



6th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to share with you the summary results of the recent parent-carer survey (attachment 1), and to make some comments in relation to your feedback, (attachment 2).

I would like to thank each one of you who has taken the time to share your views and to thank you all for your messages of support, either to me or to any of the Woodside team over the past year. Your encouragements go a long way. Equally, I would like to thank those of you who have worked with us if we have not always got it right for your child. We are building a culture where we want everyone; child, parent, carer or team member, to feel listened to and heard in good times, and if things do not go so smoothly.

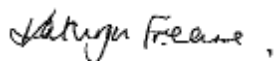
You will see for yourselves that your feedback to the school is overwhelmingly positive. We value this very much. However, we are in the business of seeking excellence for each and every individual and so your comments and feedback regarding how we can continue to improve are extremely helpful.

We are expecting the school to grow to 200 pupils in September. We are still finalising class lists as we continue to be notified of late admissions. I hope to soon be in a position to send out more detail regarding arrangements for September and thank you for your patience on this matter.

New ways of working and partnerships which have been set up in this most challenging of years are being firmly established. They will provide firm foundations for continued success as together, we approach the end of one academic year and the start of another.

As always, please do not hesitate to make contact with us, particularly if you have any worries or concerns about your child.

Yours faithfully



Mrs K Freame
Head of School

Attachment 1

Parent Survey (Summer 2020/21)

(84 responses)

1. What you think are Woodside's main strengths

Making my child feel welcome compared to their experience in a mainstream setting.

Team work.

The loving support and pastoral care.

Nurturing and caring environment where the child is at the forefront.

My son is happy to attend.

Understanding, consideration.

Attitude.

Staff who care for all the children and about their well-being and education:

* Chaperoning children to and from building in an extremely safe manner (according to their individual needs) upon arrival and exit.

* Feeling made welcome by EVERYONE on arrival.

* Treating everyone the same.

* Varied curriculum that makes them enjoy learning together with the lack of pressure.

Strong support

Ability to understand all children's needs are individual.

Kind and empathetic staff, has therapies relevant to my child's needs, great communication with parents.

Communication.

Help to develop our children and teach them to have respect for other people around them.

Communication.

Helping my child understanding the world.

Take good care of kids.

Commitment and dedication.

Friendly staff.

Communication and learning environment.

Very supportive.

Take good care of kids.

The sense of understanding and community.

Really approachable and understand each child individually.

Support children individually according to their own needs, tailored learning.

Welcoming to all.

Staff, carer, pupil communication.

Helping the children deal with emotional issues, supporting them in being independent.

Learning support for children and children are looked after.

Learning.

Good school, good environment, good communication, friendly, caring school and my son happy to come to school.

My child has severe needs but they tried hard to make him settle very well though it was not a suitable placement for him which we all agreed with the local authority.

Effective communication.

Meeting my child's needs.

Woodside is like a community that come together.

Inclusive caring & safe.

Friendly.

Very accommodating, listens to my child and tries to help him become more independent and valued.

Parents and teachers communication.

No child is excluded.

Sense of community.

They get on with it.

Proper care of their pupils. Trustworthy and safe environment.

Woodside Academy is good in most areas.

Everyone treated equal.

They listen to my child's needs and support them.

CARES.

Communication.

All teachers, staff very good kind, helpful...

I can trust Woodside school.

Small classes and inclusive environment.

Skilled specialist teachers, the school provides a real sense of community for the children.

Catering for my child's individual needs.

They listen to my child's needs and support them.

Commitment from staff.

Individual adaptability.

Communication and student safety.

The Teaching assistants are always willing to listen and the class teacher plus Miss X is excellent.

2. What you think we should continue to focus on to improve (by common theme)

Safety, specifically traffic and entrance safety. Perhaps the student council letter should also be sent to local councillors and the LA road safety department. The school is doing all it can on this issue and should be congratulated.

As a parent I am concerned about my child's safety when bringing my son into and home from school.

The approach to the school is not safe due to the parking on the street outside and cars driving on the pavement directly outside the school. The school's staff are doing all they can to make this safe for all children and parents.

Generate more independence skills - take the children into the community more - work experience

Communication and more info what my child is learning each week. More frequent comments in contact books

More opportunities to engage with other parents

Learning new skills in order to help independent living and personal improvement.

Culture homework materials.

More Occupational and Speech therapy

After school activities and clubs

Swimming

School visits and events

Moving on to further education

Worries about bullying (1 comment)

3. Other comments

I look forward to the school getting back to normal and being able to interact in a post pandemic environment. I would also like to investigate the possibility of starting up a PA.

