

**Please list three things you think are a strength of our school**

- Friendly welcoming staff.
- Endless amounts of learning/playing activities.
- Amazing amounts of after school clubs.
- Well managed.
- Teachers and staff are very helpful, friendly and supportive.
- Everyone works as a team for the school and the children.
- The staff are very friendly and approachable
- My child gets on well with all the teachers and adults at school.
- The school has a varied list of clubs.
- Lots of different activities for him to keep involved especially number and phonic activities.
- Regular events to keep involved.
- I believe the school is inclusive.
- The school teaches the children to respect others.
- We love the mile a day programme.
- Caring and helpful staff, they go beyond normal teacher duties to help.
- Brilliant teaching techniques in and outside of classroom.
- Provides amazing opportunities for the children.
- Outdoor activities such as trail blazing and mile a day encourages children to be outside and get active.
- FOPS
- Makaton friendly
- Mrs Carter has been wonderful this year. Our son has gained confidence and really improved this year.
- Good communication with parents.
- Your outdoor space is wonderful and used well.
- Mile a day and sports activities.
- Small school – everyone knows each child by name.
- Enthusiasm
- Getting “out there” – up to date with new incentives – mile a day, Makaton friendly.
- Keeping parents/carers up to date.
- Supportive and encouraging to pupils and parents.
- Structured in lessons.
- Religious friendly



- Caters to everyone's needs.
- Fun learning
- Caring
- Not too much pressure on kids.
- Staff are excellent.
- Headteacher is a great leader.
- Feels like family as it is welcoming and very supportive.
- Staff listen to any parenting concerns.
- Staff are always on hand to develop the needs of the pupils.
- Staff help the pupils to understand what is expected of them in a supportive environment.
- Outside space and activities.
- Praise for hard work.
- Encouraging children to be healthy and active.
- The caring nature of the schools ethos.
- Always making the children feel safe and happy.
- Lots of opportunities for parents to be involved.
- Providing exciting learning opportunities.
- Lots of events that parents and families are invited to. It's lovely to be involved.
- Well qualified staff (competent and professional).
- Very supportive of the children and like to encourage their work and success.
- Generally a good school environment, happy place to be.
- Good pupil/teacher relationship.
- Social media page.
- School trips/camps.
- School parliament.
- Interactive diary.
- Good standard of discipline and morals.
- Healthy eating/good school menu.
- Fantastic teachers who care about every child.
- Any sort of bullying/unkind things that do occur (not very often) seem to be sorted out straight away.
- The new security gates.
- Mr C has been an asset to the school, his teaching is great. Mile a day is "Brilliant"!



- Involving families, it is nice for the children to see parents in class and hearing about what they do etc.
- Obvious shared goals (observed in staff) – the staff all seem to be on the same agenda and it shows great teamwork.
- Clear rules.
- Helping each individual reach their potential.
- Working in partnership with parents.
- Patience with children.
- Activities such as Cinema Night – awesome.

*Wow, thank you for all these positive comments. We appreciate you taking the time to complete the questionnaire.*

**Please list three things you think we could do better**

- After school clubs for reception. *We deliberately do not offer clubs for Reception aged children - starting school is a big and tiring adventure.*
- We are happy that this school is the best as it is.
- Allowing parents in the gates a little earlier to collect children to avoid so much commotion near nursery. *The gates are opened when the children have finished using any of the playgrounds. The Nursery staff will ensure your child is safe with them until you can collect.*
- Newsletters, I can't always see them properly online. *Check with the office who will be happy to help.*
- After school club passports seem to never get given back and it's hard when my daughter does 2 after school classes. *Oh dear, perhaps when you collect after a club you could check your child has their passport with them.*
- Trips should be costed better. Pupil premium get their cost reduced and get help to pay for it. What about those that don't get pupil premium by a very small amount? There is no reduction or help for those people and it is needed. *Each trip is costed carefully to ensure we are providing the best value. Pupil Premium use is directed by government. We try to give as much notice as possible. If you are having problems finding the funds please speak to your child's teacher or the office in the first instance. The office will help with a payment plan.*
- Need more activities that parents can join in with that are not between work hours. *We deliberately arrange for Parent's Forums and Parent Evenings to run after work hours to try to accommodate working parents.*
- More notice with activities and school events. *The weekly newsletters have a dates section and there is a calendar on the school website that is kept up to date. We try to provide reasonable notice whenever possible.*
- Use e'schools texting – sometimes we don't receive them. *Please ask at the office - maybe mobile number has changed?*
- Open the gates a bit earlier in the morning so we can be in class at 8.45 am. *Gates are open to the new playground from early morning and staff on duty from 8.30am.*
- Let parents in the gate just before 3 pm. *The office staff open the gates just prior to the bell.*
- Option of having Pondhu polo shirts. *These have now been ordered and are available from the school office £7 each.*
- Parking arrangements. *Unfortunately there is no parking on site for parents. We have gained permission for parents and carers to use the Council offices car park at drop-off and pick up times. It is also a short walk from the Co-op car park which is free.*
- School dinners – sometimes problems with change and kids say portion sizes are sometimes small? *School lunches are managed by Chartwells. If you have a concern please ask at the office.*



