



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Parent Questionnaire Results 2018

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

(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

- Good school
- Local Catholic school, education and family values
- I went there as a child and being an early years practitioner in my previous job I was keen for my daughter to go to a smaller school which displays a high level of care
- Small, friendly and respectful
- Feeder to St Thomas More, and good reputation
- Its small size
- Catholic; small classes; good Ofsted; good 'feel' about it
- Great ethos.
- Location and good family values
- More able to get one to one teaching
- Smaller classes, friend recommend school
- I went there as a child and wanted my children to do the same
- We chose the school after the excellent experience my child had with the nursery and the school was the natural progression for him.
- Our local Catholic school and cousins already attended
- I went to a catholic school and wanted my son to, also child minder does pickups here
- Location, My Daughter was in nursery so my experience there and knowing some of the teachers/assistants - currently in reception but you missed this class off your list!
- My child seemed settled after his first visit
- Size of the school and friendly feel
- Welcoming, caring feel. Totally put all my worries at ease, filled me with confidence and I totally made the right decision
- Location, friends with children there, and nursery garden!
- I went as a child and it's always been a excellent school, more like a family :)
- I felt my child would receive the best at St Matthew's. Class sizes are a lot smaller than other schools in the area, I think then giving all children the best of attention.
- I didn't
- It was important to us to choose a Catholic School - the small size of the school is also a positive point for us.
- Had a lovely friendly feeling about it from the minute we had introduction.
- The fact that it is Catholic and feeds into Thomas More's and also I felt my children would flourish because of smaller class sizes and the community feel of all the children knowing each other.



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

(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

94.8% YES (55 responses)

5.2% NO (3 responses)

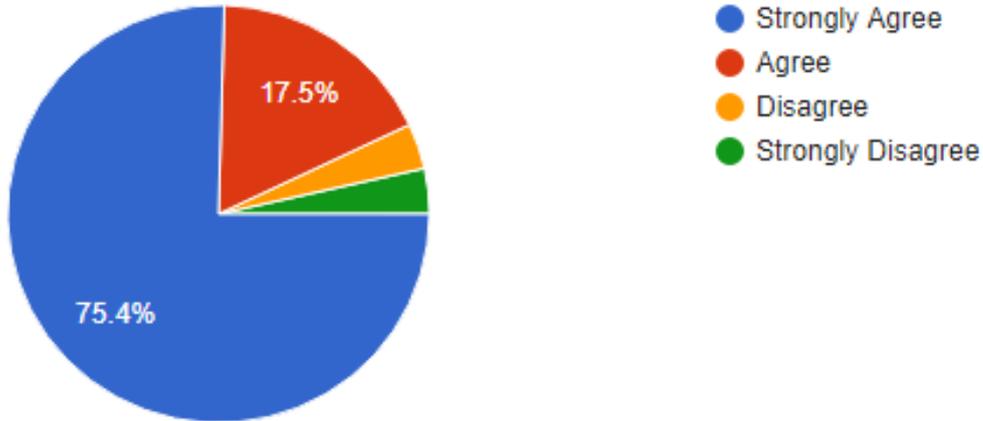
Comments:

- Education, family values, good staff
- I think it is a friendly school and children benefit from the smaller class sizes. High standard of teaching and part of St Thomas More partnership.
- I am more than happy with our experience of St Matthew's nursery and couldn't recommend it more.
- Lovely school with great focus on social wellbeing as well as education
- Kind staff and everyone knows the student
- Caring, developing environment!
- It's a good school
- My children have always been happy and comfortable, and I think this improves their ability to learn.
- Best local school. I actively do recommend it.
- Generally happy with the school
- Every child is valued.
- I think it is a friendly school with the children's best interests at heart.
- Our children have learned and enjoyed so much
- Staff care for the pupils and work hard to provide the best education possible
- Very friendly staff, sense of community within the school as it's so small, two tier system
- Small classes, excellent teaching, facilities and opportunities. Plus excellent feeder schools
- The school is a very good, friendly school with excellent teachers and they genuinely care about my child's education.
- The school has a caring ethos and children are looked after by staff. Class sizes are relatively small in comparison to other schools.
- The staff are really good with the children, very friendly and if any problems they keep parents informed,
- My overall experience so far has been good although there are one or two concerns
- Lovely school with caring teachers, learn through play in the early years is excellent
- Because the staff are excellent and treat the children with affection. They teach them very good values. They are a fantastic team.
- My child has been really happy in St Matthew's been a great introduction to school life for her and I've only got good things to say about the school which is different to what I hear from other parents about the other local schools.?
- Easy access to speak to school when required, small class numbers
- My children seem happy here.
- The staff are amazing, my children have grown massively in confidence. They actually want to go to school which has been a massive problem in the past, this shows in their attendance which have improved from last year massively. I feel confident my children are well cared for and safe
- My son has just started in year 5 and has been made to feel very welcome
- My daughter loves and is very well cared for.
- Caring teachers and community
- Religious school
- Great education ,a lovely school very approachable and helpful staff
- It is a small school with small sizes, the children appear very happy (all that attend) there is a great sense of pride and community amongst the school.
- Friendly and homely feel to the school
- Caring community
- Our school is a tight knit community where the teachers/staff and kids look out for one another.
- It's just a lovely school and definitely the nicest in the area.
- It's a great school!
- Firstly for their Christian ethos. School genuinely cares about the child's overall wellbeing, not just their academic achievements. Although, the focus is always on learning and bringing out the best potential in each child. They work closely with the parents if need be most importantly the children are happy going there. Very forward-thinking school - still installing good conduct and good morals.
- Child happy at school
- Good learning foundation
- Fantastic ethos and academic results
- Brilliant teachers
- The classes are small, the teachers are excellent and the school community spirit is evident in all areas... ultimately the children are happy.
- Excellent teaching staff. Supportive and nurturing environment. My children are very happy there.
- Staff so supportive
- I'm very happy with my child's progress and of course the wonderful nursery and I have encouraged a number of people to apply for a nursery place.



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Parent Questionnaire Results 2018

Q3: There is a happy and caring atmosphere at school



Comments:

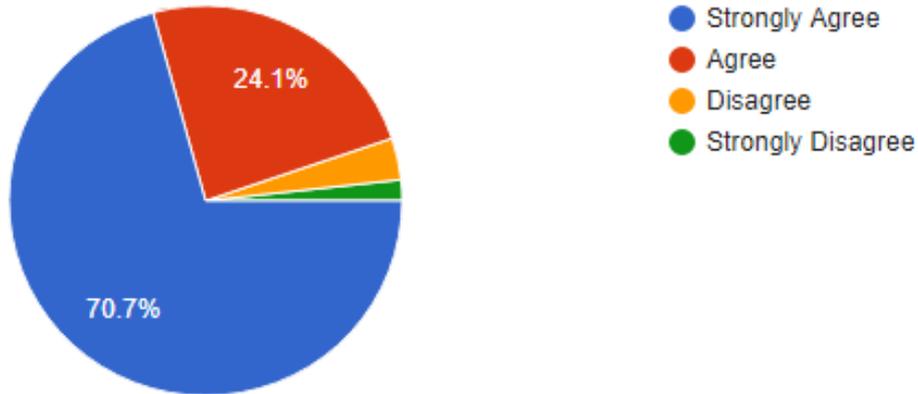
(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