We feel we made the right decision leaving mainstream to come to Woodside as our son now actually enjoys school and is able to arrive on time every day. It's like a breath of fresh air and is a special place for him where he feels safe and can actually detach from family.

Thank you for taking care of my child.

Clear communication is essential. Contact books are not used enough.

Thank you Woodside for the hard work and dedication during the pandemic, and the ongoing commitment to pupils learning.

How is sex education approached?

There needs to be more support for children who are quiet.

The school to keep up the good work.

My son has extreme challenging behaviour but the school has really supported him so much which has made our lives easier as a family.

My child is very happy at the school!

Very happy my child is at this school. Best decision to move them here.

Woodside Academy is a good school. I will definitely recommend to friends and family.

Woodside school is perfect for children with autism I feel it should also allow children with learning difficulties.

Support is brilliant.

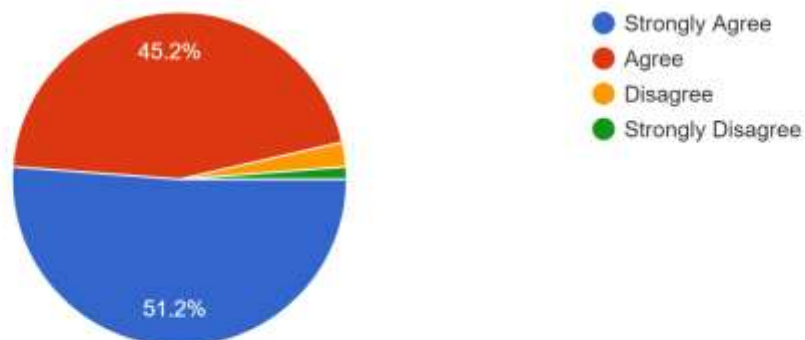
Thanks for all of the hard work and commitment from all of the staff at the school!

This school is amazing. My child has thrived being here.

My child is a looked after child. I find the school really care for him and have always been there for him. They know him very well.

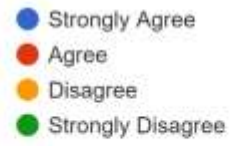
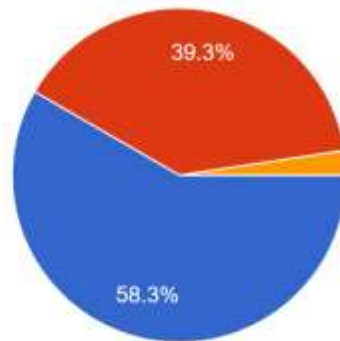
3. My child enjoys school.

84 responses



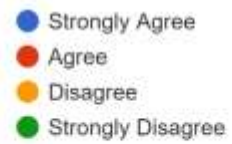
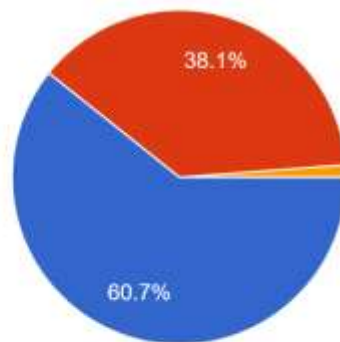
4. My child is taught well at this school.

84 responses



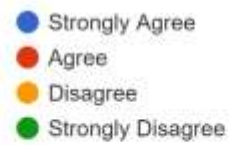
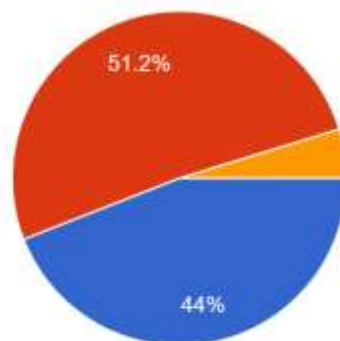
5. My child is safe and well cared for at school.

84 responses



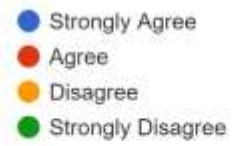
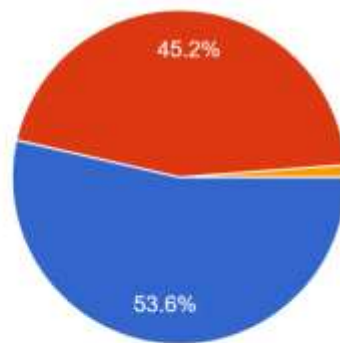
6. Behaviour in school is good.

84 responses



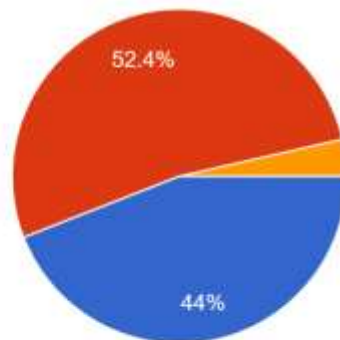
7. The school is well led and managed.