- I personally have not had any reasons to think that the school is lacking any way.
- Offer language club/class. *All the children take part in learning languages in school. From September Mr Dawes will be offering an additional lunchtime German club.*
- Making the attendance sheet day based and not percentage as it doesn't always reflect the child's situation fully. *We will have a look into this. However school attendance is usually reported as a percentage.*
- Spare some time for individuals. *We feel we do - please can the person who wrote this come and tell Mrs Tregellas about your concern.*
- Making sure both parents get letters. *We try to ensure this happens. If you require an additional copy please contact the office. Newsletters are posted on the website each week.*
- Mile a day track could be covered in tarmac as kids slip over and cut their knees and I know other parents feel the same. *The new track will settle with use so hopefully there won't be any more grazed knees.*
- Lunchtime club for Key Stage 2? *These already exist. There will be a new set in September so ask your child to watch out for announcements.*
- Talk to parents whose children have head lice rather than send a letter out. *This is something we already do, the letters are to advise other parents to check their child's head.*
- Don't put voluntary contribution when you don't mean it! *Unfortunately we do need to ask for help to fund some trips, see previous comment about ways to pay.*
- Let us know that after school club is cancelled more than 10 minutes before the end of school. *The decision is usually made by 1.30pm and parents contacted. Sorry if you've missed a message.*
- Keep the class name as the child moves through the school. *Good idea - we will look into this.*
- Extra curricular opportunities – even if just informing of outside school activities. *We are proud of the wide range of activities we provide. The school is not responsible for advertising other providers.*
- Give more notice when something is going on in the school play etc. *see previous comment about notice above*
- Staggered school day, too many parents arriving for pick up at the same time. *The change in the times of day was made partly to align the classes and also to prevent some people having to wait for too long between the Key Stages.*
- After school clubs should run, despite weather/staff illness/courses. Really inconvenient to have to make arrangements when clubs cancelled especially at short notice. *Staff kindly give up their time to run clubs to provide children with additional learning opportunities. However if a club cannot run we ask that you collect your child.*
- Bright coloured safety jackets when taking the kids on trips etc. *Thank you - we will consider this idea.*
- Send nit letters to individual parents who kids are known to have nits mentioning it's been seen. *See previous Nits comment.*
- Give an exact time for kids to be in class (I see so many late!!) *The school day starts at 8.45am. The children should be ready to enter school then.*
- Sports day is too long, always over runs and is quite chaotic. *The sports day is carefully designed to ensure all pupils are active and participating as much as possible. Please see Mr Cooper who will be happy to explain the format to you.*
- Communication with parents who aren't able to attend school regularly, especially when there are issues. *We have an open door policy. If you wish to talk to staff please telephone the office and make an appointment.*
- I think sometimes it feels as though children who are "at expectation" could be being "held" and could be pushed more. *We feel we provide appropriate challenge for all pupils. If you have a specific concern please see your child's class teacher in the first instance.*



- My son would like more books in the library and the choice to go to the library at play/golden time. *It is great your son loves reading! We maintain a contract with the library service so that books are changed each term. We encourage children to be outside and active during playtimes, but as a Golden Time activity this would be a really good idea.*
- Informing parents if children are doing different things even if it's during the normal school day especially if off the premises, we can get confusing information from the children. *We try to ensure parents and carers are informed of any changes to routine well in advance. Always check your class's noticeboard for messages.*
- Educating children about general safety i.e. stranger danger. *We have a detailed and comprehensive PSHE (personal, social, health and emotional) programme which covers this aspect. Please check with your child's teacher if you aren't sure.*
- Smoking within the school grounds. *The school site is a no smoking area. Please help by reminding anyone you see that this is the case or report it straight to the office.*
- Swearing from other parents in the school grounds around the children. *Staff will challenge any bad language that is heard. If you hear anything you are unhappy with contact the office immediately.*
- Our experience of the school, staff and how happy our son is means we have nothing to add for improvements.

