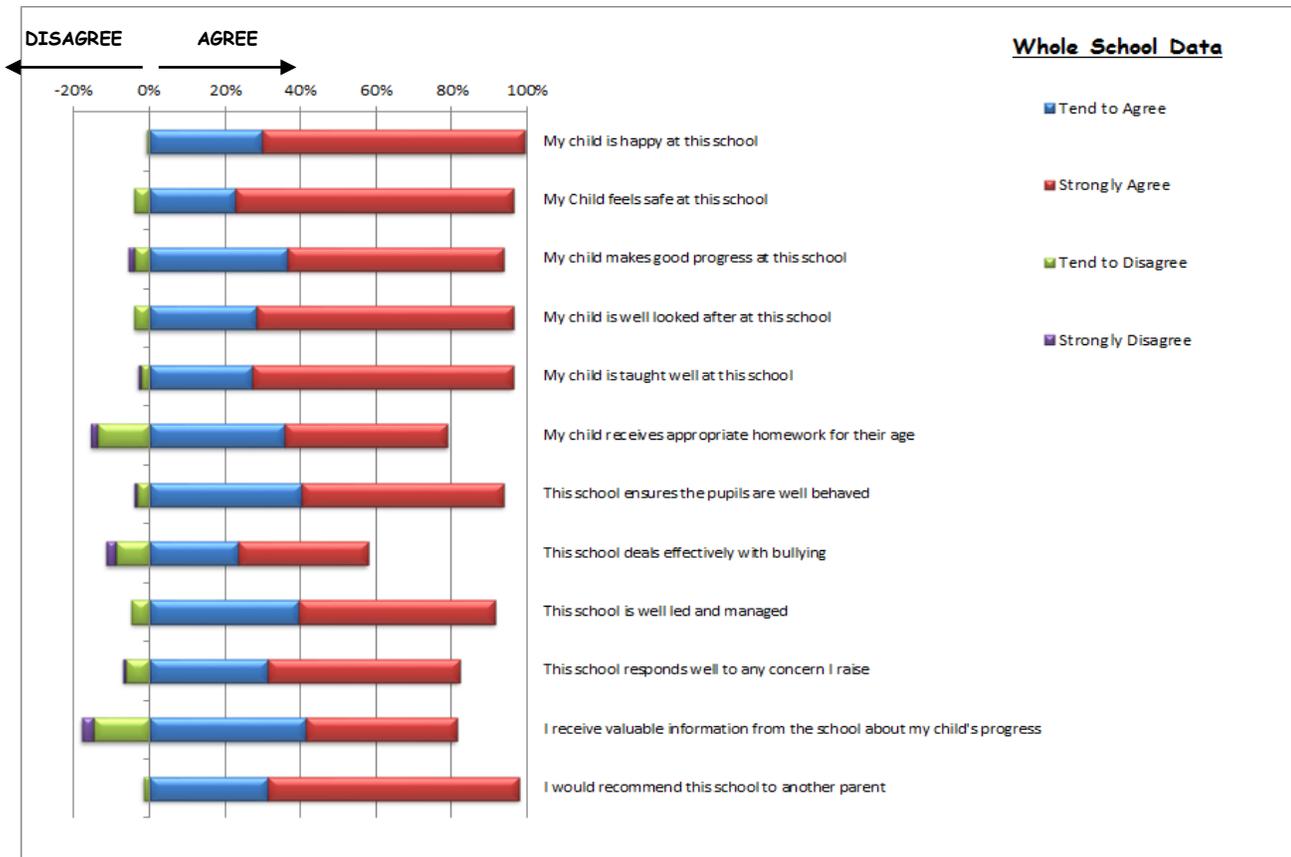


Welcome to our Summer 2016 newsletter.

Parents' Survey

Many thanks to all the mums, dads, and carers who responded to our recent Parents' Survey where we had 130 replies. We do look at every response that is returned to us and act wherever possible. The overall school findings are shown in the following chart but we are delighted to see such a generally strong, positive response:



What does this show?