84 responses



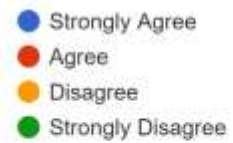
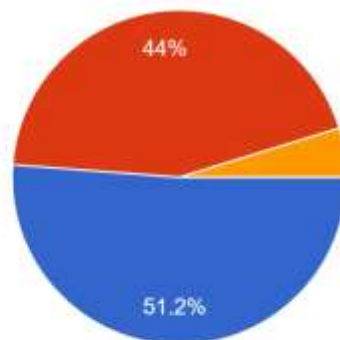
8. The school listens to the children's views.

84 responses



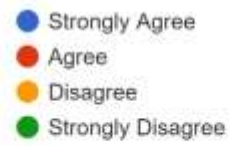
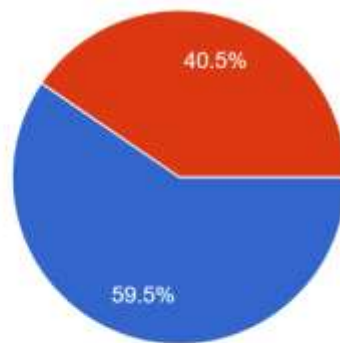
9. The school is welcoming to the community.

84 responses



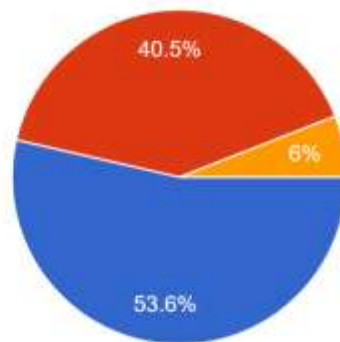
10. Class teachers can be contacted if needed.

84 responses



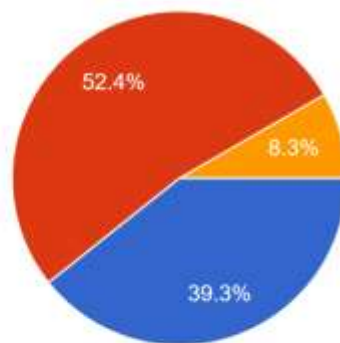
11. The Head of School, Deputy Head teachers and Assistant Head Teachers are visible and approachable.

84 responses



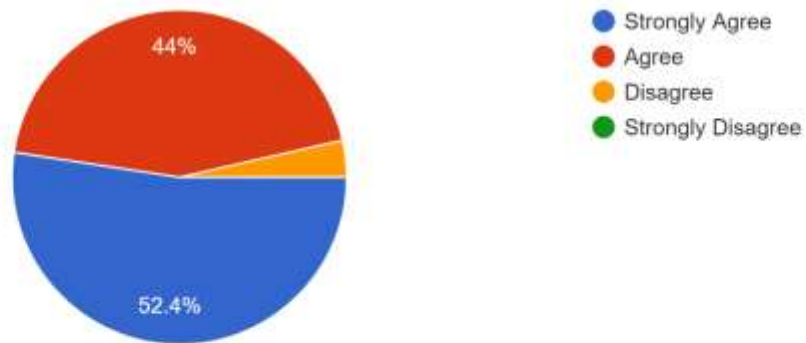
12. The school takes any cases of bullying very seriously.

84 responses



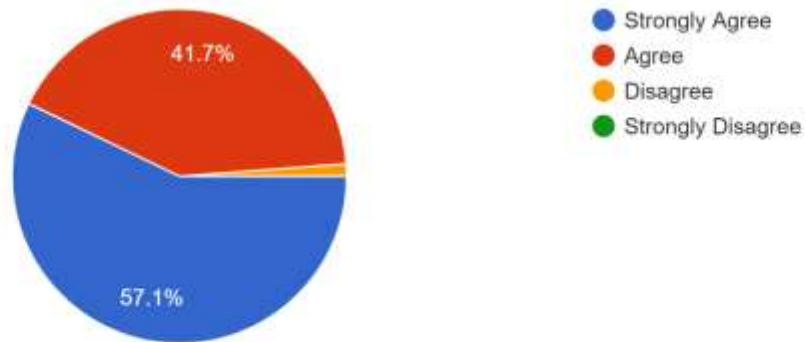
13. The school helps my child to develop their independence and life skills.

