

Sprowston Junior School Governors Survey of Parents' and Carers' views Autumn Term 2015

School role : 215

Surveys returned: 103 (48 %)

The survey design and questions were the same as used over the past 5 years (see Annex A). The previous survey was held in Spring 2014. The survey was also published online on SurveyMonkey 101 surveys were completed on paper and 2 surveys were completed online. Surveys which referred to more than one child were counted for each child. Questionnaires distributed to all parents via pupils, which contained a link to the online survey. The number of online surveys completed was much less last year, probably because the link was not sent out by email. Each question was designed so that agreement with the statement was a positive response about the school, and disagreement was a negative one. Parents were also invited to make comments about their opinion of the school on the form, and were given the option of leaving their name so that Governors or the school could follow up individual comments or concerns. 32 forms were returned with comments (30 paper, 2 online).

Results.

Table 1. Summary of answers to each of the 15 questions on returned surveys. Figures denote the numbers of answers returned with that response, the percentage of the total returns is in the adjacent column to the right. Please see Annex A for the full questionnaire and the wording of the questions. Some of the counts are not round numbers as some returns recorded a tick on the border between two responses, therefore to capture this information, a value of 0.5 was registered to the response either side of the tick.

Statement	Strongly Agree	(%)	Agree	(%)	Disagree	(%)	Strongly Disagree	(%)
1. Enjoys	46	44.7	55.5	53.9	1.5	1.5	0	0.0
2. Safe	57	55.3	42	40.8	4	3.9	0	0.0
3. Progress	40	40.0	59	59.0	1	1.0	0	0.0
4. Behaves	25	24.5	72.5	71.1	3.5	3.4	1	1.0
5. Teaching Good	58	58.0	41.5	41.5	0.5	0.5	0	0.0
6. Works hard	58	56.9	44	43.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
7. Homework	40	40.0	57	57.0	3	3.0	0	0.0
8. Healthy	42	41.2	60	58.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
9. Fairly treated	62	60.8	39.5	38.7	0.5	0.5	0	0.0
10. Informed	47	45.6	55	53.4	1	1.0	0	0.0
11. Approachable	66	64.1	37	35.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
12. Maturity	52	50.5	51	49.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
13. Activities	67	65.0	35	34.0	1	1.0	0	0.0
14. Leadership	63	61.2	39.5	38.3	0.5	0.5	0	0.0
15. Parents views	45	43.7	53	51.5	3	2.9	2	1.9

- Just over 99% of questions were answered; 13 responses were left blank if the answer was not known. The most popular blank response was to question 5 “*Teaching is good*” and question 7 “*The school provides appropriate homework*” with 3 blank responses each.
- As with previous years, the vast majority of responses were positive towards the school. This year, 98.5% of all questions answered “agree” or “strongly agree” (98.2% in 2014).
- The number of strongly disagree responses were higher this year 0.2% (0% in 2014). However, the overall number of negative responses was down from 1.8% to 1.5%.
- Four questions resulted in 0% of responses being “disagree” or “strongly disagree”.

