



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School

Parent Questionnaire Results 2017

Q1: What made you choose St Matthews over other local schools?

- Catholic school
- Nursery initially then realised how good school was, small size and feel of everyone knows everyone
- Quality of education based upon available information, then sibling attendance
- Good reputation
- It's size and it's links with its faith even if you are nonpartisan to religious beliefs
- Initially it was more to do with personal reasons; my child did not like the middle school she was supposed to go to and I wanted her to go to St Thomas More but I would have never moved her if I hadn't heard good things about the school
- It's reputation and the fact it fed into St Thomas More
- I attended this school as a child, and we are Catholics
- Lovely school which has helped my son improve drastically
- It had a more nurturing ethos. I liked that it was smaller, part of the 'two tier' system. Being a faith school was also important factor too
- I didn't have much say
- Catholic, small class sizes, good ofsted results, friendly and fun
- Aside from religious values, as a smaller school. With smaller class sizes we believe that the children will get more attention from the teachers than other larger schools
- Recommended from neighbours and a feeder school
- Good feedback, sense of community, religion, small classes
- We wanted our children to go to a catholic school and we moved to the area knowing this would be the only one close by. After visiting the nursery when our son was a baby we were very impressed by the knowledge and enthusiasm shown by Mrs Hatherly and how caring all of the nursery staff were
- Knowing that it was a feeder school for St Thomas mores was a big factor and the small class sizes and tight knit community feel of the school.
- I wanted to send my children to a catholic school as I feel these schools are always a higher level of education . My nephews attended the school and they did very well therefore there was no choice for me. I attended St Matthews when it was the old school and was always high standard then
- Catholic education, positive ethos and welcoming approach
- St Thomas More is the secondary school. My children are Roman Catholic
- Heard it was good school and wanted best for my child, also was handy for the child minder we had at the time as she already collected from here.
- Good level of education in faith schools
- Christian outlook, family feel, focus on moral grounding for children, close for walking to both carers, have previous experience of other local primary and was very dissatisfied with the attitude of other school.
- I attended the school as a child and had fond memories. After visiting the school I felt it suited my child's needs well. I like the size of the school as it's not too large.
- It is a Catholic school. The nursery - I was very impressed by it when my son had a taster day, especially with Mrs Hatherly and her philosophy of education.
- I wanted my son to go to a Catholic school but I also loved how small it is as soon as I looked at the nursery I sensed a real sense of community and that he wouldnt be lost in a huge class/year group.
- Good reports from other parents
- My children are Catholic and their religious upbringing would be enhanced within the Catholic school. Class sizes are good. They will continue on to St Thomas More.
- Its small size and it being a catholic school
- My family and kids are Catholics, which is why I chose the school



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Q2: I would recommend this school to another parent (please state Yes or No and a reason)

89% YES (39 responses)

Comments:

- Fantastic school with great catholic ethos
- caring nature of the school and the quality of teaching
- because of our good experience
- excellent parent pupil teacher relationship
- the way it identifies and deals with pupils that are not reaching their potential and it's professionalism to get the extra help if your child is underachieving without making you or your child feel uncomfortable as in the case for me
- the close knit bond and it's openness to others of different beliefs and multicultural origins
- because my children are happy in the school
- small and supportive school that cares not only about the education but the welfare of the child
- Happy kids and approachable staff
- I think there is a good balance in meeting their educational needs but also social & emotional. I like that the children look out for each other right through from reception to Y6
- standard of teaching is excellent. The school know, not just their pupils, but their families as well. If there is ever a problem e.g. Bullying, as a parent you are always listened to and the problem is dealt with
- actively do for the reasons mentioned in the previous response
- On the basis that I am happy that our children are being pushed to a high academic level and are thriving. I'd say they are above the level of other children the same age from other schools
- I would and I have. My child is doing well and is happy and I like the fact that all the children and teachers know each other again the community feel counts for a lot
- I have recommended the school to many a person. The staff are fantastic and know all the children by name. If you have any problems they are always at hand to give advice
- because the school has a genuine concern for the well-being of each child
- the school is small there is a nice feel to it like one big family
- because it's a good school, all the children are treat the same whether catholic or not
- I feel my child has developed very well this year in confidence as well as educationally
- I am impressed with the ethos. I believe it is well led under Mrs Pye. I trust all members of staff with my children's well-being. My children are very happy there.