- There is always a lovely welcoming feel and the staff are very caring and kind to the whole family.
- Everyone is always made welcome, there is a strong sense of community within the school.
- Strongly agree
- I have seen the pupils and staff and they have been very good in caring for my daughter individual needs
- Staff are friendly, my children feel safe and cared for
- Always caring about needs of children to parents on regular basis
- My children are always keen to go to school, love their teachers and are proud of what they learn
- The ethos of the school is very positive and inclusive. Children are taught good morals i.e. treat others as you would like to be treated.
- My child has made friends with everyone in his year and enjoys going to school
- Some staff are a lot more caring than others
- 100% agree that there is always a happy atmosphere at the school.
- Children feel part of a school family
- Staff are friendly and willing to help you ,the children always seem happy
- They know give them a lovely treatment. The atmosphere is great.
- All staff I have dealt with are very friendly and helpful
- Sometimes feel teachers would like to be able to do more but are stretched
- Usually greeted with a smile.
- Children appear to be happy and smiling coming out of school
- Yes very caring environment
- My daughter has had the best possible start here at st Matthews, she loves coming to school.
- Everybody seems happy
- In a morning the children appear very excited they separate from their care giver parent easily and willingly stride into school.
- Everyone has a smile!
- Teachers care about the happiness of their pupils
- Staff care
- Always made to feel very welcome.
- Only 2 members of staff are caring
- Always a lovely atmosphere. Matthew loves going to school.
- Definitely happy and welcoming atmosphere.
- My child is happy in school
- Always make the children feel equal
- My daughter has had the best possible start here at st Matthews, she loves coming to school.
- I can't definitely say as I have little to do with the school
- Very happy and any issues are quickly addressed
- My children enjoy going to school and feel very happy there.
- Everyone is very friendly
- It's a very warm and welcoming school the teachers are all very approachable and personable.



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Parent Questionnaire Results 2018

Q4: I feel welcome when I come into school



Comments:

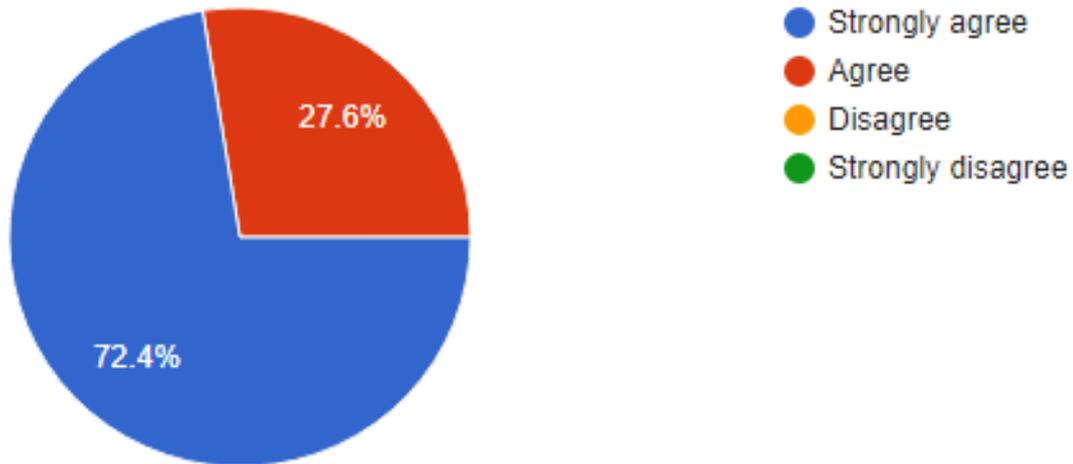
(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

- Everyone knows who you are and which child/ren are yours
- All ways friendly and informative and smiling
- Always greeted by name with a smile from staff
- Nursery staff are always very approachable and friendly, always willing and happy to help, advise and listen.
- Always greeted by staff and the head teacher knows every child.
- Always a friendly environment
- Welcoming atmosphere and parents are encouraged to take part in school life
- Teaching staff and office staff always make you feel welcome and are friendly
- Depends on who the contact is with some are more welcoming than others!
- Teachers acknowledge both the child and the parent
- Very welcome. The staff is lovely
- All members of staff are always happy to help
- Was welcomed when I came to open day and headteacher took me round
- The office staff are always friendly and approachable
- All the staff know who you are and all the staff seem to know the children ,
- Always welcomed by my name by staff members.
- Everyone- including most parents- greet each other with a smile and hello
- Teachers know not just their pupils, but the children's families as well
- All staff are very friendly.
- The treatment of single parents is appalling
- Staff are always very helpful.
- I feel welcomed in school
- I don't feel included.
- On the whole yes - although there is a clique!
- Staff know me by name



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Parent Questionnaire Results 2018

Q5: The school buildings are well maintained



Comments:

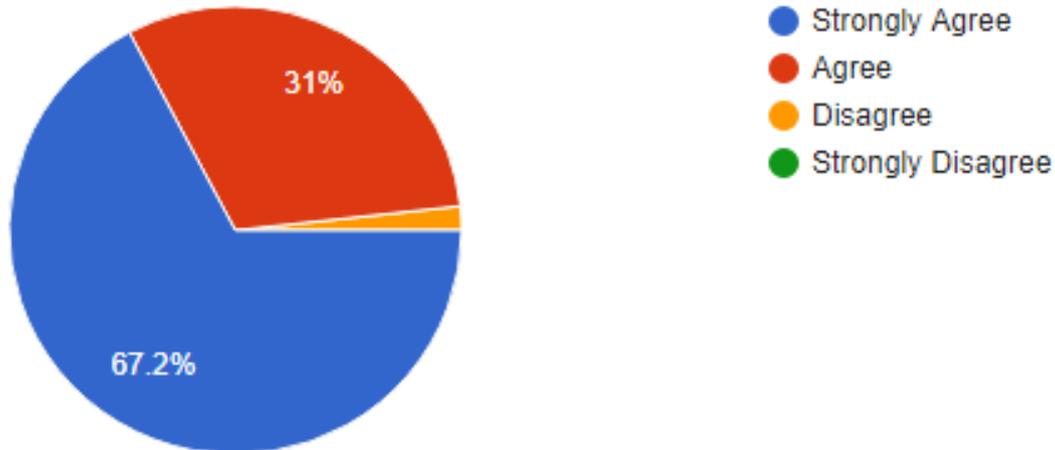
(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

- Always looks like it's well maintained, clean and tidy
- Nursery have a new extension, not sure about the rest of the school and it's maintenance
- Recent developments shows us constant improvement
- The changes to the front reception are great, I love all of the displays – very creative and interesting to look at
- Very clean school and grounds and always looking to improve
- Buildings are in good condition and look impressive to visitors
- The new nursery extension is a great addition to the school
- Clean and tidy although yard could do with some improvements
- They seem clean and modern.
- Pleasant atmosphere - nothing obvious in disrepair
- The front reception looks a lot more modern and welcoming
- Nursery and outdoor gardens are great
- The school is always tidy And fit for purpose
- As far as I know... I have not been in all the classrooms
- Hall could do with a paint, excellent otherwise
- There is room for improvement.
- They just keep getting better!
- Whoever did the displays in the front entrance has done a great job, so much brighter and interesting to look at.
- Very well maintained.
- Yes; the improvements are good
- The new extensions have significantly improved the size of the school however it still lacks space for an increasingly growing number of pupils.
- The school has been greatly improved over the last year in terms of facilities and buildings the nursery is fantastic!
- Areas of school are looking tatty and tired, need touch up of paintwork etc



