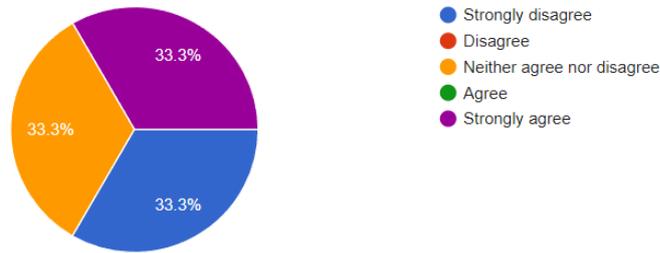
7. Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)?

13 responses



If answered yes to the above: My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.

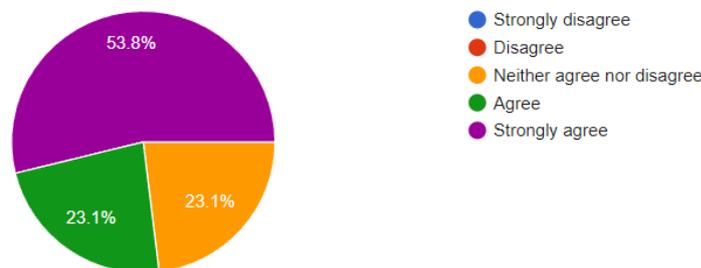
3 responses



Although this chart shows that 33% disagree, in this instance it represents just one parent, as only three responses were received. The staff at Rowsley CoFE School work extremely hard to ensure that **all** our pupils can thrive. We are saddened to read that one of our parents did not feel that we supported their child's SEND needs. We would like all of our SEND parents to agree. If you are not happy with the support provided for your child, please come and speak to us at your earliest convenience and we will work together to ensure that your child is supported. If anyone would like more information on how we support your child's special educational needs, please speak to our SENDCo Mrs Hodgson or your child's class teacher.

8. The school has high expectations of my child

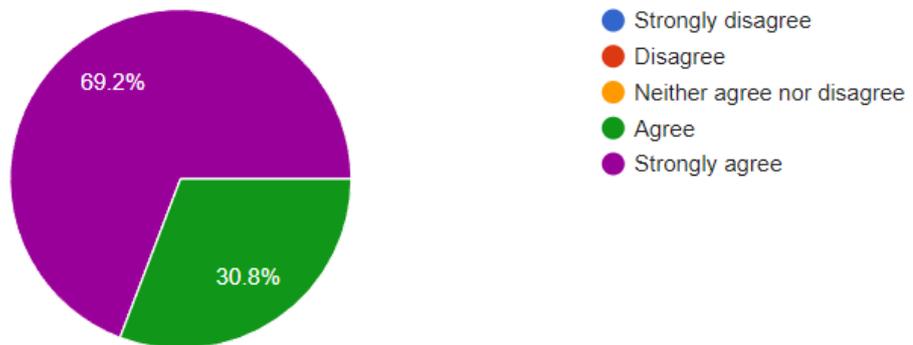
13 responses



We have high expectations of all our children whatever their needs and encourage each child to be the best they can be. We appreciate that children work at different paces and levels and our class work is adapted to suit their needs. We assess regularly in order to make sure that we are pitching lessons and work at the level appropriate for each child.

9. My child does well at this school

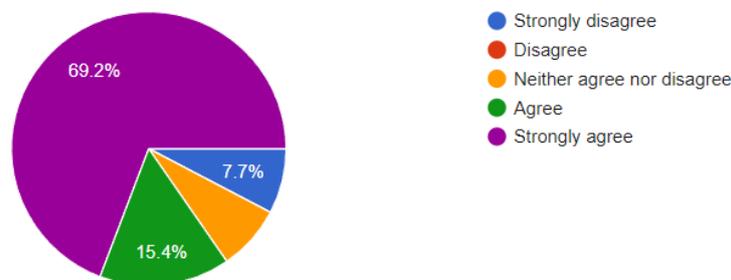
13 responses



We are really pleased that 100% of our parents agree that their child does well at our school. We continually strive to ensure that your children thrive whilst they are with us. We have worked hard to create a challenging but enjoyable curriculum to ensure that your children receive the very best education. Expectations with their behaviour is continually referred to and refreshed when appropriate. We will continue to ensure that our School Improvement Plan, training days and staff meetings are focused to ensure that we keep improving for your children.