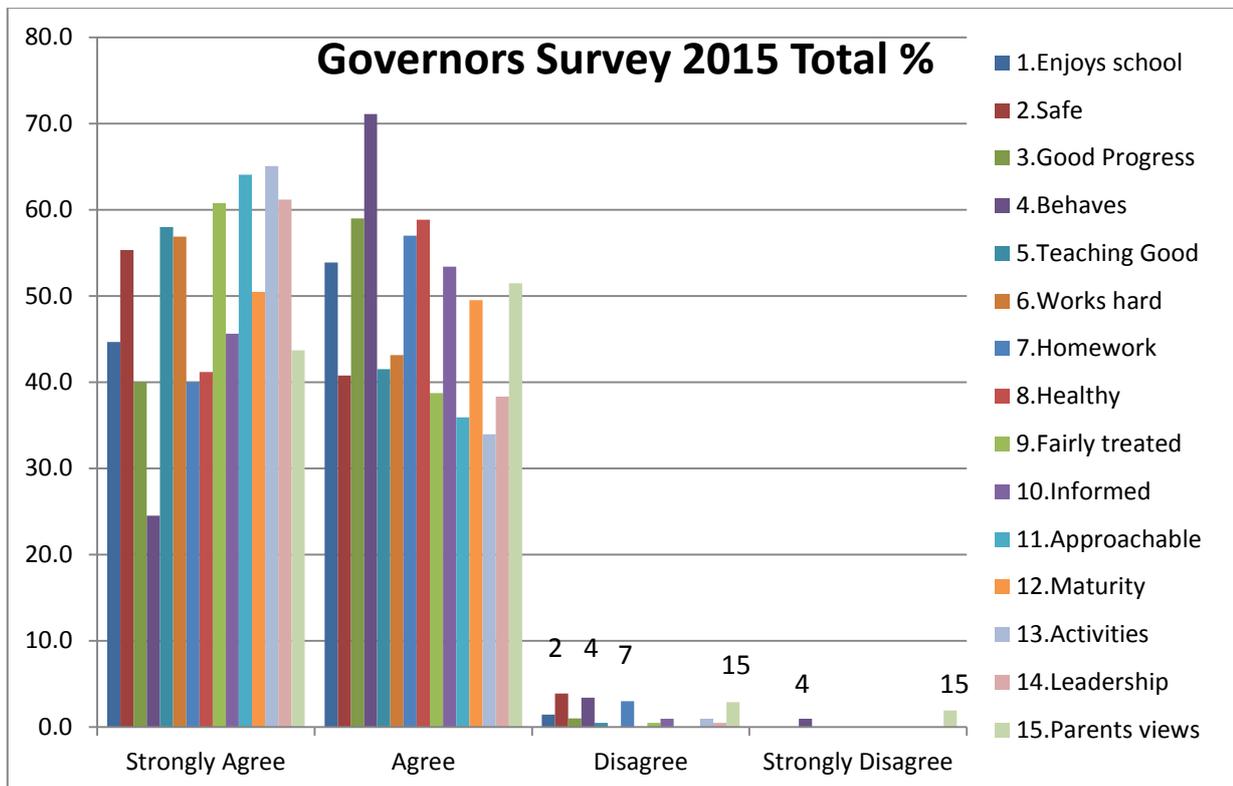


Figure 1. Bar chart showing the percentage of responses to each question

The main points of interest arising from the analysis are as follows:.

The proportion of “strongly agree” responses were similar to previous years than in previous surveys with 50% of responses being “strongly agree”.

100% of responses were positive in 4 areas: that children were expected to work hard, and encouraged to be healthy, that the school was approachable and children are encouraged to be mature.

Over 99% of responses agreed that children made good progress, that teaching was good, that children were fairly treated, that parents were well informed, there was a good range of activities and the school was well led and managed.

Interestingly, probably for the first time, the lowest positive response was not about homework, but about parents views being considered with 4.9% parents disagreeing. Also, 4.4% disagreed that most behaviour was good. Worryingly, 3.9% of responses did not think that their children were safe at school Homework was only ranked 4th with 3% negative responses

In order to get a trend over the years, the total percentage of “agree” and “strongly agree” responses were taken as positive responses, and the total percentage “disagree” and “strongly disagree” taken as negative responses and compared over recent surveys, and shown in Figure 2. This shows that over the 7 previous surveys, that the proportion of positive responses has increased, with a subsequent decrease in negative responses. This should be taken in context as up to the 2007/08 survey, the survey contained a “don’t know” option, which may explain the disproportionate increase in positive responses for the next year. Nevertheless, the trend has continued, and this year’s results show the most positive response from parents to date, and a positive overall trend.

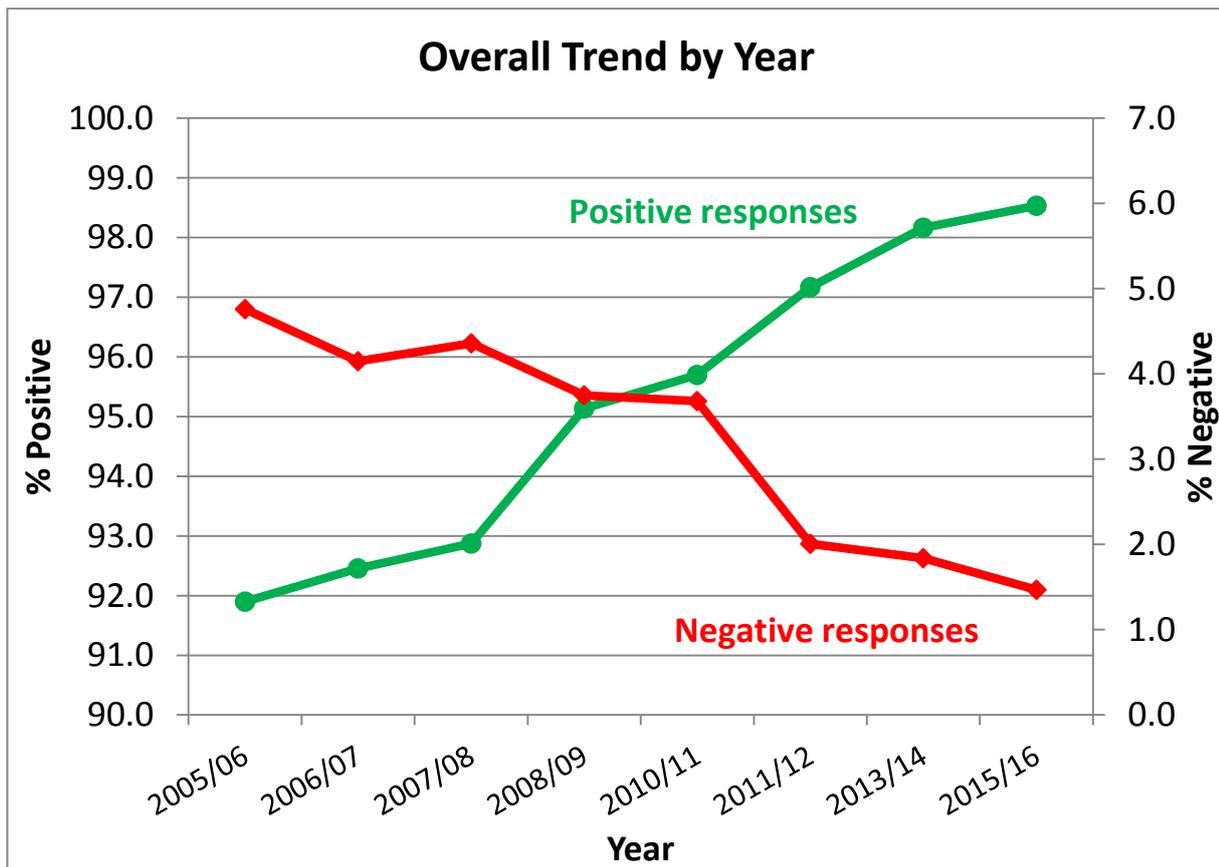


Figure 2. Overall percentages of positive and negative responses from survey results of previous years..