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Parent Questionnaire Results 2018

Q6: The outdoor environment is effective at supporting creativity and learning



Comments:

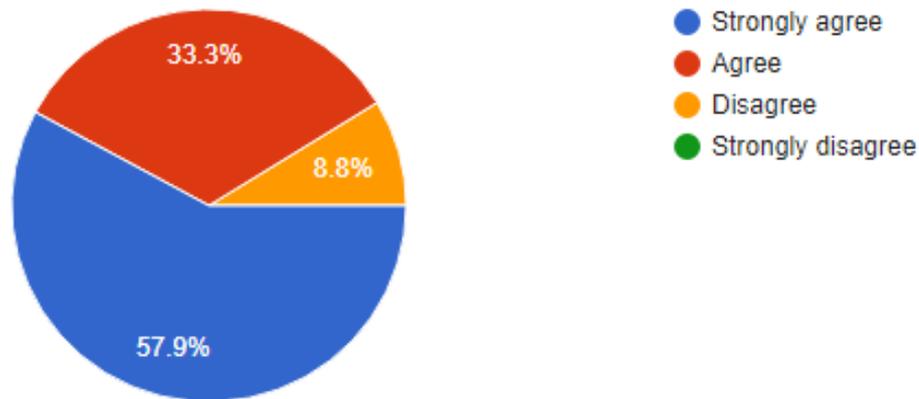
(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

- Shame that trim trail no longer in use
- Yes as some things cannot be done in the classrooms
- The focus on outdoor space and learning outdoors is strong in both Y1 and Y6
- Nursery garden is full of interest and children show a real interest in the nature areas
- Although my child did have quite a nasty accident in the nursery outdoor play area which could have been avoided if a risk assessment had been carried out prior
- Nursery section is fantastic but I think more could be available for other years
- In what way is it supporting creativity above nursery?
- 100% agree
- Security around the school could be better. School is very open to the surrounding area
- Superb gardens for young explorers
- My child loves how much she does outside
- Could be better fencing / locks on gates
- Access to sports field and woodlands.
- Lots of outdoor space and greenery
- Nursery garden varied and my daughter loves it
- The garden is a beautiful place to be
- Amazing use of outside space
- I think Year 6 and reception have a great outside space, but more should be made of the outside space for year 2 and 3
- Especially for Nursery and reception
- Excellent outdoor areas. Especially at the nursery garden.
- Outdoor areas are great. Especially the nursery garden.
- I like it how the children have outdoor time
- The garden is a beautiful place to be
- Lots of space surrounding the school is a huge benefit
- The nursery garden is an excellent set up for learning and creativity however I feel that the school area is not up to the same standard.
- Lovely area for children to play and explore
- Love the outdoor areas this is a huge selling point of school.
- Although there is no way to tell what the school has - shout about it!



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Parent Questionnaire Results 2018

Q7: St Matthew's ensures that my child reaches their full potential



Comments:

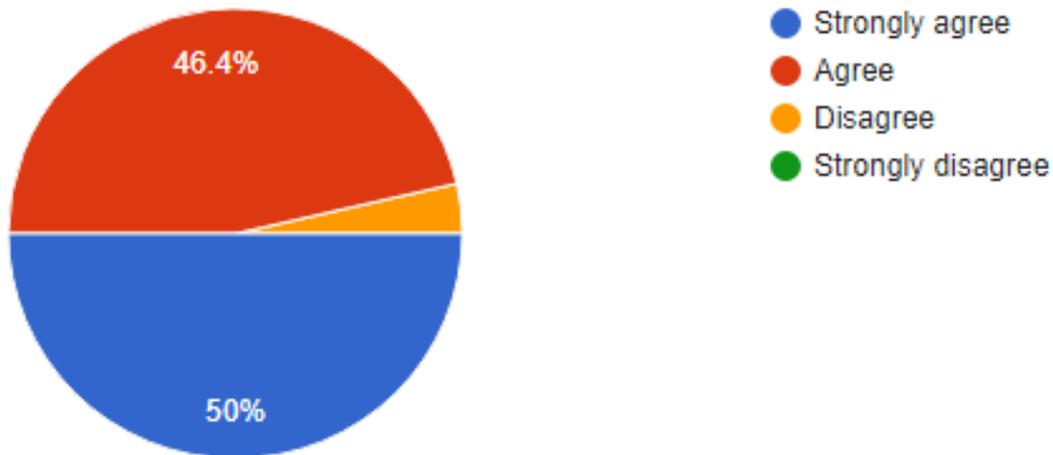
(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

- I do feel that although all children are given parts at liturgy and other performances etc. some children tend to be picked for the main parts every time. This has been noticed by the children too.
- The year 3 class is high maintenance and I feel that children get a bit lost in the day to day working!
- No matter what level the pupil is at they go the extra mile to address any issues and in my case ,sort extra help to get the very best teaching skills to help develop and support my daughter
- Books always marked showing how the children can improve
- My child is already pointing out letters, sounds and numbers that she has started to recognise. I feel like the nursery supports my child's interested in learning and developing socially and emotionally. She's also a lot more independent.
- Head teacher award not fairly given out in reception class to award behaviour. Some children have none some have 3! All children at this age should be rewarded.
- They help my child and his improvements are very noticeable
- Children are clear of their learning targets and are well supported
- My child is just in nursery but encouraged all the time
- Using classroom assistants effectively
- Haven't discussed the schools 'expectations' for my children.
- It's always good the children are pushed to achieve what they are capable of and helped along the way
- Nice to see school uniform much stricter than in previous school
- As only at nursery level, too early to consider future academics too much
- All staff here at St Matthew's give 100 percent to my child , they are supporting and encouraging
- Attendance and uniform have high goals
- Homework and home reading not emphasised
- Always aim to help the children reach their full potential.
- St Matthew's has brought my child forward massively, he's like a different child, compared to when he first started in nursery.
- They will adapt to every child's needs
- All staff here at St Matthews give 100 percent to my child , they are supporting and encouraging
- I believe the teaching is stretching the children to meet their potential
- I feel that my child is being pushed and challenged but in a way that builds his confidence.
- Communication of what the children will be learning each term could be better/improved.



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Parent Questionnaire Results 2018

Q8: St Matthew's has high expectations for my child



Comments:

(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

- Again my child is only at nursery level but encouraged all the way
- My children are Spanish and they are very helpful with them. They learned a lot.
- Hard to judge as only in nursery but I get the impression this is true
- No T/A in yr. 3 this yr. which would have benefitted the class
- Seem to get good opportunities to be involved out of school activities.
- My children feel comfortable to ask for help, again something that's been an issue in other school
- We have only been here a few weeks so hard to comment in detail
- Constant encouragement for my daughter and her ability to be best, most caring version of herself
- Overall I agree with this but we are still struggling with my son with autism to get caught up in some areas.
- After moving my son from another school in year 3 ,the improvement he made in a short time was amazing ,and my daughter who has been in nursery and is now finishing reception is amazing at spelling maths manners ,
- They have supported my daughters application for an EHCP
- We're only nursery currently, but so far so good!
- All children are encouraged to learn regardless of what level they work at
- My child has come on a great deal while in Reception.
- My son has felt pushed aside
- As I said in the beginning whether this is academically or being an all-round confident child. My grandson has learning disabilities and yet the school is still pushing him to the best of his potential, he has not been wrote off as a none starter.
- Encouraged by staff to do and try things
- The teacher has high expectations of my child
- Always helping the children to achieve
- My child is working hard and learning lots!
- Getting involved in lots of different activities each day
- I definitely think that the school has started my child on the right path and I'm actually quite surprised by how much he has progressed.