10. The school lets me know how my child is doing

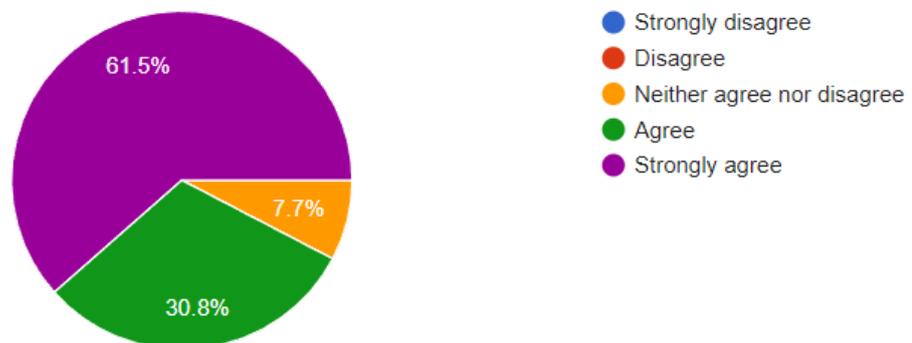
13 responses



84.6% of parents feel that school communicates well regarding their child's attainment and progress. As previously mentioned, we will continue to have parent consultations twice a year and we will provide a personalised written report at the end of the school year. We are happy to speak to parents at any point during the year regarding your child's progress, please just ask.

11. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.

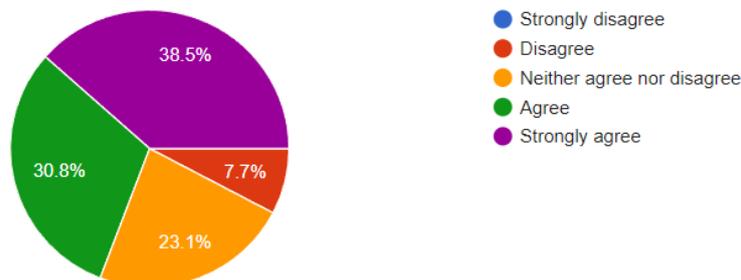
13 responses



As a school we have to follow the National Curriculum which tells us which subjects we must teach, but we also have weekly Forest School sessions for all year groups, which give the children the opportunity to be free and outdoors. For more information regarding the subjects that we teach in school, please see our school website. If you would like any more information on subjects in the National Curriculum, please ask your child's class teacher, Mrs Wyer or myself.

12. My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.

13 responses



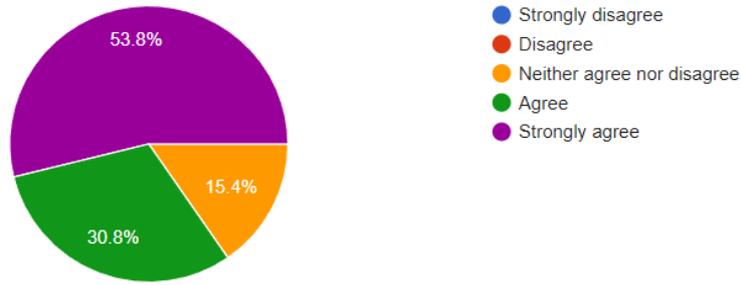
We are glad to hear that a majority of you are pleased with the range of activities offered. Pupils can get involved with a different sport each lunchtime and ALL children can attend our After School Club for a small cost. During school we offer a choir club in the run up to Christmas, and there is currently a Collective Worship Club at lunchtimes and a maths homework club for Y5/6 on a Monday after school. We previously used Progressive Sports to deliver a sports club once a week, however this was cancelled due to poor uptake.