Positive Responses

Responses that answered “Strongly agree” and “Agree” were added together for each statement and presented in Figure 3. Comparisons are made with the previous three surveys, where the survey composition was the same, allowing a good comparison for all questions.

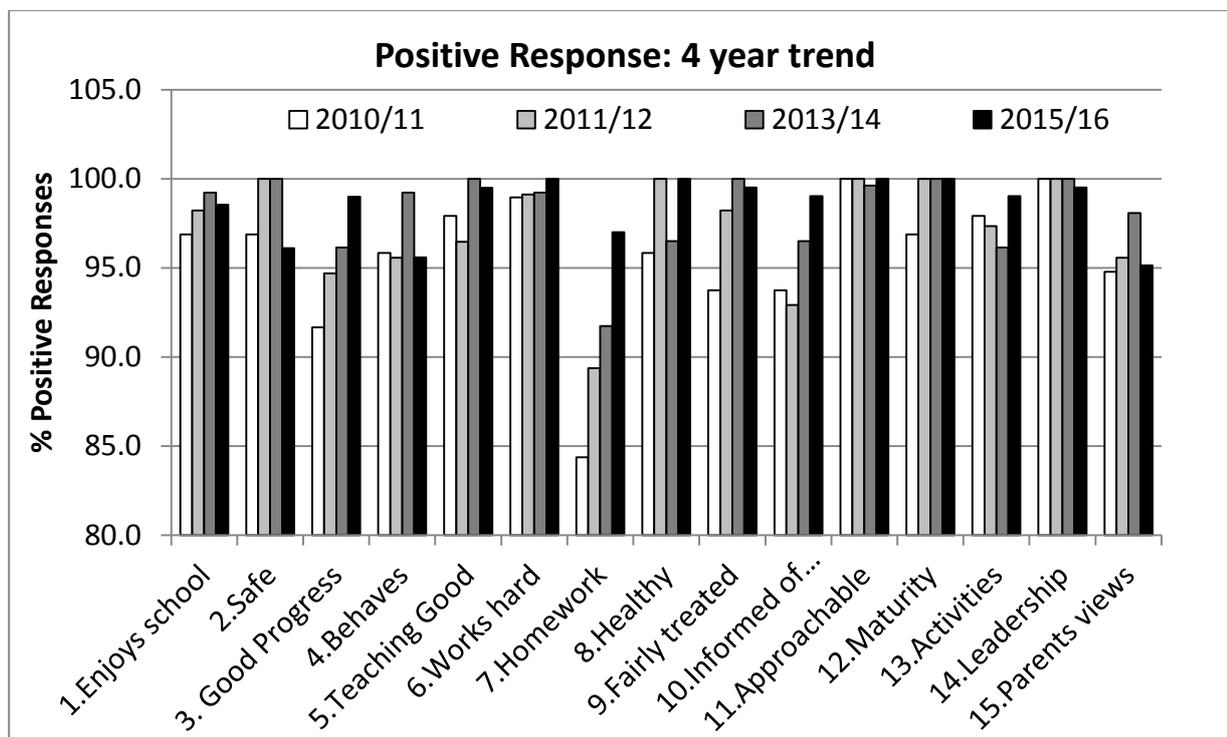


Figure 3. Percentage of questionnaires returned scoring “Agree” or “Strongly Agree” for each statement. Results for previous 3 years also shown.

The relative levels of the various responses were broadly similar over the previous surveys. As mentioned above, 4 questions had 100% positive responses (6, 8, 11 and 12). Homework has seen the biggest rise in positive responses over recent years, and is no longer the least popular response. Other significant increases were seen in response to questions 3 (“makes good progress”) and 10 (“informed of progress”). It was also good to see that the previous negative trends in question 13 on activities available seems to have reversed.

Of concern is that children feeling safe, and behaviour showed a significant negative trend. This definitely requires further investigation, and a couple of comments that parents provided may provide some insight.

Negative responses

Responses that answered “Disagree” and “Strongly disagree” were added together for each statement and presented in Figure 4. Comparisons are made with the previous three surveys as in the results for positive responses.