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Parent Questionnaire Results 2018

Q9: Do you have any comments about school meals...or if your child does not have school meals, why?

Comments:

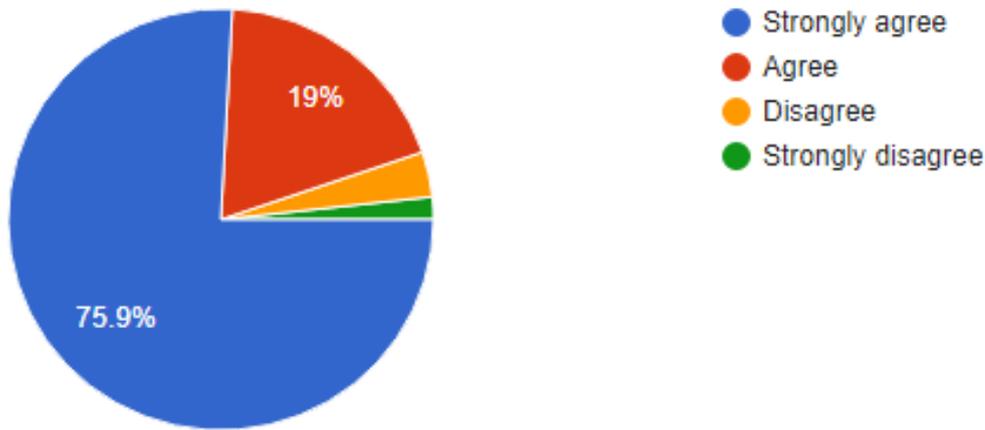
(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

- My son really enjoys his school meals and his willingness to try more things has improved since starting school.
- Yes everyday she attends, always enjoys them and paying through parent pay is easy.
- Excellent choice; well cooked
- My child is the problem, the meals are fabulous.
- The electronic booking system is poor, clunky and unnecessary for the years that get free school dinners
- My children have packed lunches simply because of the cost.
- I think it would be nicer if Nursery child could eat in the hall with the other children, even if they went in a little bit earlier. Gives them more experience for when they start school properly
- Great variety of healthy lunches.
- Sometimes run out of certain foods not a high standard.
- I myself have been to the school for meals with my child. I was very surprised at the choice and quality of the meals, my daughter is a fussy eater and is on packed lunches
- I would prefer her on proper balance school meals as I thought they were
- Both my children love school meals, and especially Paula!
- Very filling for our children
- My children really enjoy the meals, the variety and the quality
- My child has a school meal but she can never remember what she's had, I like her to have school meals so I know she's trying new foods that are also healthy.
- Cater for my dairy allergy son without question. It would be good to have a menu so I know what he is eating but I have never asked as I have no concerns
- My child has school meals and seems to enjoy them
- My children prefer packed lunch. They are vegetarian and occasionally in the past this wasn't taken seriously by the staff
- Has packed lunch as very fussy eater
- I would be nice if nursery could eat with the other younger children
- My child only has school meals twice weekly at the moment and there seems to be an awful lot of pasta!
- I think it is very good. My children like it.
- I'm pleased the school meal always offers variety and good nutrition. Erin loves the puddings which is not something we have at home very often
- My child does not eat enough of a school meal to warrant the cost
- Child comes home regular saying the main course has run out.
- They love the food and it always smells amazing
- Easy system to choose and pay online
- Great value and daughter happy with the food!
- Small portions
- Great healthy meals
- I don't feel school dinners are as healthy as they could be
- My child often says she chooses the pasta option. I'd like her to be encouraged to eat the main meal.
- Meals are great however my son is a little picky and a lot of the meals he won't eat unfortunately.
- My child has a school dinner, he always comments on how he has enjoyed them.
- They have a balanced diet at the school and the children always enjoy their lunch.
- My child enjoys his school meals and I think they are well balanced
- The food is too spicy on occasion and children aren't allowed to choose a sandwich when previously this was an option - my child does not enjoy school meals and therefore I am providing a packed lunch.
- Both my children have school dinners which they enjoy. The new meals definitely provide a more balanced and nutritious menu however I feel the puddings could be healthier. There is often only a biscuit and a cake option
- Both my children love the meals very happy with them.



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Parent Questionnaire Results 2018

Q10: I think members of staff at St Matthew's are welcoming and easy to speak to if I need to talk



Comments:

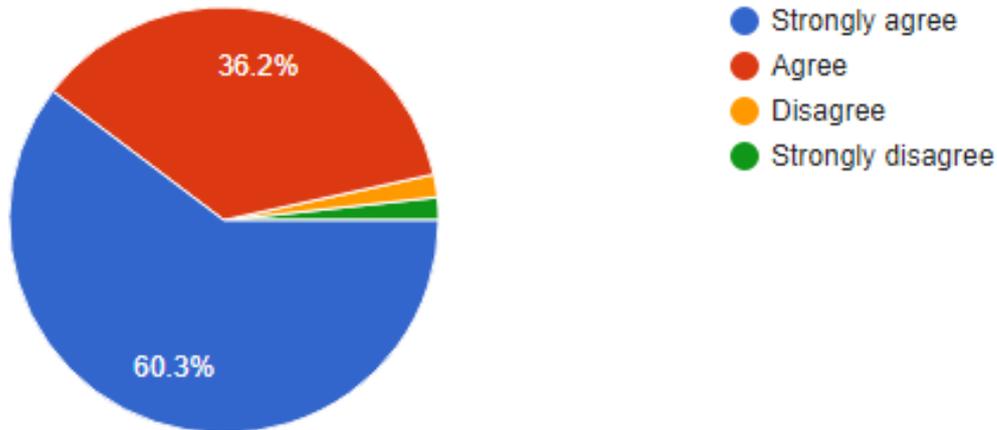
(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

- I only go to the school 2 times a week, but staff are cheerful and very helpful. I did have a different view of some staff but on reflection I now know that they have the best interest in my child and I have total reassurance in them
- Although I work full time, staff respond quickly to any message on Dojo
- Easily approachable
- Always greeted with a smile
- Staff in the nursery always take time to say good morning and ask how you and your child are. They always have time to listen to problems or queries and help me resolve them.
- Many methods to contact make them approachable
- Almost everyone always makes time for parents and pupils
- Teachers are always available in school to talk to or send messages to
- Yes staff welcoming and easy to speak to
- Again depends on who you talk to.
- The early years staff are easy to approach and understand any issues raised with them
- They are always willing to help you in whatever you need
- Teachers will always try to make time
- Mostly yes. However some do seem a little pre occupied.
- Teacher always available for quick chat at the end of the day.
- Nursery staff brilliant
- Also very helpful
- Never been an issue when I have wanted to speak with staff.
- I class the nursery staff as friends
- I feel welcome not just by child's teacher but other staff too.
- Always friendly and approachable.
- Only 2 staff members have been great with us
- Staff always give you help if needed
- Friendly staff
- The teacher is always happy to talk to me.
- Yes; all of the staff are very helpful, including the school office.
- We have never had any problems if we need to communicate or discuss any aspects of our children's school life.
- I've only really got to know nursery team and ks1 but I have to say they have all been professional but friendly, you can see how much they care for each individual child and as a parent that is so reassuring.
- Although it does sometimes feel like staff do their best to avoid having to speak to parents.