11% NO (5 responses)

Comments:

- Standards have gone down over the years. It does not have the reputation it used to
- Some unprofessional staff
- I feel that the education received would be better elsewhere

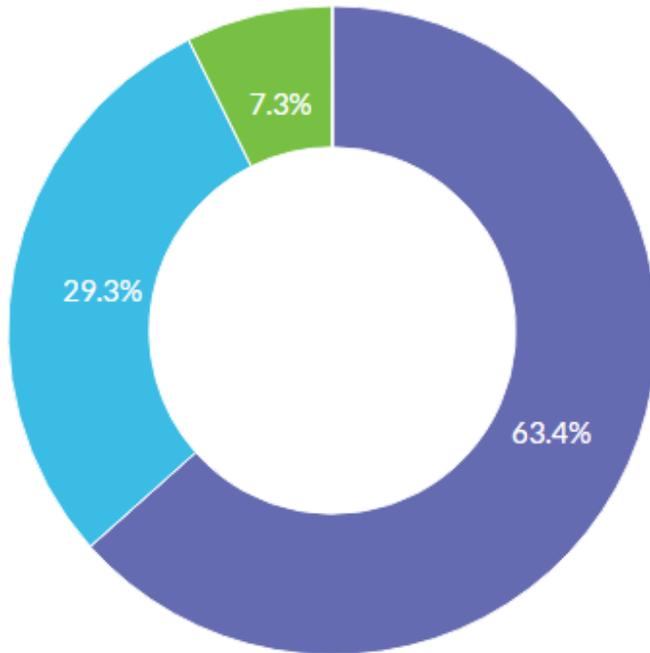


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Parent Questionnaire Results 2017

Q3

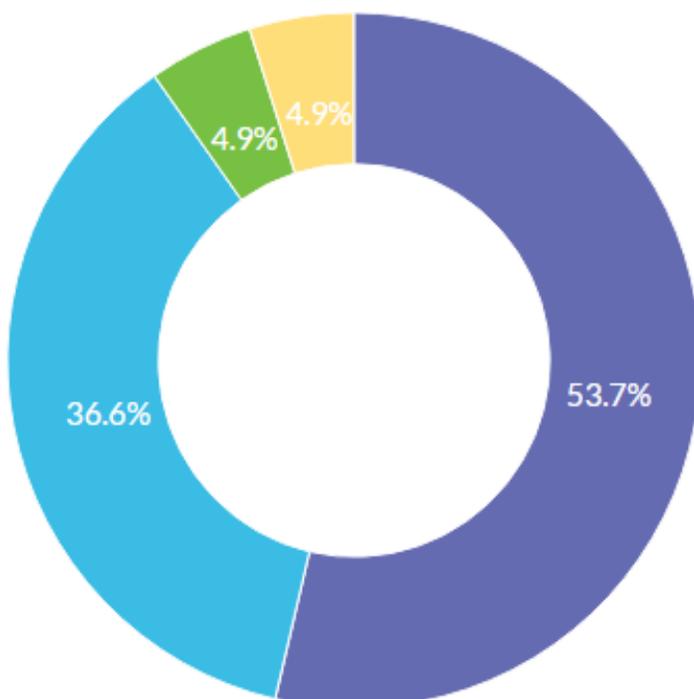
There is a happy and caring atmosphere at school
Rating



Choices	Totals
1 - Strongly Agree	26
2 - Agree	12
3 - Disagree	3
4 - Strongly Disagree	0

Q4

I feel welcome when I come into school
Rating



Choices	Totals
1 - Strongly Agree	22
2 - Agree	15
3 - Disagree	2
4 - Strongly Disagree	2