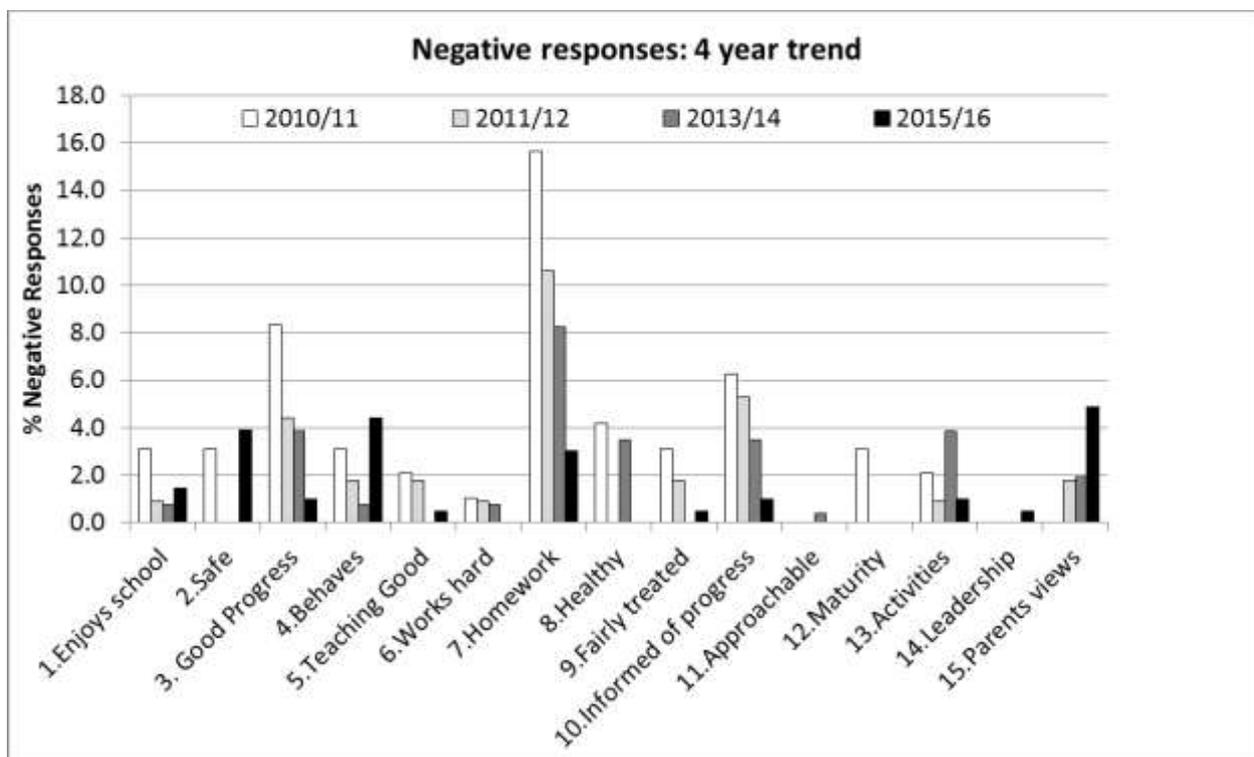


Figure 4. Percentage of questionnaires returned scoring “Disagree” or “Strongly Disagree” for each statement on the questionnaire. Results for previous three years also given for comparison.

The relative trends over the last 4 years have actually changed quite significantly, Homework, as stated before is no longer the top “negative” answer, and is relegated to number 4. The 4 most negative answers were 15 (parents views), 4 (behaviour), 2 (safe) and 7 (homework).

Overall, as shown in figure 1, the total number of negative responses are lower than previous years. However, of concern is the perception of safety at school, and childrens behaviour. These could be linked, and may require further investigation to reassure parents that the school is taking action.

It was disappointing to see that consideration of parents views was the top negative answer, which is ironic considering that parents are actually completing a feedback questionnaire. There were a couple of comments that I felt were a little unfair regarding this (47, S1).

Yeargroup Analysis

Figure 5 shows an average point score from all the questions, classed by year group. The responses were valued at 1 for strongly agree to 4 for strongly disagree, and an average score was taken for all the responses within each year group. Therefore the lower the score, the “happier” was the responder. Last year, the trend was relatively flat across the year groups, with a slight increase in value as the children progress through the school. This year however, there was a distinct peak in year 4. Whether this peak is statistically significant, is difficult to say. Certainly years 3, 5 and 6 are very similar. Further analysis of the specific answers from year 4 parents may be required to try and understand the reasons for this.

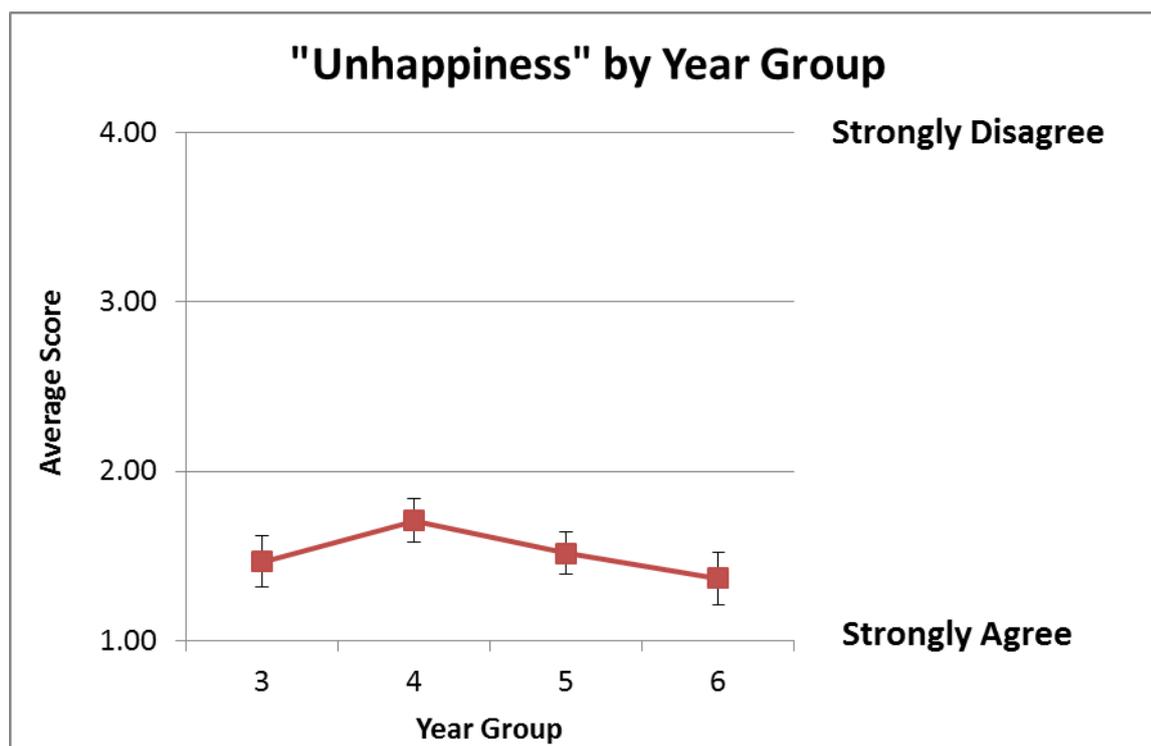


Figure 5. Average responses to the different statements for the different year groups.