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Parent Questionnaire Results 2018

Q11: I feel that I can approach the school if I have a concern



Comments:

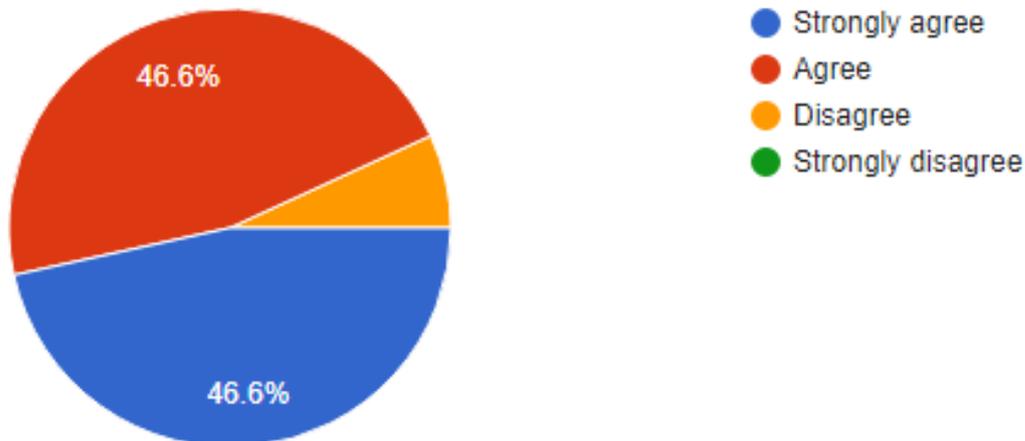
(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

- I have approached the staff and they have told me in a professional manner about what concerns they have and they are excellent in their conduct
- I feel that if I am concerned about something, it will be taken seriously and dealt with.
- Open to comments
- Staff have always been positive and honest with concerns so I trust them
- Very easy to speak to people
- Though some concerns have never been satisfactorily addressed
- Staff are easily approachable to sort out any problems
- I have never had any problems
- Yes, because they are very good
- I've had great support from Mrs Waters when I asked for her advice about my child
- No concerns but if I did I would feel comfortable approaching school
- Can approach but sometimes the answer cannot really give justice to the concern
- Very approachable
- I have done this previously and sought support from Mrs Pye she has listened and appeared to act upon a concern.
- Always very easy to contact
- So many ways to talk to teachers, at the gate, class dojo etc is excellent
- Opinions are listened to
- I have never been turned away
- Never had a problem doing this :)
- Problems are never taken seriously and are pushed to one side
- Don't think I would ever have a problem
- The teachers and head are always willing to listen to any concerns however little .
- Staff approachable
- School is always happy to listen to me
- There's always someone there to listen
- Yes; if I have a problem I will address it
- This has never been an issue but I would be happy to raise a concern if necessary.
- I maybe had one issue a couple of years ago and it was handled very well and quickly. I feel that I could speak to all the staff and any issue would be resolved.



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Parent Questionnaire Results 2018

Q12: The school encourages parents and carers to play an active part in school life



Comments:

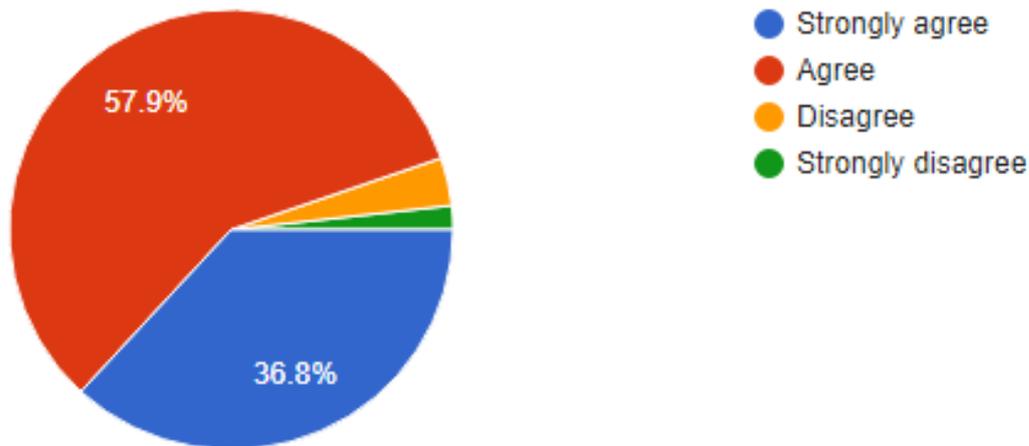
(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

- Yes they are always inviting parents grandparents to assemblies, for lunches and all sort of things and events.
- But the school also seems to assume that parents are around during school hours. It is difficult to explain to my daughter that I cannot come to liturgy, nor to lunch, nor the school fair
- Always asking us to come to liturgy and other events
- I recently enjoyed a trip to the seaside and I had a great time. It was a good opportunity to get to know other parents. We also went to the Easter fair and we will be going to the summer fair next week. We've donated some toys.
- Would like to see more offered after school
- Don't think I'd want it to
- Parents are invited to meals, on trips and to Liturgies
- This is true, very positive for all involved in a child's education
- I feel the school could do a lot more here. Use fundraising and local press more too.
- Sometimes.
- Although I can't attend a lot of these events due to work commitments my grandma does and I feel it's very important to keep that connection
- Parents are often asked to help out at school fairs etc which is good
- Don't really hear from pta
- Lots of gatherings where parents can come too which is fab!
- I don't feel included and have given up trying to be.
- Yes; we are all part of the community
- Regulars invites to liturgies/ performances, masses and activities in school.
- I think this is an area that needs to be looked at. I think the pta could be revived and I know of a few parents who are keen to get involved. Perhaps arrange a meeting start of new term? Would be good to do some parent socials (no expectation on teachers to be involved they sacrifice enough time) also more things for children Halloween disco Xmas disco. Turn the summer fayre into more of an event have a BBQ etc these things do take work but I would happily get involved.



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Parent Questionnaire Results 2018

Q13: The website is informative and provides me with necessary information about the school



Comments:

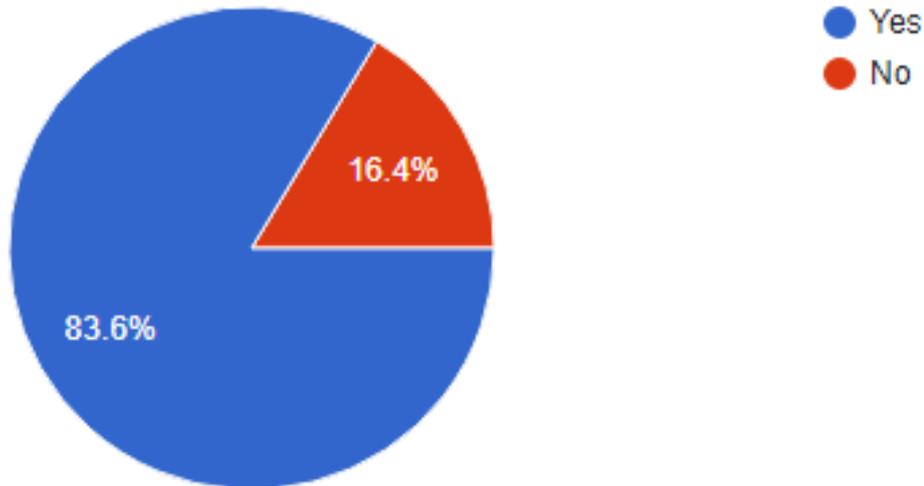
(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

