

**Ryarsh Primary School
Parent Survey 2017**

This year we received 41 responses to our annual Parent Survey – thank you for taking the time to share your views.

A brief summary of the responses is as follows:

	% responses 'strongly agree' and 'agree'
My child is happy at this school	100%
My child feels safe at this school	100%
My child makes good progress at this school	100%
My child is well looked after at this school	100%
My child is taught well at this school	100%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	85%
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	98%
The school deals effectively with bullying	34% with 54% 'don't know'
The school is well led and managed	93% with 5% 'don't know'
The school responds well to any concerns I raise	85% with 13% 'don't know'
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	93%
I would recommend our school to another parent	100% Yes

Further data is available on the attached document, showing the breakdown of responses to each question. Although the number of survey responses received this year was lower than in previous years, the level of satisfaction is higher than ever. We were particularly pleased with the 100% agreement with the first five statements.

Overall, the recurring themes on 'what our school does well' are:

- **We create a safe environment for our children.** At Ryarsh we are proud to be a school with a strong sense of community. In each of our 2017 surveys (for parents, children, staff and governors) the question on children's safety consistently received the highest percentage of 'strongly agree' responses.
- **We make learning fun.** Several parents' responses refer to a love of learning among our children. We work hard to make lessons interesting and fun, while also creating special events, including visitors, visits and theme days to really bring learning to life.
- **We build children's self-esteem.** Through a balance of supportive learning environments, high expectations and individual support, we challenge our children and allow them to take risks, creating positive attitudes to learning.

Some of your comments on what our school does well from the 2017 survey:

Ryarsh creates a lovely learning and community environment where children love coming to school.

Lots of effort in the additional events such as clubs, assemblies, topic/visits, trips etc. It enriches the children's experience and gets them energised.

The school has nurtured and encouraged my child's self-esteem, confidence and overall pride in her work and learning journey. She is happy and excited to attend school on a daily basis.

I feel that the Ryarsh team are doing a fantastic job. My child is happy, relaxed and excited about learning. I am confident that all of the staff involved in my child's care are professional, kind and compassionate and have my child's best interests at heart. I think that the leadership is strong and provides an excellent example to the whole school. Thank you for your continued care and support.

Ryarsh is a wonderful school with excellent teaching and support staff. It is friendly and welcoming and my children are really looked after. I also believe that they bring the best out in my children which is why they are doing so well. Thank you!

Ryarsh works to my children's needs using materials that interest my children. By doing this my children love learning and progress comes on in leaps and bounds.

Ryarsh continually challenges her, even when she's doing well.

Additional support is identified and help put into place where necessary very quickly.

Wonderful school, so thrilled my daughter is attending. Feels like a wonderful community we have joined.

At the same time, we also conduct our annual surveys for children, staff and governors. Together with parents' views, these responses build up a picture of our school.

Comments from our children:

It's a safe and wonderful place to be in - sometimes I wish I lived here.

I love it at Ryarsh. Everyone is really friendly and supportive.

The lessons are really fun and the school dinners are really yummy! The field and playground are really big and fun to play on.

All the staff, teachers and TAs are really caring and super nice. The teachers are amazing and lessons are fun and interesting!

The teachers are really kind, understanding and funny but they still teach you and keep you well behaved.

Comments from staff:

All staff members work together well and support each other making it a friendly school environment for children, parents and staff.

This is a great school to work in. You are allowed to teach to your own strengths as well as being continually challenged to develop, improve and do the very best for each child in our care.

I feel that currently we have a really positive and strong team at Ryarsh.

This year it has been pleasing to see themes from previous years' surveys recurring and showing that improvements have been well received.

For example, several parents noted improvements in our provision of **extra-curricular clubs**. Our range of clubs have increased over time and we ensure that we do offer a good choice of after-school and lunchtime clubs for a school of our size. One parent's comment was typical: "After school clubs have improved a lot in terms of variety for all age groups."

Some parents would like to see more varied clubs from outside providers and this is something we will continue to offer whenever we can. For example, in the summer term we are offering a new after school Cricket club in conjunction with West Malling Cricket Club.

Homework is always a subject which we receive detailed feedback in our parent surveys. This year, 85% agreed that children receive appropriate homework for their age, an increase from 81% last year. We currently have a balance between optional topic-based homework and a weekly home learning task which we expect children to complete. We do also provide a weekly in-school lunchtime homework club which provides the option for children to complete their homework at school, should you wish to take this up.

School dinners were the subject of a number of comments this year. The contract holder for providing catering services to schools has recently changed, leading to a change in the payment systems and menu options. Despite the changes, we are still working with the same fantastic team of kitchen staff and we all want children to enjoy their school meals. We can and do change the menu to include choices that our children prefer – this has happened this year due to feedback from children and parents. We do also ask children their opinion on school meals and pass this back to our caterer. Although feedback in the parents' survey was mixed, interestingly our children's survey showed that children enjoy their school meals - eight children made positive comments about their school meals (eg "the school dinners are really yummy!) and we did not receive any negative comments from children.

Our **home-school communication systems** have been well received, with 84% saying that the alterations made this year have been useful. As our children are lucky to benefit from such positive levels of home support, as a school we do work hard to create a partnership with parents so that we can all work together. There are a number of different ways for you to make contact with school staff, for example, class-based staff are always available on the playground at 3.15 daily for a brief chat. You can also put a note or comment in children's reading records, contact us by phone or book a longer appointment with any member of staff via the school office. Additionally, a member of staff is always on duty at the school office at the beginning of the school day to ensure younger children have a smooth start to the day and to take messages to class.

Finally, thank you once again for taking the time to complete this year's survey. All your responses have been noted and they do form part of our decision making. While we are all incredibly proud of our school and our children's achievements, there are always ways in which we can make further improvements – living up to our school motto 'forward thinking for a brighter future'.

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