Figure 6 shows the average response as a function of year group, broken down for each question. The shape of all the curves largely reflects the average trend shown in Figure 5 with a peak in year 4 for nearly all the questions, suggesting that there is a consistently higher point score (“unhappy”) response from year 4 parents/carers.

2015/16 Responses by Year Group

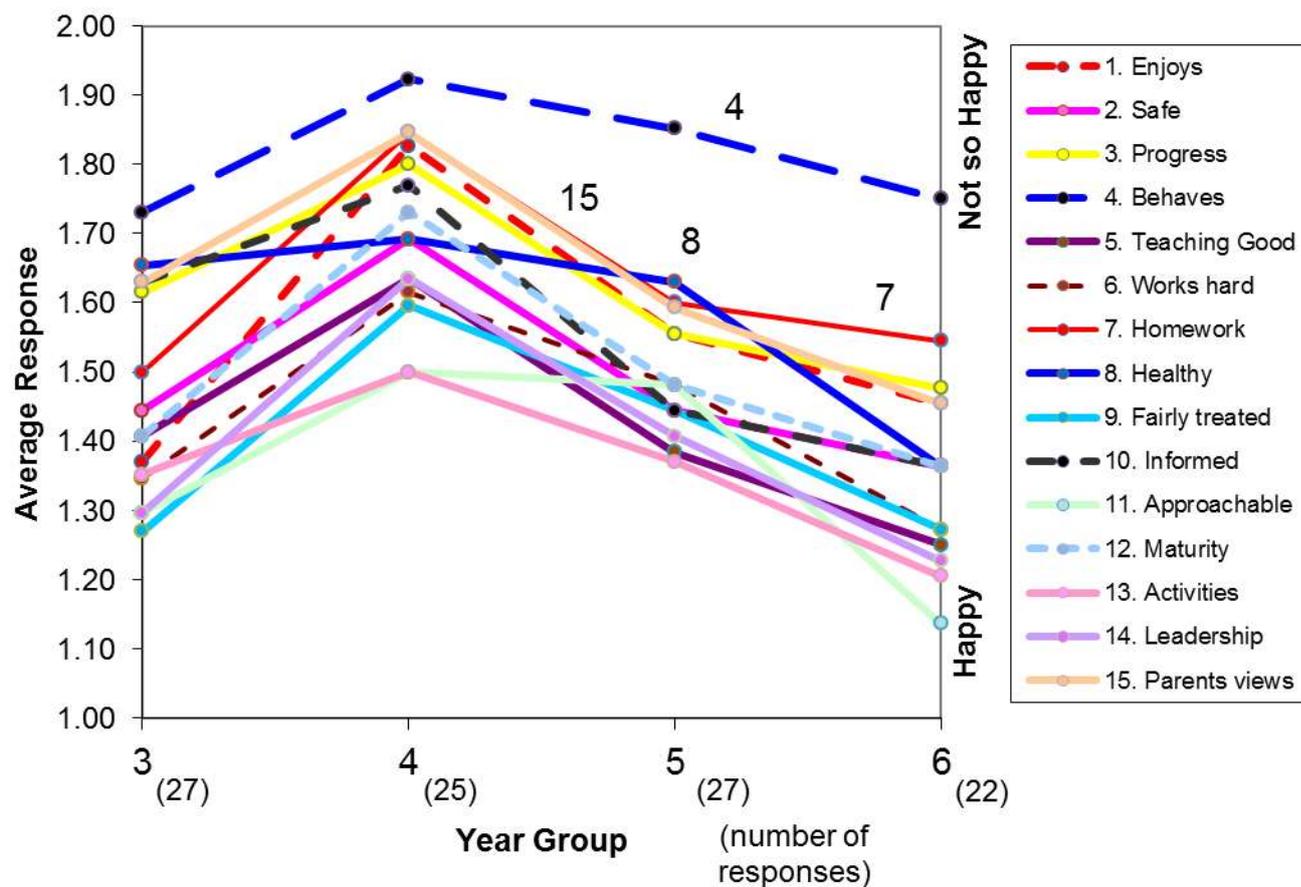


Figure 6. Average responses to the different statements for the different year groups. 1= strongly agree; 2= agree; 3= disagree & 4 = strongly disagree. Therefore, lower number indicates a more positive response. Numbers by the curves indicate question numbers. Number of responses from each year group denoted in brackets.