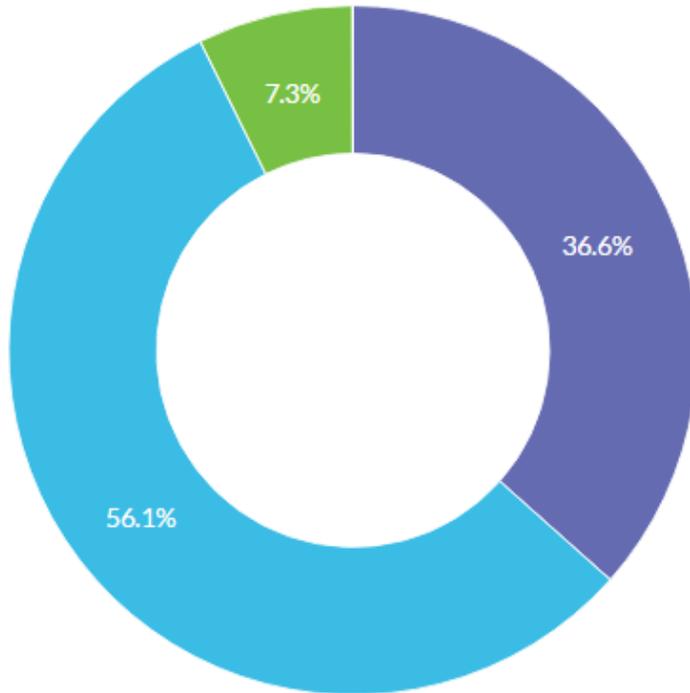


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Parent Questionnaire Results 2017

Q6

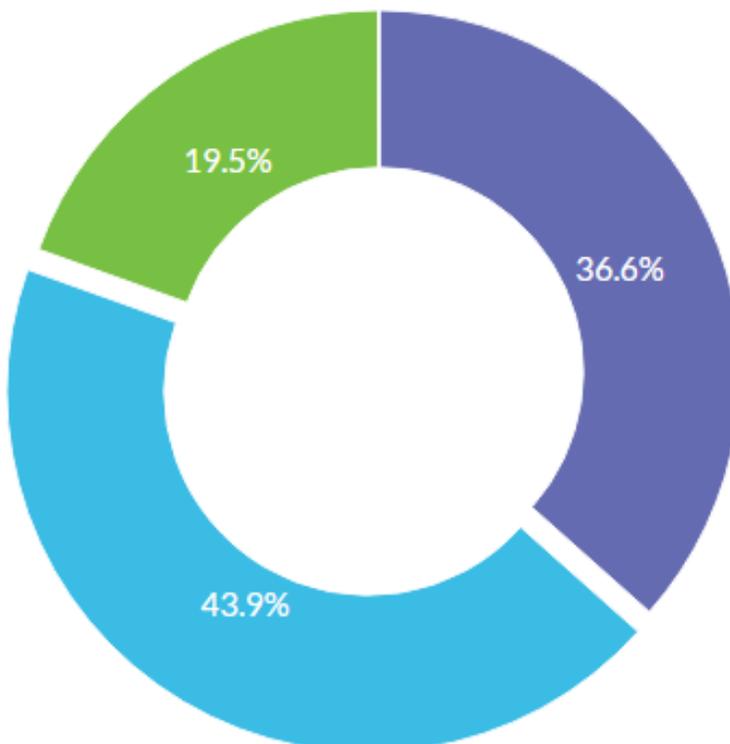
The classrooms are clean, tidy, and attractive and provide an effective working environment for my child.
Rating



Choices	Totals
1 - Strongly Agree	15
2 - Agree	23
3 - Disagree	3
4 - Strongly Disagree	0

Q7

St Matthews has high expectations for my child.
Rating



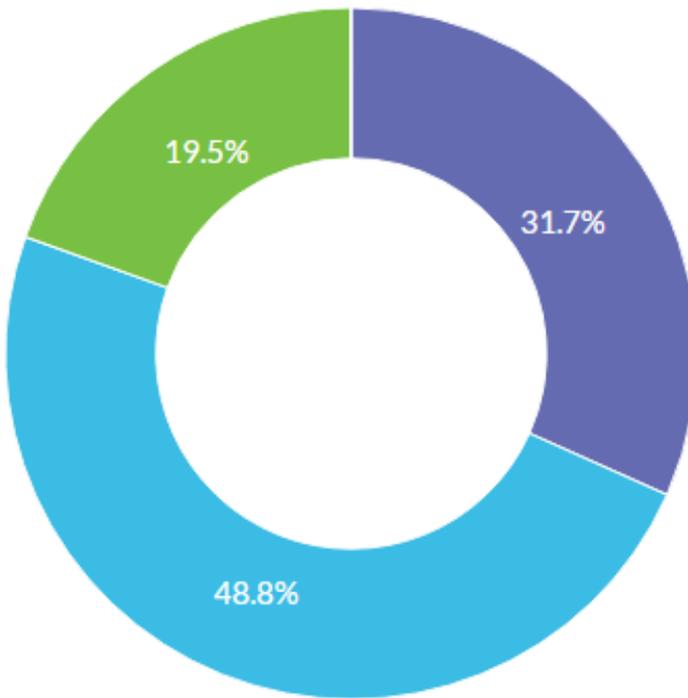
Choices	Totals
1 - Strongly Agree	15
2 - Agree	18
3 - Disagree	8
4 - Strongly Disagree	0