School is open for parents to drop their children off from 8am every morning, again for only a small fee.

We also offer a range of music tuition in school time, please let us know if you would like to start music lessons.

13. The school supports my child's wider personal development.

13 responses



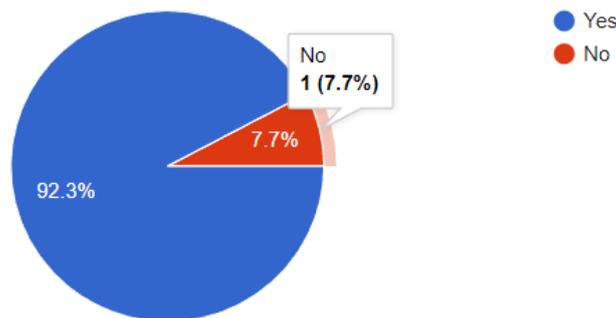
We are extremely proud of the pastoral care that is offered at our school. The school staff work tirelessly to ensure that we are supporting our pupils' wider personal development. We introduce children to courageous advocates, British Values as well as teaching about Christian Values in Collective Worship and the wider curriculum. Our PSHE curriculum ensures that we tackle issues such as bullying, growing up and feelings.

We offer positive play and play therapy sessions to pupils who need some extra emotional support. We also have our fabulous sensory room which offers a quiet space for our children should they need some quiet time or a sensory break. We also have a Family Support Worker, who can assist families in a wide range of areas.

If you feel that your child may need additional pastoral support, please see your child's teacher, Mrs Wyer, Mrs Chisholm or myself.

14. I would recommend this school to another parent.

13 responses



We are pleased that the majority of parents would recommend us. If you are unhappy with our school we welcome your suggestions as to how we can support you better - please come and speak to us. As a staff, we feel that we are always there for the parents and the children; offering support both in and out of school. Mrs Wyer and I are really proud of the attitude of our staff.

15. What do you think are the positives about our School?

Below are some of your lovely comments towards the school and teaching staff.

- Rowsley has friendly and supportive staff – they really seem to care
- There is a great community atmosphere where everyone feels involved
- Rowsley has a lovely family atmosphere
- Parents like that we are a small, friendly school with a great community atmosphere
- Staff are wonderful, kind and caring to all the children and parents
- The classrooms are fun and inviting with work and photos of the children everywhere
- My child strives to do work that will be put on display
- Staff set goals that my child wants to work towards and is proud of when he reaches them
- Communication and behavior management are fabulous at Rowsley
- All staff members appear to work as a strong team and my child has come on tremendously since he started. Thank you
- There is a great community spirit, team work is evident and there is mental health care for all
- Children are treated as individuals
- Rowsley has a nice environment, approachable teachers and great outdoor activities

It was great to read these comments as they show how we want our school to be reflected, we love working with your children. Thank you for your continued support.

16. How can we make further improvements?

Thank you for your comments on how we can improve our school. You raised some good points, many of which I addressed in our December newsletter but will address again below. If you raised a concern, but do not feel it has been addressed, please do come and see me or Mrs Wyer and we will happily discuss how we can move forward.

- I would like to be updated more
- Communication between school and parents could be a bit clearer

We issue a monthly newsletter to keep you informed, all dates are shown on the school website and on the boards in both playgrounds, we regularly put updates on our social media pages (Instagram and Facebook), and on our class pages on the school website. We also keep you updated on ParentHub and have at least two members of staff on the gate every morning and afternoon to address any issues that you may want to discuss. As a school we do not feel that we can communicate any more effectively, however we welcome suggestions as to how we could improve.

- The star system could be clearer so parents can help children work towards the bronze, silver and gold awards

These are displayed in every classroom and are discussed regularly with the children so that they know what they are working towards. The targets are also displayed on the school website so parents can help support their child should they wish – we are unable to display children's names and where the pupils are up to on the school website due to data protection rules. If you would like to know where your child is up to within these awards, please speak to your child's class teacher.