Behaviour is the most top issue in all year groups, which is interesting, as I had hoped that this analysis may highlight the year group where behaviour is perceived to be a particular problem. Certainly the year 4 parents see behaviour, and indeed many of the other issues as more of a problem than parents of the other yeargroups. This may mean one of two things, either year 4 parents have genuine reasons to be less satisfied than the other yeargroups, or they are just a little more sensitive than the others. The other highly ranked issue in each year group were:

Year	Top issues (next to "behaviour")
3	8. Healthy; 15. Parents views; 3. Progress & 10. Informed
4	15. Parents views; 1. Enjoys; 7. Homework; 3. Progress & 10. Informed
5	8. Healthy; 7 Homework; 15. Parents views; 3. Progress & 1. Enjoys
6	7. Homework; 3. Progress; 15. Parents views & 1. Enjoys

These are the main issues identified in the negative responses section above. The breakdown by yeargroup may help to identify some yeargroup specific problems, but the dominance of any of these responses over the others is quite weak, and certainly not significant. The only clear issue, as stated above, is that of behaviour, and this is the top issue identified by parents in all year groups.

Comments

28 individual comments were received. They were mainly positive, or neutral, and a few raised some specific issues or problems. A summary of the comments received are listed below.

No.	Positive and Neutral comments
2	Thank you !
5 & 6	Positive comments about many aspects of the school and extra curricular
15	Schools understanding individual needs
16	No comment on behaviour, as long as own children behave well
20	School's support of child's needs
25	Neutral comments about children being encouraged to work hard, and leadership
43	Very positive about school, teaching and child enjoying school
44	Everyone being helpful and supportive
48	"Fab school & excellent, passionate teachers" (Frame it!)
49, 50	Very positive about smooth transition and welcome and support
53, 54	Children very happy and cared for
56	Children making excellent progress
57, 58	Excellent teaching, approachable, handled individual needs – very happy
65	Informed of progress and learning
77	Enjoys school, but cannot always get into clubs
80*	Thriving and very happy at school
82	Amazing progress, improved confidence
89	Fantastic progress, growing independence
94	Very impressed by teachers and school
101	Very happy with school, friendly, approachable. Flexible options
No.	Negative comments
3	Complain about a parent's behaviour in the playground
4	Not enough homework (year 3)
9	Concerns about bullying and progress
13	Lack of information in home journals
47	Not clear, but some comment about parent's views not being considered.
72	Friendship issues and homework not well explained
80*	More space in clubs, healthier snacks in tuck shop
81	Issues with bullying and not being resolved
S1	Concerned about outside doors being locked. Newsletters don't always make it home

It was very pleasing to see so many positive and supportive comments, covering most aspects of the survey questions. There were comments about the quality of teaching, the helpful and supportive nature of the school, approachability, and addressing individual needs.

Would suggest that some of these are copied out and quoted as evidence.

A few detailed some subjective concerns about a certain child's situation, including a worrying statement about bullying not being addressed by the school.

There didn't appear to be any specific issues that were raised repeatedly.

One comment concerned the behaviour of a parent! There were a couple of issues with communication in home school journals and letters home, and perhaps parent's views not being taken into account. There were comments about the lack of spaces in clubs, and there should be healthier snacks in the tuck shop.

Conclusions

The proportion of positive responses and comments has continued to improve year on year. Clearly, the overwhelming majority of parents are satisfied or very satisfied with the school's performance, more than 98% of all responses were "agree" or better, which is a further improvement on previous years.

For the first in a number of years, behaviour is actually the issue causing most concern across all yeargroups. Year 4 parents seemed to be the least satisfied with the school, even though the majority of responses are still positive.

Action Plan (To be agreed)

Further investigation into the underlying concern over behaviour
Governors newsletter to feedback to parents

Governors' Survey of Parents' and Carers' Views of Sprowston Junior School



The governors of Sprowston Junior School are keen to consult with parents and carers of pupils at the school to know your views regarding your children's schooling so that we can make sure that the school is doing its best for the children. Following from the previous valuable surveys, we would be very grateful if you could complete this questionnaire. Please read each statement and tick the answer that best fits your view. If you are not sure of an answer, please leave the row blank. We would especially welcome extra comments and suggestions. The questionnaires will go to governors who will collate and report the overall results of the survey to the governing body for their consideration and feedback the outcome to the head teacher, staff, parents and carers. Governors will also be available at the parents' evenings in March to hear your views.

We would really appreciate any comments or suggestions you would like to make in the space provided.

In which year group is your child? / are your children?

--	--	--	--

		<i>strongly agree</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>strongly disagree</i>
1	My child / children enjoy school.				
2	My child / children feel safe at school.				
3	My child / children are making good progress at school.				
4	The majority of pupils behave well				
5	Teaching is good.				
6	Staff expect my child / children to work hard and try their best.				
7	The school provides appropriate homework.				
8	My child / children are encouraged to be healthy and take regular exercise.				
9	Staff treat children fairly and with respect.				
10	I am kept well informed about my child's progress.				
11	I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions, suggestions or a problem.				
12	The school helps my child / children to become more mature and independent.				
13	There is a good range of extra activities, including visits and clubs.				
14	The school is led and managed well.				
15	The school seeks the views of parents and takes into account their suggestions and concerns				

Please add comments or suggestions below, particularly if you did not agree with any of the statements above. All responses will be treated in confidence. If you are happy to be contacted to discuss these issues further, again in confidence, please leave your name. Please do not refer to individual members of staff by name. Please return this form to the school, as soon as possible. Thank you for your views, your time spent completing this questionnaire is greatly appreciated. Please remember that governors are happy to hear parents' and carers' views at any time; parent governors are your representatives.