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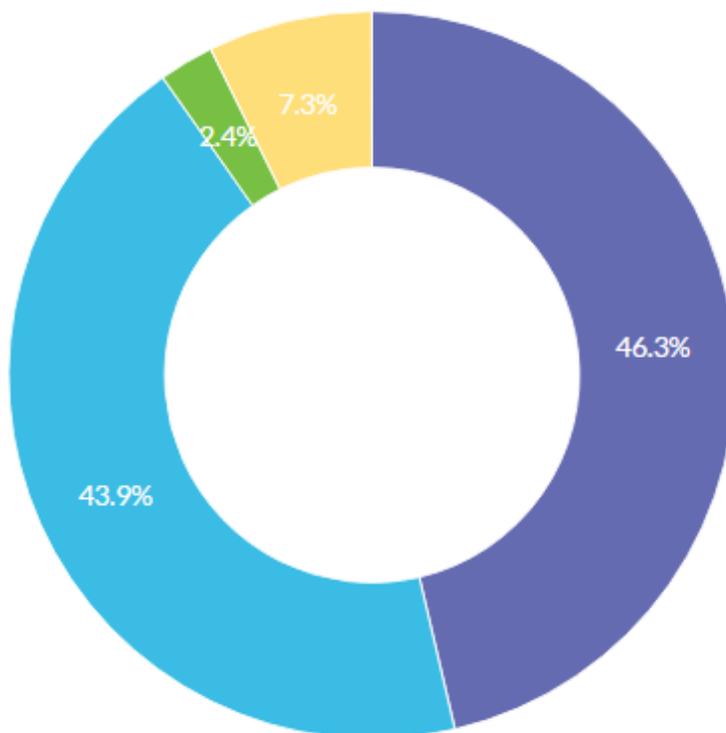
Parent Questionnaire Results 2017

Q8 St Matthews ensures that my child reaches their full potential
Rating



Choices	Totals
1 - Strongly Agree	13
2 - Agree	20
3 - Disagree	8
4 - Strongly Disagree	0

Q9 I think members of staff at St Matthews are welcoming and easy to speak to if I need to talk
Rating



Choices	Totals
1 - Strongly Agree	19
2 - Agree	18
3 - Disagree	1
4 - Strongly Disagree	3



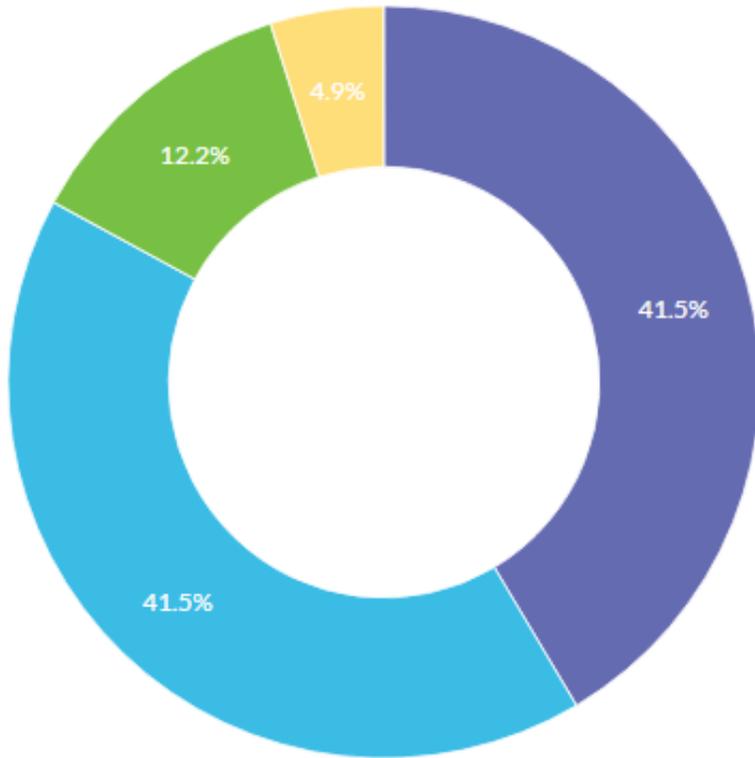
St Matthew's Catholic Primary School

Parent Questionnaire Results 2017

Q10

The newsletter provides me with clear information regarding what has happened in school but also about future events