- I think the school should be sending pupils in and out of the main entrance of the school at the beginning and end of the school day, so it is easier for parents to pick up and drop off. I also think that we should go back to ringing the bell and the end and start of the day so pupils leave and enter at the same time.

We are unable to send pupils in and out of the main entrance for several reasons, primarily for the safeguarding of our children. We have to make sure that each child goes home with the right person, and if all parents congregated in one place it would make it quite unsafe on the road. The school building is old and the corridors are narrow, therefore having over 60 children travelling through the corridors at the same time could cause accidents. We are going to go back to ringing the bell at 9am – this will signify the closing of the school doors and the start of the day.

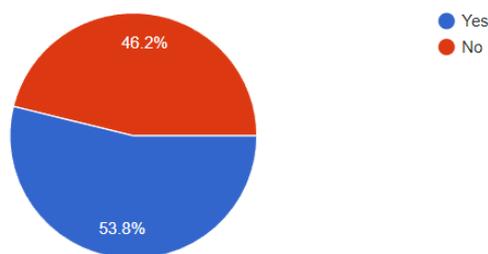
- I feel the school has lost its community feel over the last couple of years and they only care about the day to day things, not as part of the village community.

We are sorry that one parent feels this way, as many of the positives state how much families like our community feel. We certainly do care about the day to day things as they are very important, but there are many lovely community activities that also take place - Church services, Carols in the Community, performances, well dressing etc. We were hindered during the pandemic as to how much we could do, but we are certainly getting our community aspects back on track, many of which were mentioned in our last newsletter. The newsletter is available for all of the community to read on our website, and we also write a piece for each issue of the Rowsley village newsletter.

If you would like to discuss how we could become more involved in the local community, please do let us know. If any members of the local community would like to get involved with school, our fabulous Friends of Rowsley School would love to hear from you and would appreciate your support.

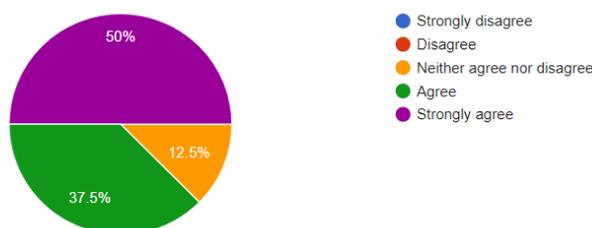
17. Have you used the After School Club?

13 responses



If yes to the above question, has your child been happy at the club?

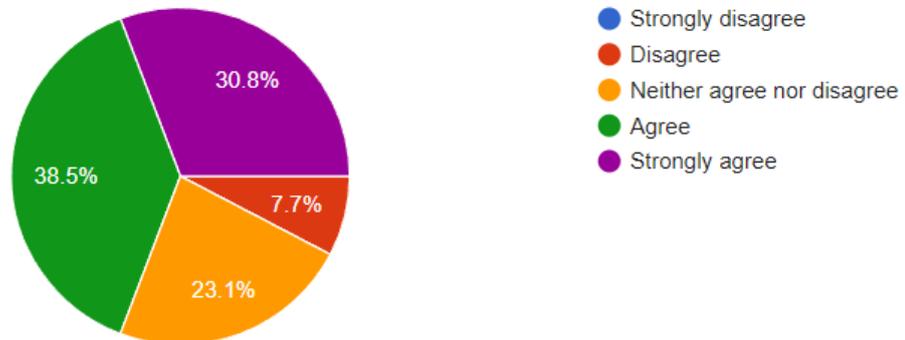
8 responses



We are glad that you are pleased with our After School Club, we still have spaces should you wish to enroll your child. The children do lots of fun activities both indoors and outdoors. The After School Club is run by Mrs Chisholm (Mon & Tues) and Miss Bacon (Weds & Thurs).