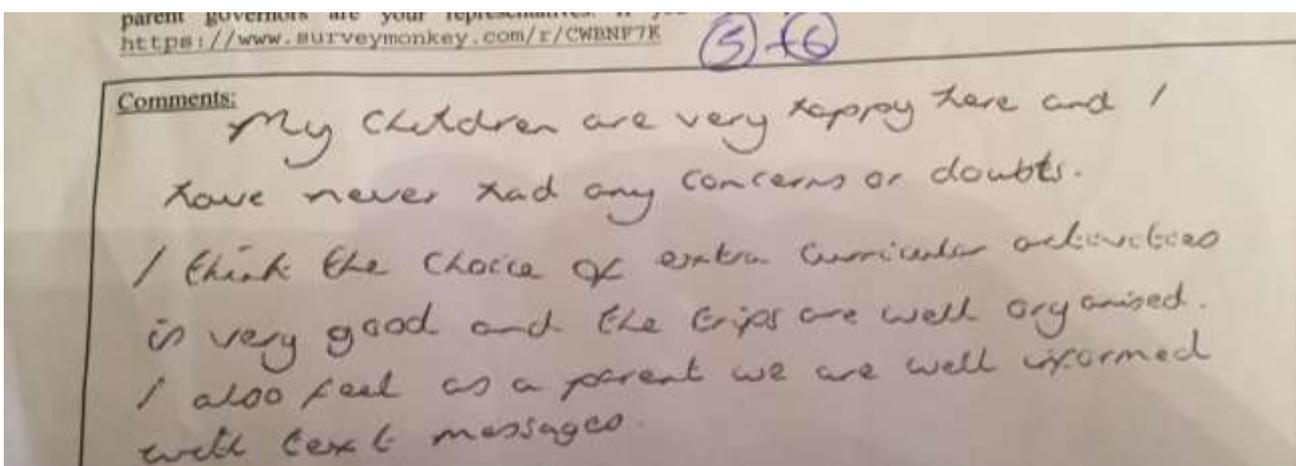
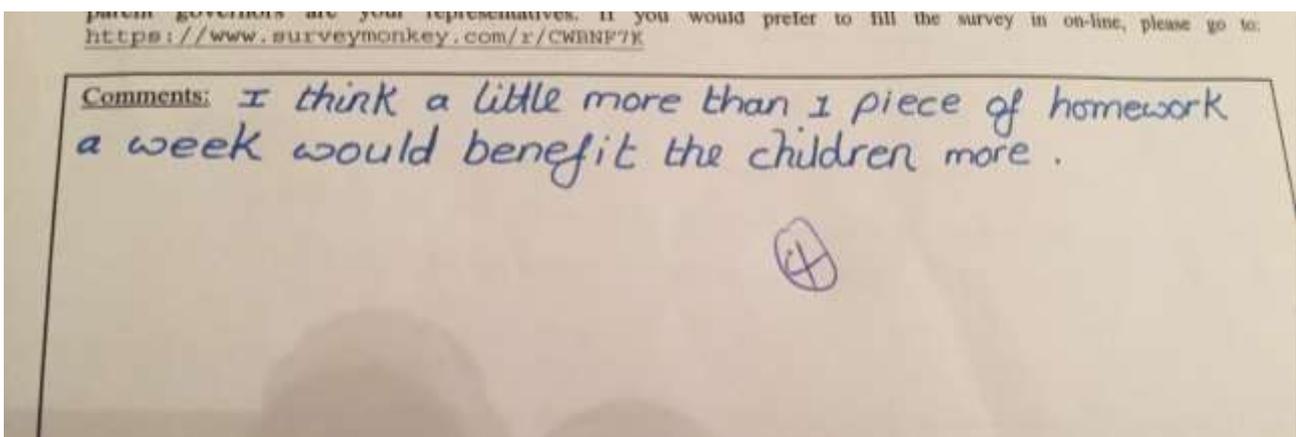
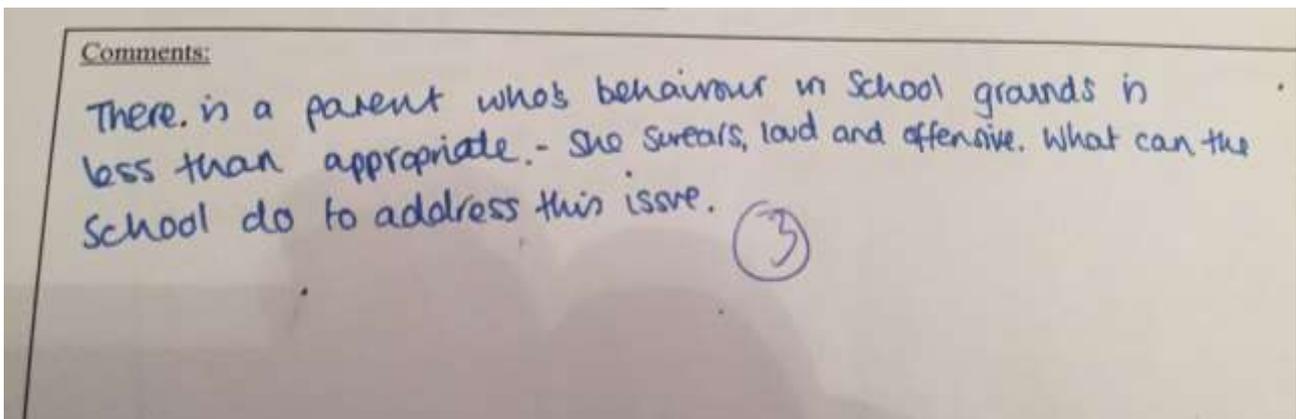
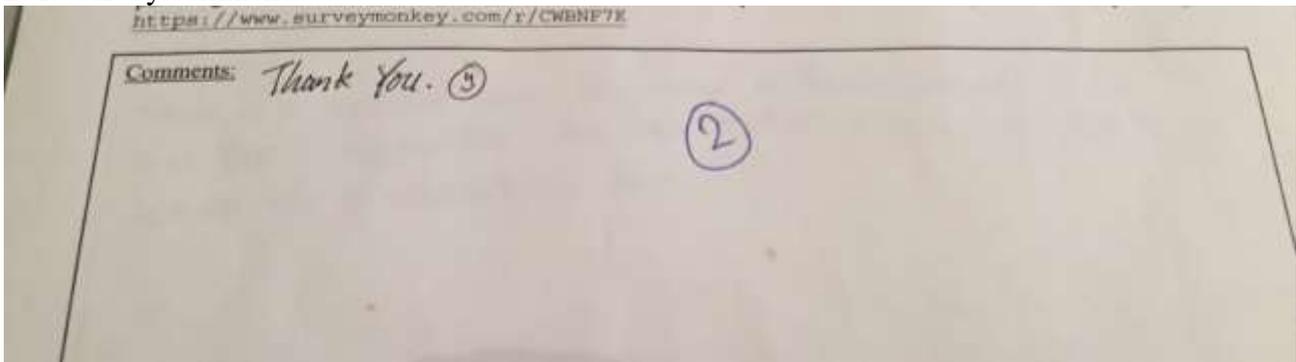
If you would like to complete this survey online, please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NMGWL56>