Rating



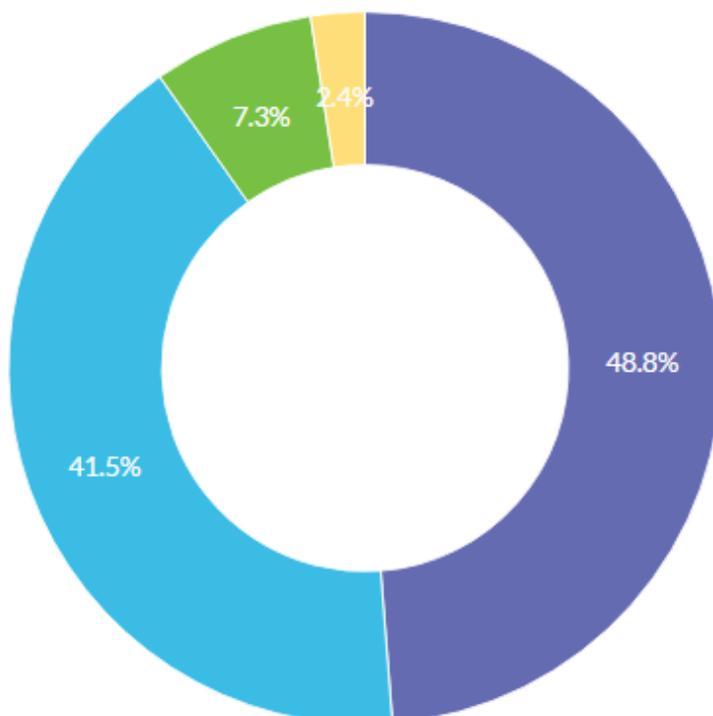
Choices

- 1 - Strongly Agree
- 2 - Agree
- 3 - Disagree
- 4 - Strongly Disagree

Q11

I feel that I can approach the school if I have a concern

Rating



Choices

- 1 - Strongly Agree
- 2 - Agree
- 3 - Disagree
- 4 - Strongly Disagree

Totals

- | |
|----|
| 20 |
| 17 |
| 3 |
| 1 |



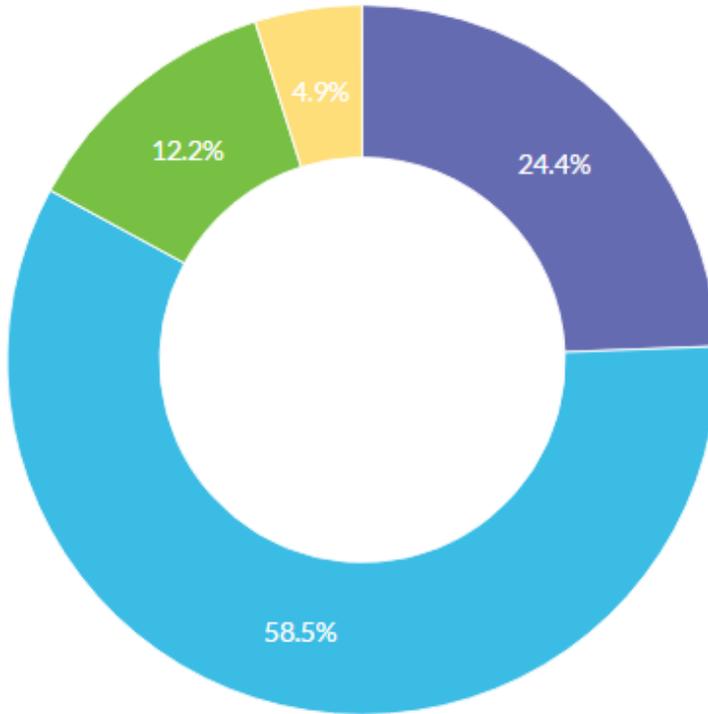
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Q12