- Yes it very up to date especially with things that have happened on the day, i.e. the swimming pool is closed unexpectedly
- I haven't really used it that much, but I should
- I looked at the website before my child's first visit to the school just to find out background information about the school, the activities the children do and to look at the school menus and parent information
- Don't normally do on the website
- Rarely look at the website
- If I need information it is readily available
- Much improved
- Great site
- Basic information is there
- I usually only go on the website for term date information
- I rarely look at it
- I find it difficult to find the lunch menu
- Don't really use the school website very often
- Easy to use website :)
- Don't really use the website but I am aware that the information is available
- I think the website could be improved but it isn't terrible.
- Not easy to navigate. Would be nice to see more photographs



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Parent Questionnaire Results 2018

Q14: Have you found our School Facebook Page helpful?



Comments:

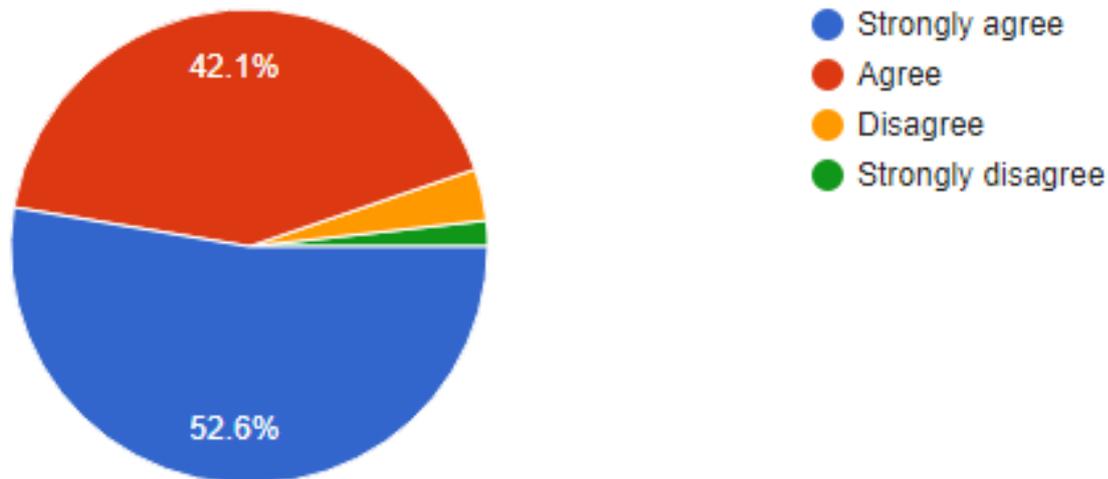
(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

- It's fab!
- I prefer the website, tend not to use Facebook
- Enjoy seeing the photos
- Great to see pics
- I do not have face book I get to know as much through the schools email system
- Only because I am not an avid Facebook user
- Gives immediate updates on trips and events at school that I can't get to so that I still feel involved
- Great to see updates about the whole school
- Particularly when looking at the progress of the residential courses etc.
- Particularly to keep up to date with trips and residential photos
- Nothing really of relevance in the last 2 years for nursery and reception
- Never used it
- Love the photos and updates
- Nice to see photos of children on activities etc.
- It would be nice to see more posts from each class and what they are doing
- I like seeing photos of what the children are up to.
- Very useful
- Great, especially to see pics of what the children have been doing on days out or residential
- Not seen it yet
- It's nice to see but to be honest not something I often use and on my personal Facebook page I rarely put pictures of the children on as I prefer strangers not to be looking at photos of my children on social media however I do understand the schools benefits of using it.
- Very useful
- The pictures of the surfing in South Shields were wonderful!
- It is lovely to see photos from school trips etc and keeps parents in touch with what is going on in school.
- Keeps you up to date
- I am glad this has been introduced but do think it could be used a little more.
- It's fantastic, it means the wider family can see what the kids are up to. Would be nice to see more posts from the classes



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Parent Questionnaire Results 2018

Q15: The newsletter provides me with clear information regarding what has happened in school but also about future events



Comments:

(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

- I agree however with my daughter being in Nursery I would like to see a little more about that in there on weekly basis.
- The newsletter is poor, I feel like I need to study the fine detail every week in fear of missing something important. No consistency to it, sometimes things are listed in the date bit at the bottom but other times they are missed off. Parents have very busy lives too, It would be really helpful to send out reminders about dress down days and PE kit days, rather than just listing them in random parts of the newsletter
- I am updated on email about everything from a coat been found to what is happening in the school daily in sweet in advance excellent coms
- I like how timetables are included every week so I can check when school events are without having to look back at previous newsletters.
- The newsletter is useful but is so packed with repetitive items that I usually don't bother to read it.
- The correct information is not always contained in the newsletter, for example the school uniform has been a bundle of mixed messages, the new school meal ordering system was a mess and events i.e. none school uniform days etc. have been missing. So not always a clear organised message
- Very informative
- It can be hard to tell if certain things include nursery i.e. full school photo notification seems not to include nursery but could be read either way from the newsletter so more clarity would be good.
- Clear and efficient
- Although I'd mostly agree, we are sometimes asked to provide items for events at short notice. Eg. Request Monday to bring pink t-shirt by Thursday.
- Info and dates are clearly set out and repeated every week
- I don't usually read the newsletter
- The weekly newsletter is great
- Newsletters are always great
- Well detailed with everything you need to need to know
- All good - and love the Facebook page when the children are on trips etc.,
- It is usually very informative however recently there have been a number of errors in dates and information which have needed to be clarified.
- Very informative
- The newsletter is much better in the new format the addition of pictures makes it a more pleasant read.
- Although the newsletter has gradually got worse again over the year. It has crept back to looking messy. There doesn't seem to be a lot of effort put in for stories of what the classes have been doing in school or on trips. It would be nice to see more pictures and information.



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Parent Questionnaire Results 2018

Q16: What have you particularly liked helping your child with this year?

Comments:

(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

- School projects and nursery garden
- Nursery beach trip.
- Learning
- Assignment
- Homework
- Kings and queens project
- Doing projects over long periods of time
- Early phonics (nursery) / maths and reading (class 2)
- Dance festival
- I love the read, write inc teaching plan.
- History projects
- Getting the help needed for my daughter to help her progressing with the things that she is struggling on ,all thanks to the staff that picked up on it excellent job
- I enjoyed helping my daughter with her Kings and Queen project, and I enjoyed helping my son with his SATs preparation
- Opening up his own unique personality
- Homework that allows them to get satisfaction by getting most questions right and struggle with just a few others
- I've enjoyed helping my child with her phonics. I can't believe how quickly she's grasping the sounds of letters and words and recognising quite a few of them. She's even starting to try and write some letters such as i, p, l and o.
- Reading
- He has had two homework projects and I have been blown away by his knowledge he has picked up on from school when doing the projects.
- Preparing to be independent for residential trips
- Surfing Trip
- Reading
- Everything! While still in nursery we have loved bringing his library book home every Wednesday and reading the stories together
- they have shown much interest in children learn
- We read her school library book at bedtime every night
- Be more independent
- Just settling into a new school and seeing them both happy and coming out of school with smiles on face. Supporting them to take part in things when they can
- Easter egg comp and nursery trip
- We enjoyed the creativity of the kids picking their own project in the mining project for Mrs Gibson's class.
- Blending
- Building friendships
- I enjoyed going up to Highfield Park to help out on the Easter Trip
- I am a grandparent and if I help my granddaughter with some of her school work I enjoy learning myself from her.
- His school work and activities out of school
- School trips
- The mining project was interesting and provoked some interesting discussions, also the Roald Dahl subject was a particular favourite of mine.
- "Helping them research projects for science and history.
- Designing a flag for nursery trip
- It's always nice to spend time with Harry while he does his homework and the term projects Miss Moore set were very interesting.