Comments:

Please leave your name if you would be willing to discuss your comments further): _____

(Please continue overleaf if required)

2015 survey comments



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CWBNF7K> 9
I have not scored strongly on all questions, as my daughter has had a few issues this year. A couple of boys have taken out ^{their} frustrations on her (and other children). She has also found the work ~~harder~~ harder (although she ~~has~~ lost a bit of enthusiasm for school, not sure if it is outside influences or her age).

Comments: 13
Question 8 - not sure if this happened other than PE
Question 10 - there could be more information about the child's week in the school journal.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CWBNF7K> 15
Comments:
* My child's progress at school is ~~not~~ to do with his special needs rather than a problem with teaching. The school has been fantastic in trying to understand my child's needs.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CWBNF7K> 16
Comments:
Can't really comment on the majority of other pupils behaviour, as long as my children are well behaved that's my concern.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CWBNF7K> 20
Comments:
The school has done all it can to accommodate my child's particular needs, and we really appreciate this.

25

Comments:

- * I assume my child is being encouraged in this regard, but I have not heard any reference to this from Ava.
- * I trust Mr Walton will lead the school well, but a couple of months is hardly enough time to have established a strong opinion.

43

Comments:

I am very pleased with the school, I find the teachers very approachable, my daughter is very happy here. She enjoys all the extra school clubs that are on offer.

44

Comments:

My child is new at school, therefore we ~~are~~ cannot strongly agree with things, but everyone has been very helpful & supportive.

47

Comments:

Views and opinions of parents that are not asked may equally be met and discussed and appropriate reasons given.

49/50

Comments:

Having just moved to the school, I can't express enough how smooth the transition has been - Everyone has made us feel so welcome & has supported us extremely well.

48

Comments:

Fab school & excellent, passionate teachers.

53 + 54

Comments:

Both of my children feel happy and cared for at school. They have a love of learning that will help them to develop and grow with curiosity and wisdom.

56

Comments:

We are extremely satisfied and happy with the education being received. Excellent progress with my daughter.

Comments:

All three of my children are currently attending or attended Sprowston Junior. All have done ~~are~~ doing really well. The teachers have all been excellent, easily approachable and dealt with their various different needs as and when they've arisen. After school clubs and trips are excellent. Could not be happier with the school.

Name (optional):

65

Comments:

Told about how is with learning and progress.

72

Comments: Some of her friends are being unfriendly with her.
• Sometimes homeworks are not well explained.

77

Comments: So far Erika enjoys at school. Just difficult get place in clubs
Thank you for hard work. 😊

80

Comments:
• Extra activities + clubs could have more spaces to cope with demand!
• Tuck shop could be more healthy - fruit!
• Child is thriving at school - very happy with the school!

81

Comments: My son been bullied / has issues with other children since starting Y3 and has not been resolved

82

Comments: my son has been in your school only a year and six months and in that time I am pleased to say he is like a different child, he loves school, he enjoys learning. Things were very different at his old school, he didn't like school, he didn't want to go, he's work started to suffer and he had no confidence, I'm very pleased with the way the school has helped my son, he is making amazing progress.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CWBNF7K> 89
Comments:
Blake is making fantastic progress at Sprowston Junior school. The teaching staff have helped Blake deal with his ASD well & his independence is growing daily.

parent governors are your representatives. If you would please
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CWBNF7K> 94
Comments:
Very impressed with the teachers and school in general.

parent governors are your representatives. If you would please
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CWBNF7K> 101
Comments:
My child is very happy at this school. The teaching staff are very friendly & approachable. I liked the options given with the Y4 homework so the children had some choice over what they did each week.

S1, S1A (from online form)

My son is worried by the locking external doors, he panics about what will happen if he try to enter the door in the morning but finds it's locked.

Letters often don't find their way home, maybe they could always be emailed to parents as well as sent home in the post?