Strengths:	Areas for investigation/development:
Our children are happy at school (99% agreed in 2016, 98% agreed in 2014, 98% in 2012)	Homework was an issue that was raised (with 16% disagreeing in 2016, compared to 14% in 2014), with contrasting views; some parents saying there was too little, others saying too much, but overall 84% agreed the amount was appropriate for their child. We will continue to keep a close eye on this as we want homework to be constructive and to support work already taking place in the classroom – not just setting homework for homework's sake.
Children feel safe (96% agreed in 2016, 99% agreed in 2014, 98% in 2012,)	Whether parents receive valuable information about progress saw 18% disagree this year, level with the figure in 2014 and compared to 21% who disagreed in 2012. We are heading in the right direction on this but will still be taking comments on board such as better use of the pupil planners.
Children are well looked after (96% in 2016, 97% in 2014, 96% in 2012)	On the question of whether the school deals effectively with bullying, this is an area we always aim/hope to get a 100% result as we want all our children to be happy and feel safe at school. We constantly review our anti-bullying policies but would urge any parents who have concerns to get in touch with their form teacher immediately.
Children make good progress (94% in 2016, 94% in 2014, 96% in 2012)	
Children are taught well (96% in 2016, 95% in 2014, 96% in 2012)	
The school ensures children are well behaved (94% in 2016, 92% in 2014, 92% in 2012)	
The school is well led and managed (91% in 2016, 90% in 2014 and 91% in 2012)	
Parents would recommend our school (94% in 2016, 93% in 2014, 89% in 2012)	

Despite having such strong data from the initial statistics we always want to look beyond the headline figures to where we can improve. We do not treat this simply as a paper exercise or box ticking for future Ofsted visits. Governors spent hours going through all the responses and inputting the data so they have a first-hand view of what parents think of our school. The results are then discussed, and actions agreed, at the next full Governors' meeting.

We think the results speak for themselves with very strong support across all areas of the school and we hope to continue this success throughout 2016 and beyond. This particular parents' survey is held every two years and we do want it to be relevant to your needs and concerns. If there are any questions you think we should include or amend in future surveys then please email your suggestions to: admin@riverside.n-yorks.sch.uk

School attendance

Academic Year	Absence Sept to end of Spring Term
2007-2008	5.31% total
2008-2009	4.84% total
2009-2010	6.0% total 1 st week Jan v poor weather - 4.5% if taken out
2010-2011	4.4% total absence
2011-2012	3.2% total absence
2012-2013	3.3% total absence
2013-2014	2.7% total absence
2014-2015	3.1% total absence
2015-2016	2.8% total absence



We are very much aware that the Government policy on Leave of Absence is not popular with parents but despite that the school has made remarkable progress over recent years in improving our attendance. The Governing Body would like to say thank you to all parents as we would now rate our attendance as outstanding with our pupils collectively spending hundreds of more hours learning in the classroom each year.

As always, any leave requests should go to Mr Yapp and will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. You can check out further details on the Riverside website, or the school will also be happy to advise you if you contact the administration team via the main office number.

Governing Body vacancy

The governing body is made up of a team of volunteers. We have volunteers representing parents, staff, local authority and community. The Governing body works together as a group in a strategic role to oversee the direction and leadership of the School for which the Governing body is legally accountable. The Head teacher and his Senior Leadership team manage the school on a day to day basis and the governors meet altogether termly and in small working groups as necessary to look at specific projects, developments and to monitor the work of the school. At present we have a vacancy for a co-opted governor (this was previously known as a community governor) and we would like to hear specifically from anyone who has experience in accountancy and financial management. If you are interested in filling this position, or know someone who might be, then please contact the school office who will pass your details on.

Why become a School Governor? Parent Governor Deb Hastie explains her reasons: "With three children all at Riverside at some point I knew I wanted to find out more about how the School and the wider education system worked; as well as make some form of contribution whether it was through the Friends or Governing Body. My favourite part is getting into the classrooms and seeing the children "in action". It's extremely fulfilling to see how hard they all work and how well behaved they are. We are a big school and nothing is perfect but our kids really are something to be proud of and are fantastic ambassadors both in school and when they represent us on school trips and in the community."

New school website

It has been several months in development but we are delighted to have our new-look website live. It is now easier than ever to find out information about the school and what is coming up. If you haven't visited it yet than check it out at www.riverside.n-yorks.sch.uk.

I would like to say a big thank you to our Parent Governor and senior web designer Pete Carr who has spent a huge amount of his time getting this right for the school, saving us time and many thousands of pounds in development time into the bargain.

We are a very committed and active governing body. As well as fulfilling our duties by supporting and challenging Mr Yapp and his senior leadership team and monitoring activities and progress in school, we also enjoy being involved in day to day events. All staff and governors work together with a common aim of providing a safe and vibrant learning environment in which all children can reach their potential and have an enjoyable experience in this wonderful school. As parents and carers, you are very much part of the whole school community and your opinions and comments are very valuable to us. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Ian C. Butler
Chair of Governors