The school is led and managed well

Rating



Choices

1 - Strongly Agree

2 - Agree

3 - Disagree

4 - Strongly Disagree

Totals

10

24

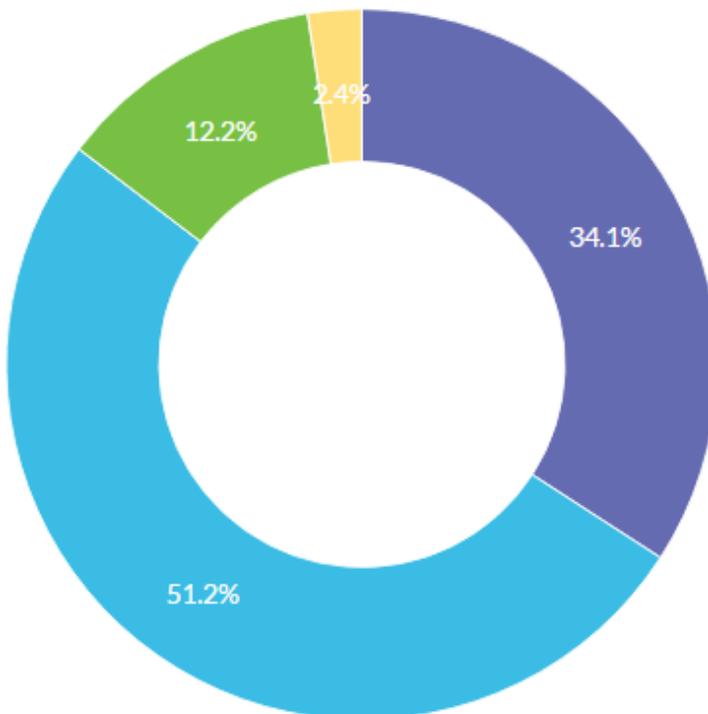
5

2

Q13

The school encourages parents and carers to play an active part in school life

Rating



Choices

1 - Strongly Agree

2 - Agree

3 - Disagree

4 - Strongly Disagree

Totals

14

21

5

1

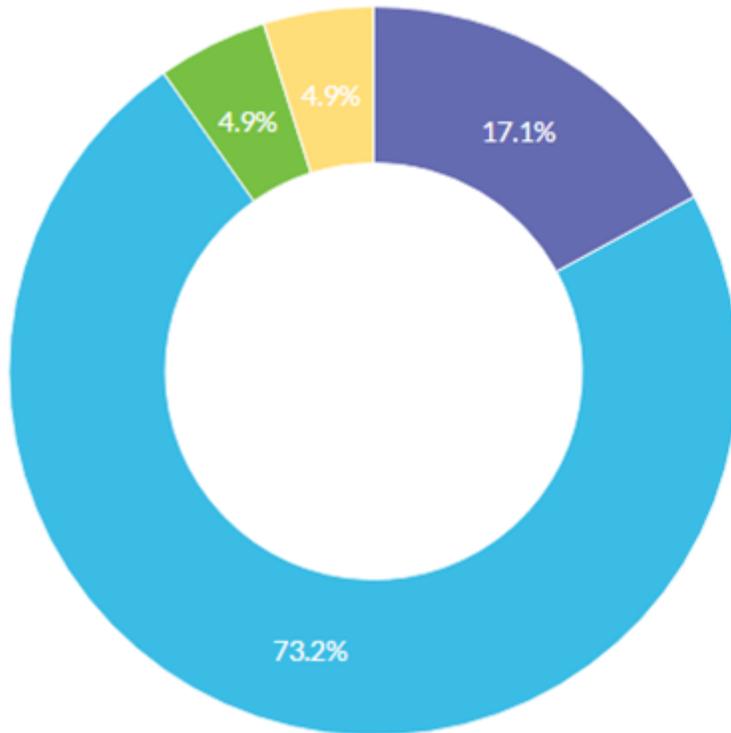


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Parent Questionnaire Results 2017

Q14

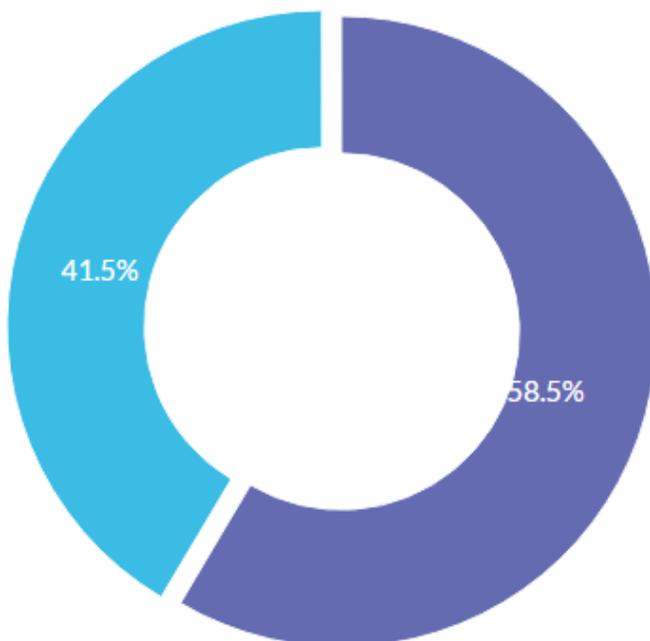
The website is informative and provides me with necessary information about the school
Rating