18. I understand the roles and responsibilities of the governing body

13 responses



If you would like to understand the role of the governing body, please visit our website where you will find more information about the roles and responsibilities of our governors. If you would like to volunteer your time to join our governing body and support our school, please get in touch. We meet at least 6 times a year and meetings can last from 1 to 3 hours. They are very informative meetings. The governing body is made up of staff and parents from both schools in the federation and also members of the wider community, all of whom have our schools' best interests at heart.

19. What are your hopes for the future of our school?

And finally, most parents reiterated points mentioned in questions 15 and 16, which I have already addressed. Some further comments were:

- My family loves this school and we want it to grow, I would like to see some changes to the outdoor areas to make it look tidier and certain areas of the playground cleaned of moss so children do not slip.

We agree and are making plans to improve the frontage of our school. With money previously raised and government funding, we will be creating a new infant playground and improving the grassed areas at the front of school. We also have some other exciting plans in the pipeline for our school which we hope to share with you soon!

We do not have a school caretaker, but we do have the wonderful Mr Meakin (our school cleaner) who goes above and beyond to clear the grounds of the leaves, which due to the tree coverage is a never ending job.

In recent years we have introduced more play equipment such as trikes and a basketball net, but these can make the school look untidy. We do have plans to store these more effectively but at the moment these are kept at the side of the school. All sandbags have now been removed from the front of the school.

If you would like to volunteer to raise funds for new equipment or volunteer your time to help clean our playground and make it more aesthetically pleasing, please do contact us as we have a limited budget for this.

- We would like more things for parents to get involved with.

This is brilliant and we would love to have you. If you would like to start volunteering at school and can commit to a regular slot to hear readers, then you are more than welcome. Alternatively, if you have a particular skill set i.e. gardening, then we would love to have you come and keep on top of our school grounds. As previously mentioned, the Friends of Rowsley School are always looking for volunteers to help at school fairs, discos and other events, and you are always welcome to apply for a role on the governing body.

- To continue developing, with mental health as a priority for staff, children and parents. And to continue the strong belief in the children and helping them believe in themselves.

We certainly will continue with this as it seems to be working really well and it is very important to us. We have systems in place that the children know and are comfortable with i.e. every class has a worry monster toy which is checked regularly and the children are happy discussing issues with staff. We also have Family Support Worker (Mrs. Chisholm) who is available every Monday and Tuesday to specifically support parents and children who may need it. She is a wonderful asset to our school and does a tremendous job supporting both parents and children. Please make an appointment to see her or Mrs Wyer if you require support for yourself.

Our School Improvement Plan is centered around ensuring that our children grow up to be curious, lifelong learners who hold Christian values dear and live 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10b).

- A more organised start to the day and less staff changes.

I will admit to being confused by this comment as the start of day is the same every day and we believe it is well-organised and well-run. There is a member of staff on the gate every morning to welcome your child into school and we always have time for a quick chat and cheery good morning with our parents. It is one of the highlights of our day. Staff stand at the gate come rain or shine. We open the gates at approximately 8.50am but school does not technically start until 9am. We open up 10 minutes earlier to stagger the amount of cars using the road and in order for parents to leave for work before 9am should they need to.

We have an excellent record for staff retention. Each member of the teaching and wider support team has now been in place for at least 3 years and are committed to our school. We have had some changes in Teaching Assistants in the last few years, but we now have a full staff and hope that they are here to stay! We are pleased with our staffing team and the consistency of the class teachers. Our team are fully committed to Rowsley, its pupils, parents and community. I have been at Rowsley for 10 years now and have no intention of leaving in the near future!

Thank you to all parents that completed the survey. Myself, Mrs Wyer, the staff and governors thank you for your comments and suggestions. We have taken them onboard and hopefully you will see some of these points put into practice soon. If anyone would like to speak to Mrs Wyer or myself directly regarding concerns or issues you may have, then I encourage you to do so. You can also email us at c.hewitt@peaktorfederation.co.uk or a.wyer@peaktorfederation.co.uk

Kind regards,

Claire Hewitt
Deputy Headteacher