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Parent Questionnaire Results 2018

Q17: What extracurricular activities has your child enjoyed?

Comments:

(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

- Football, dancing
- Badminton and cricket.
- Athletics; hoola hoops
- Badminton
- Guitar club
- Spanish
- Guitar Club
- salsa, guitar club, Houses of Parliament, so many I will have forgotten them all
- anything drama / singing / dancing related
- Rounders and he loves breakfast club!
- Salsa classes, dance festival preparations and guitar club
- none too young as yet
- Nothing with school other than residential
- Trips and sporting activities. Dance show at Whitley Bay.
- Sports
- Guitar club
- Salsa, Badminton and athletics - although sadly no longer able to continue with guitar due to a clash with athletics.
- Language club, salsa, badminton, athletics
- All the different pe sessions have been fantastic. Not really been involved in much extracurricular but I assume that will change in KS2.
- It would be nice to more after school clubs offered and for longer. Other schools offer a wider range of clubs so it sometimes feels like the children are not getting the full experience at school they could. Could staff not put on 4/5 clubs a term?

Q18: Which method of communication with teachers/the school do you find most effective

35 votes for Class Dojo

14 votes for parentmail / email

8 votes for face to face

5 votes for telephone

3 votes for newsletter

Comments:

(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

- Dojo could be used more.
- Class Dojo, some teachers are good at sending out messages, but some have hardly used it.



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Parent Questionnaire Results 2018

Q19: What do you like most about St Matthew's / what are our strengths?

Comments:

(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

- Small classes, sense of school spirit and high standards of teaching.
- High level of care and passion for getting the best from their students.
- Caring friendly instil good values
- Teaching religion also and prayers
- Good teachers, caring and good school facilities
- Small school, everyone knows each other
- Friendly school
- I love the setting, the children always seem happy and eager to learn.
- Small classes
- Friendly, welcoming and you know my children very well
- Ensure a high standard of learning and ability to learn
- A real caring attitude, a drive to do the best possible
- "The support and encouragement given to my child to learn and explore the world around her in a range of different ways
- Small classes (under 20) and smaller school compared to others in the area
- Caring ethos and friendly approachable staff
- Good teaching staff who want the best and care about the children
- I love the buddy system but feel it's such a shame that they only have their buddies for 1 year - I would suggest they are given a year 5 buddy and year 6 buddy in reception to bridge the gap.
- Friendly, caring environment with lovely sized classes
- Lovely atmosphere and a good teaching system.
- The displays in particular are fab, it's nice to see some creativity with the memories board and the staff board.
- Small classes, teaching good morals and behaviour, welcoming friendly feel to the school which gives pupils the opportunity to thrive
- Small school good teaching staff
- Bespoke maths for children showing potential. Opportunities for extra curriculum activities.
- Welcoming, caring, supportive and encouraging
- Caring ethos
- Family atmosphere, caring staff and effort with the children
- Kids are nicer
- Caring school with high standards
- The sense of belonging to a community
- Teaching standards, making families feel welcome and that their children are well cared for
- Communication is strong. My child feels comfortable and safe.
- The family atmosphere and excellent caring staff.
- Nothing and I'm looking for alternate school
- I like the class sizes. Gives all children a chance to shine
- Without a doubt producing happy children, who enjoy going to school.
- Promoting community and kindness towards one another. Teaching children to except others in the school for who and what they are. Giving the child confidence to be individual. "
- Catholic school with friendly staff
- Very approachable staff and excellent teaching skills
- Ethos and caring environment
- Communication, ways of teaching,
- Caring and united
- The community feel of the school is very special. The teachers are wonderful. All have different talents they bring to the school but all very caring and nurturing.
- It has been evident that school has moved forward in the right direction over the past year - keep going! The new extension is fab for the Early Years. The changes to the front reception are also great, it feels much more open and welcoming.



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Parent Questionnaire Results 2018

Q20: How can we make St Matthew's even better / what would you change / what could we offer?

Comments:

(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

- More extracurricular activities
- Maybe a set PE teacher, teaching the kids to be more competitive.
- Better communication
- Lunchtime activity clubs, not just all after school - allows for a greater variety and doesn't clash with external activities and groups. Similarly after school clubs focused on ks1 or ks2 only (ie that don't include the whole school) can be problematic when you have more than one child's activities to organise, and it would be nice if they could do things together.
- I understand the school has to approach poor attendance with parents. However, the attendance letter I received this year wasn't appreciated, maybe rewording some of the dialogue could make the letter a little more digestible. To be classed as a poor absentee when attending hospital appointments that the school have had copies of is a little unnecessary.
- From the short time I have been going there I have noticed that the school is getting better all the time it's making all the decisions and evolving in the right directions so whatever they are doing it's working
- The standard of English of much of the correspondence is quite poor with regular grammatical mistakes. Being an English teacher, I am afraid that I am a little pedantic about such things.
- Ordering lunch online
- Make it clearer what the students are learning each term so we can help them more
- I don't really like the signing in/ out register that is required in nursery. I always think how easy it would be for a parent to sign their initial against the wrong child by accident and then a child could be mis-counted
- After school activities
- More homework in lower years instead of waiting to year 6 and then making it an intensive year.
- Keep involving the children in extracurricular activities, the more varied and interesting the better
- More sporting activities clubs
- Communication - often lacks - mixed messages or last minute notifications. Again going back to the school uniform - black PE winter joggers then an amendment to blue the posted again black! Hoopstarz day we didn't know hoops were for sale. It's difficult as a parent to organise work home and multiple schools needs organisation and forward thinking are a must. I think its difficult when the same children get the head teachers award on multiple occasions and others look on - explain what they can do to achieve the award themselves if they want it.
- Happy with everything at the moment
- I'd like to be in touch from Spanish school like a twinning schools.
- Communication has sometimes been not detailed enough or very last minute. Giving plenty notice of planned events especially ones that require different drop of or pick up times would help as I work full time and need to plan well in advance
- Days where parents come into school. Better work with local community doing more to raise schools profile.
- Parking facilities for visitors and parents.
- Better communications i.e. a letter in schoolbag is often lost.
- Sort out parentpay. Total rubbish. Indicates money requests for things we don't use.
- School meals could be improved if there was less emphasis on making a profit from them. They seem to be minimum input for max profit.
- A few more updates in children's nursery progress books would be welcomed
- I think that you are doing a lot for autism/special needs considering the resources that you have and we are very appreciative of the support that you have given our son. As mentioned previously, it would be good if you had more support from the council, community partners, ASD trained TA/student placements on this. My son is still regularly excluded from activities (ie. swimming, etc) that he should be able to attend with appropriate support for his needs. He should not be excluded from activities based on his disability.
- Increased sports activities
- Being tougher on children that are disruptive and bully other children
- I wish that my child was recognised for her achievements. I feel in assembly and on the newsletter children who need help are recognised but the ones who are already confident.
- Not sure I feel a great job is already being done :)
- Actually do something about bullying! Stop treating single parents and children from broken families appallingly!!
- Don't think there is anything
- For parents who don't go to church or follow the catholic religion, possibly setting up a group on a Sunday where the child could go along to church with one of the older students or teachers. However I am extremely happy the way things are.
- Small school library
- More thought given to non-resident parents and their situation.
- You provide an improved variety of after school clubs however they start and stop within a term so whilst the children get an introduction to different skills they aren't reinforced or built upon
- Nothing
- More events for the children, get the PTA off the ground, a big ask of the teachers but introduce residential when they are a bit younger even one night away. My nephew is in reception at school in Fenham and has just had a night with his class in Whitby. More trips through the year? So much on our doorstep we are very lucky in the north east. Parent socials? Weekend day trips for children and parents coach to flamingo land etc? Set up a method of parents being able to make discreet donations to school. Do fundraising for specific item would be nice to know how money is spent or what is needed. I also think that the students being lost to Highfield is a real problem speaking to non-Catholic parents they feel the transport system is a real sticking point (non Catholics have to pay and go on separate coach) to Thomas More's I appreciate the reasoning behind this but if parents were welcomed to Thomas More's earlier they would see the benefits out way perceived negatives.
- "Please can we have slightly longer parents evening? Again, it feels like staff do their best to have minimum contact with parents. It would be nice to have slightly longer to chat about my child's progress etc.
- Can staff please stop making such snap decisions, changes. There has been inconsistency with quite a number of things this year.