Choices	Totals
1 - Strongly Agree	7
2 - Agree	30
3 - Disagree	2
4 - Strongly Disagree	2

Q15

Do you think we should create a school facebook page - a place where we can share things about school, what we do and help update parents and carers of our children.
Multiple Choice



Choices	Totals
Yes	24
No	17



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Q16: What do you like most about St Matthews / what are our strengths?

- Close knit school where everyone knows each other
- Teaching and the catholic ethos of the school
- The reception and nursery
- Small size good teaching staff friendly feel
- It has many different strengths it has for instance brought me the fact that my child is lagging behind in class and the plan they proposed for extra help and founding to get one on one help as soon as they identified the problem, and they went out the way to help me and my daughter as well as other family members to address it and try obtain help to get the best out of the student means that they do have the child's best interests at heart
- Not a big class, children can learn well
- Caring and nurturing environment where children feel safe and are encourage to do their best
- Friendly caring staff and welcoming environment. Recognition and praise of students strengths
- Certain teachers at the school are the only reason I have not removed them yet
- It's just lovely!
- Good teachers, variety of activities for the children
- Head teacher
- Caring about the children as individuals, giving each individual attention and challenging them when they are finding work easy (more of this would be good too).
- Small class sizes in comparison to other local schools is good. Also the teachers I have dealt with seem to be strong personalities who encourage the children to develop in their own individual ways to become their own strong and confident people
- the high academic level being taught
- I like how happy my child is to attend and when picking her up
- I like that the school uses Dojo, this is quite innovative I know a lot of schools don't use anything like this yet.
- I think the school listens and responds to concerns, and I like that it is a very inclusive school children from different backgrounds (including non-catholic which is a good thing and needs publicising more) with different abilities it is all part of giving children a social education which is just as important as the curriculum
- I like the way the staff connect with the children. I have always felt part of the school community and when I sadly lost my father the school staff were there to give not only my children lots of support but also me.
- They work closely with St Thomas More to make transition for children as smooth as possible
- Family orientated, caring environment
- Community feel, caring teachers and parents. Lovely children and inclusive atmosphere
- Each pupil is seen for strengths and supported well where they struggle. It has a lovely community feel. The children all interact with the other year groups. The religious side. All the teachers and staff support offer a caring attitude towards each pupil and their family
- Installing good morals in the children



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Q17: How can we make St Matthews even better / what would you change / what could we offer?

- Tackle problematic issues more effectively
- Breakfast club
- Facebook page
- Improve decoration inside and out
- Improve publicity of the fact we have strong links with Thomas More
- Parking
- Pre-order lunches so that all children get a choice, as some items are no longer available for children in second seating
- Probably sports - team games, which I know is hard to do with smaller numbers of students in year groups compared to other primary schools in the area
- I would like to see different children picked for things taking place in school, for example assembly, activities -uploaded photos, dojo trophy etc. trying to ensure that all children feel they have a chance to do something special, and it's not always the same favourites /group of children
- More after school activities, other schools children the same age have school teams that compete against other schools
- Give more notice and regular updates on things, it's always so late when we find out
- Deal with bullying more effectively and document parent concerns and make sure they are actioned
- Let the children play sports activities in the playground - give them balls etc.
- Better communication between school and parents - more regular feedback and integration between school and families to ensure more individualised care rather than 'one size fits all'
- In my experience most cases of bullying occurs out of the classroom e.g. At lunch times in the playground, perhaps it would be a good idea to have a teacher in the playground like there is in the morning. Money permitting!!!, I think it would be a good idea to improve the playground, make it more interesting for the children and attractive to potential parents
- Sometimes news/messages get lost passing it on via the children, so perhaps make more use of Dojo for class wide necessary information. Tell the children to pass the info on too, because they obviously need to learn to remember to do that, but for younger years a backup is useful!
- Teachers should listen and act upon the concerns raised
- Extra parking for parents for dropping and picking up, in particular after events or out of school activities. Many parents work and do not have time to park away from the school when dropping children off
- I think more sport should be taught. In particular, those sports requiring working as a team. Personal development is always good, but working as a team can be helpful in life too
- To open up earlier so that children can socialise/play a bit more in the mornings. Not really ideal for parents and children queuing up to and on the school car park
- After school clubs for younger kids-maybe some parents would help
- Food/clothes bank? Recycling projects? Small allotment?
- Own stall at town fayre? Also other schools have children in Hexham court on e.g. Mother's Day and that's a lovely thing to do. Be nice to see school being more involved in Prudhoe community more, e.g. Christmas lights last year other schools were singing

.....cont



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Q18. What was the highlight of your child's year at school?