**Any other comments?**

- Our children love this school. We believe that all the staff work well together to provide the best learning experience that is possible even though we moved across town we wanted our children to remain here.
- I think that the Makaton sign language is amazing, I have not seen any other school teach this to any age group never mind nursery or reception. It is truly amazing.
- We are looking forward to our daughter starting in September.
- I am very happy to send my son to Pondhu and recommend it to anybody, my son has made so much progress.
- Really pleased with this school and all its staff since moving here our son has learned so much more than he would have and enjoys going to school now. Thank you.
- This is a fabulous school all round and the staff are so supportive to me as a single parent and mum with a child who has special needs which I am very grateful for. Thank you!
- Both our children love coming to school. That tells me as much about the school environment as it does my children. They are allowed to be children but are learning in a structured and fun way. As a parent I couldn't ask for more.
- We have felt welcome ever since we came and looked at the school – so much so I was willing to home school my daughter until a place was available. As a shy child she has felt totally secure, loved and cared for since starting in February. I couldn't be happier.
- Thank you very much, my daughter has had such an amazing year. Each morning when I drop her off I think how lucky she is to be going into such a warm, caring and exciting learning environment – I want to stay and join in. Thank you so much to the staff for their patience, enthusiasm and contagious excitement for learning, we are so grateful for all your hard work.
- It has been so lovely to see lots of things my daughter has been doing in Nursery on the interactive learning journey – thank you to the staff for all the effort they put into updating this. Thank you also for all the opportunities we have been given to come and join the children for various activities.



- Lovely school, lovely staff. Both my children love being here.
- We hope that our daughter's class will stay together when they move in September as she's made so many friends and she is a lot happier than when she first started.
- Make sure my child wears an apron when painting as she has got stains on her dresses and I struggle to get it out which can be quite annoying when the clothing is new and not always cheap.
- Overall a good school and we are very happy and hoping to get my son into the Nursery next year to follow in his sister's footsteps.
- This is an excellent school.
- Our daughter has come on in leaps and bounds, she has thoroughly enjoyed all aspects from the class. Her reading has improved so much that she actively enjoys reading a variety of books now.
- I really enjoyed the recent picnic with my children on the field. I think this school is good and my children love it and enjoy attending Pondhu. My children and I also enjoy the day trips and camps that Pondhu are able to provide.
- No parking at drop off zone however letting people who drop kids off on the opposite side of the zone causing traffic. (Drop off zone for a reason?)
- Putting my child at below average for P.E just because he is not great at swimming but excels at every other aspect during P.E is not fair!
- My daughter has been at the school for less than a year and in that time has gone from having very little confidence and needing lots of support to now gaining confidence, is happy to go to school and enjoying it every day. This I feel is a reflection on the school and teachers who have encouraged her to start to blossom. I would like to say a very big Thank You! It is lovely to her doing so well and to know that she is settled and happy.
- Morning routines – the change to 8.45 start has meant that the start of the day is slower for those of us that used to arrive at 8.45 anyway. It can take a lot longer to get through the cloakroom/lunch trolley/name registration routine simply because everyone is trying to do it at the same time.
- My daughter doesn't understand why all the other children in her class has had star pupil but she hasn't "even though I got a good report and am doing really well, what else have I got to do" is what she said.
- I appreciate the difficulties in expanding school based extra curricular activities. Perhaps there could be more communication about outside school clubs that are available? Happy to chat through some ideas if you want.
- Both my children love this school and seem to find all the staff easy to talk to and approach if they have any problems. Thank you to all the staff and helpers at Pondhu!
- Really enjoyed sports day this year. Gives those pupils who aren't so good at running a chance to excel elsewhere.
- The internet safety/usage info could be good.
- Music lessons – orchestra? or letters to tell us what is available.
- I liked the children having wellies at school for trailblazing.
- HFC performance was great.



- My daughter loved all the camps she has been to. Thank you.
- Parking is an ongoing issue, even with a parking attendant – maybe he could patrol the road leading up to school and not just stay in one place. He doesn't do a particularly good job, perhaps the cost of him could be better spent elsewhere.
- We are very happy with the school and realise you have to cater for a wide range of abilities and wishes. The school has great facilities with wide green spaces that I feel should be protected. It has a positive learning environment and manages to teach some life skills alongside the curriculum. I prefer more "traditional" teaching methods and feel my son does better with these boundaries – he has progressed hugely this year and would like to thank his teacher for her management of him as I know he can be challenging when it comes to concentrating!
- With day trips during the school year would it be easier if parents contribute £1 a term to help pay for this then help out later on as not on any help from social. I find this beneficial even for example Red Nose day or other events. This helps a lot of parents instead of taking big chunks of money from a parent who has 1 or more children at Pondhu.
- All aspects of the school are excellent, my son has improved so much due to all the hard work of the staff.
- Swimming in reception is brilliant, I know some schools don't start until years 1, 2 and 3.
- My son is always excited to come to school and this is a credit to all the staff and children at Pondhu. He is challenged with his work and given opportunities to push himself. His confidence has grown and his ability to deal with stressful situations is improving. A huge thank you from happy parents for teaching our little man important life skills as well as the academics. We look forward to another 3 years at Pondhu.