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Parent Questionnaire Results 2018

Q21: What was the highlight of your child's year at school?

Comments:

(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

- Learning about poetry
- Winning the Easter competition.
- Seeing my daughter's confidence and social skills blossom this year, for being so young she has grown so much personally and emotionally and knowing the care she gets there as a parent is a daily reassurance for me knowing she's in fabulous hands!!
- London school council
- Learning maths and writing
- The chance to attend dance festival and things at other schools, for Evie the opportunity to try different sports and go offsite.
- Residential, school trips.
- From the children: "all the maths that we did" (class 2); "everything" (nursery).
- School play
- He has really enjoyed his Maths work this year.
- Gateshead dance festival
- She is always on about a trip to the Roman wall I have not asked her but she said that it was brilliant
- For Ted: probably the Christmas Show, realising that SATS wouldn't actually kill him, and Galloway. For Martha: being able to read more fluently, any school trip and poetry
- Weardale trip and playhouse performance
- Seeing one dance at the sage, seeing another win a medal swimming and another reading in assembly
- Going to the seaside on the nursery trip
- Making friends
- Dance festival / school nativity etc.
- His fire of London project was excellent
- The residential to Weardale and the Dance performances at the Sage and the Playhouse
- Residential to Galloway
- I think the trip to the seaside with her buddy and no parents is the biggest thing ever!!!!
- We both loved the nursery trip to the beach, a lovely day to spend with teachers and the rest of the nursery class
- They've learned a lot
- She loved being in the Christmas nativity and really enjoyed the trip to the beach.
- Getting invited to athletics competition
- For Ellie residential was a massive thing and I'm so proud she took part in the challenges. Her mind set has totally changed since starting St Matthew's.
- For George it's his handwriting it still needs lots of work but looks much better, him actually wanting to go to school as well is a big thing
- Making friends and seeing him happy
- No one highlight, but watching my daughter thrive and gain confidence at nursery is great
- They loved the dance festival! :)
- Sats, residential, transition days
- Meeting new friends
- Christmas play
- Residential and lunchtime!!
- Nursery beach trip and parties!
- Residential and beach trip
- Christmas play
- Mia has learned to read in a matter of ten months.
- The Christmas play :) always lovely to see!
- My daughter loves school but my son hates it because of the bullying and him being treat like he's in the wrong!
- Matthew enjoys every day.
- For my grandson winning a teachers award even though he struggles academically.
- For my granddaughter helping her overcome the death of her great grandmother encouraging her to talk about her feelings. Not just get on with that attitude. She said the teachers helped her overcome her sadness. Being chosen to be a narrator in the school play too. "
- Overnight trip away with class
- Able to read
- making friends, school trips and history/geography
- The bond he has with the teachers and his classmates
- The trip to Weardale and Surfing!
- For Y3 taking part in the schools athletics competition and also their trip to Vindolanda.
- For Reception: going on the beach trip with their buddies. And also being able to read her first book with chapters!
- Nursery trip to beach
- My child loved being the Angel Gabriel in the Xmas play he took such care in learning his lines and it was a wonderful confidence boost for him. His friendships have really consolidated this year and academically he has progressed beyond any expectation we had. He loves to read and it has been wonderful to see him enjoying so many different books and seeing his imagination in action. Mabel has had a special year in nursery, she talks so fondly of the staff there and has been some lovely friends. I'm looking forward to see how she flourishes in reception.



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Parent Questionnaire Results 2018

Q22: Do you have any final comments or suggestions?

Comments:

(Duplicate/similar answers have been condensed)

- Approach parents rather than send blanket letters
- A great school in the main, would definitely recommend it!
- Great school, keep up the high standards!
- Yes not happy that new uniforms were required for year 6. Cost for one year before high school unfair
- Non I would like to thank everyone at the school for the help they have provide me and my daughter
- Please ensure someone proof-reads whatever you send home to parents!
- Communicate and again attention to detail and the big things will fall into
- None. Just to say thank you for all your support. Keep up your good work St Matthews staff
- School teaching kids to be more independent but sometimes kids needs a helping hand specially the little kids
- A When the class do a display for the hall can all children's work be displayed it is awful for the children when we look at them together and they have to say that theirs hasn't been chosen to be on the wall, think about how the child feels rather than how good it looks as a non-Catholic this is what non-Catholics criticise Catholic schools for. There is a lot of requests for money for different things this is a diverse school and maybe a donation online for pta monthly or yearly might be better than what feels like a regular request again this is stereotypical of what the public perceive catholic schools to be like. There are a lot of parents working in the school on a volunteer basis whilst completing their own training the rest of the parents do not appear to have been consulted about this and if they have any thoughts. Maybe a reassurance statement re confidentiality could be given out to parents as you are aware there are some chatterboxes.
- I think a bike shed would be a great idea to encourage children to exercise and come to school on bikes and scooters. What about introducing a mile a day like the schools in Scotland?
- I just feel overall Saint Matthews is a wonderful school. And it's amazing how the children come home and teach the adults. I am often brought into line by my grandchildren thankfully by the good teachings of St Matthews. Keep up the good work.
- Hope in future can have parking or drop off space for busy parents
- A small library to the school as I find nursery children come home with the same book over and over, and a small diary you can write in to keep teachers up to date with life at home so they know how the children are coming along and what they need extra hand with at school.
- I would just like to thank everyone for taking such good care of my little girl. She is doing so well and I'm very proud of her.
- I think the school is definitely heading in the right direction and has improved even in the last year. I know both my children are very happy there and that is mainly due to the wonderful teachers. They are the biggest asset! As mentioned I am happy to get involved in any capacity needed.