- Residential trip to Weardale
- School trips
- My own experience of my child's year was at Christmas when she had the nativity box. But she might have a different view on her own highlight am very impressed by all the things that they do at the school
- He learned how to read and write this year
- Having an important role in assembly
- I think she enjoys the general day, as it's an accepting and welcoming environment that supports students strengths and identifies their weaknesses to help them improve.
- The dance festival - although it did not seem fair that not all children were included.
- He has loved everything. He loves coming to school.
- Christmas nativity
- Residential at Weardale with Mrs Hatherly and Mrs Gibson.
- My child says Big Write has been the best thing this year.
- My child is thrilled to often have won " class dojo" She has also taken great great pride in her maths and spelling preparation at home to achieve full marks in the weekly tests. We are very proud as parents.
- When she played Our Lady in the Easter liturgy
- Christmas play - this was probably my highlight! Ks1 was fantastic not a dry eye in the house! Sports day was great fun. Head teachers awards always stick in the children's minds as do trips to the beach. The Xmas farm visit class one did was a great day as well.
- My children have had so many highlights that it would be impossible to pick one out. From the day they started at the nursery they have enjoyed so much
- Sports Day, performances
- One would say Plan, Do, Review. One would say the residential
- Sports day was great and the wonderful Xmas play really stands out. He was also delighted to win head teacher award.
- PE lessons, residential, sports day
- Rounders club



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Q19. Any other comments/suggestions?

- I think it's good that the website has been updated but a lot more content could be on their pics etc (with permissions) it's the first source potential parents will use. It also needs to be checked for grammar etc as does the newsletter which I like reading but I find a bit messy, it needs to be the same font and better laid out and spell checked. Include some pics as well i.e. The children winning head teacher award etc some money needs spending on the building (I know not always possible) but the classroom for class 1 is ridiculously small. Open out the PTA to encourage more parents to get involved hold meetings on a Friday which is more convenient for people. So many untapped skills and ideas from parents which could be utilised. More sport activities after school, other ways to raise money, open up the breakfast club (if it happens) and after school club to nursery children often parents can have children needing wrap around in nursery and at school and have to look elsewhere. Make the wrap around more structured. Promote all of this on the website! Get a new sign outside school or cut the trees! Engage more with local businesses. Organise visits to university for the children -raise aspirations, I work at Newcastle university and this could be done. More visits to museums the theatre etc. Promote all of this on the website!
- There is an assumption that parents can attend meetings at 3pm/3.15pm with fairly short notice. This is not always the case and there is not much follow up for parents who cannot attend at these times. Children of parents who work full time are not able to attend 'school fairs' because they have no 'adult supervision' - this can be distressing for the children because the school fairs are strongly promoted and they feel they are missing out. In short, there needs to be more consideration and tailoring of information and involvement for those of us who are unable to have the daily physical contact with the school.
- Wrap around childcare, larger classrooms, clearer communication between school and parents, more forward planning of events most parent work and need to rearrange diaries to attend things at short notice, there's not enough publicity about what the kids have done well, more afterschool interests clubs etc it's very limited and previously afterschool club was more structured with indoor and outdoor activities e.g. Fun fit Friday
- More focus on Year 5 and 6 as I feel the school runs as a primary and more could be done to give the children more independence which is what happens in a middle school
- Just thanks to everyone who has helped us at the school
- I think the school works hard to educate the students but alongside this it instills good values and morals in them.
- A lovely school, with lovely staff.
- I like the idea of a facebook page, particularly as it would help with communication between school and parents, but also between parents.
- Certain communications could be better a Facebook page would help with that.
- Keep up the good work
- I think it is a wonderful school and deserves for everyone to know it!
- Would like to see results of the survey. To see where it has done well and where it hasn't and any changes that come from it
- Would like to see these result published in full on parental mail
- The school needs to promote themselves more and advise the community that St Matthews is a feeder school for St Thomas More along with the activities done and a achievements throughout the year i.e. dancing at the sage etc.