84 responses



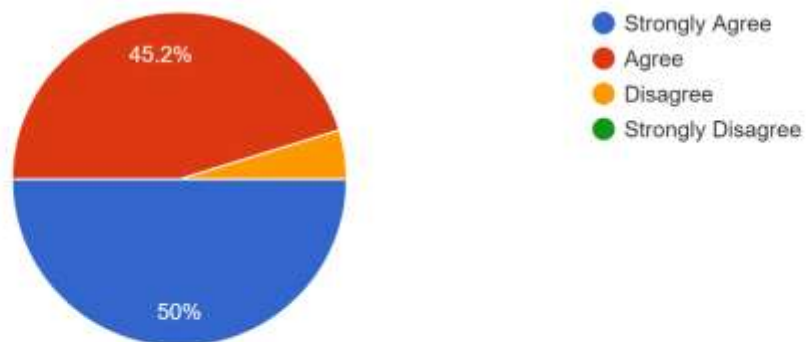
14. The school helps my child to develop skills in communication, reading, writing and maths.

84 responses



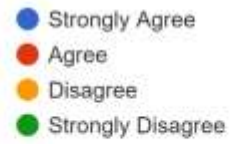
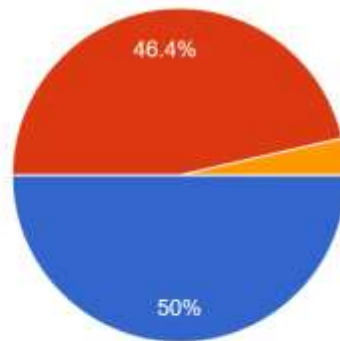
15. The school responds well to my concerns and listens to parent views and suggestions.

84 responses



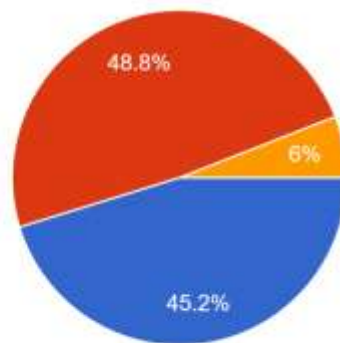
16. My child makes good progress at this school.

84 responses



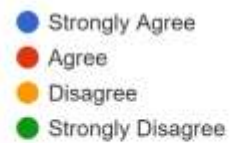
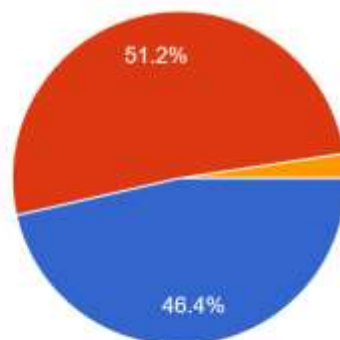
17. Communication between school and parents allows me to know how the school is developing my child's learning experience.

84 responses



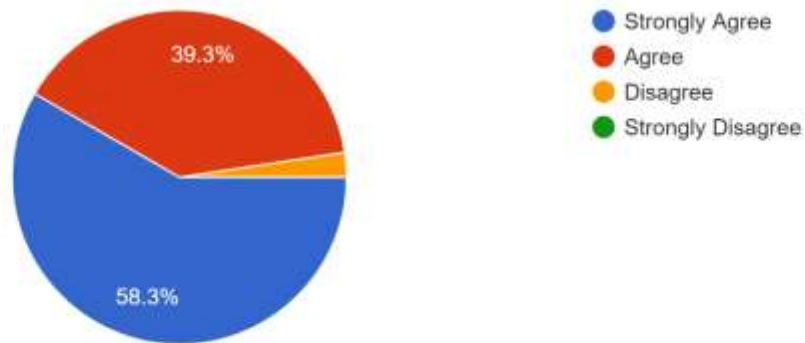
18. The school promotes worthwhile attitudes and values.

84 responses



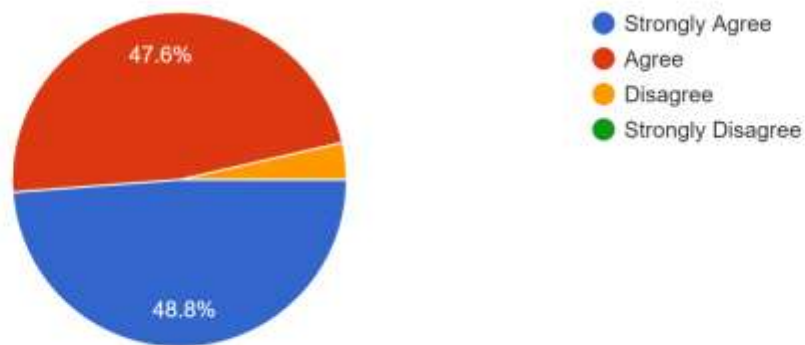
19. Staff treat my child fairly and caters for my child's needs.

84 responses



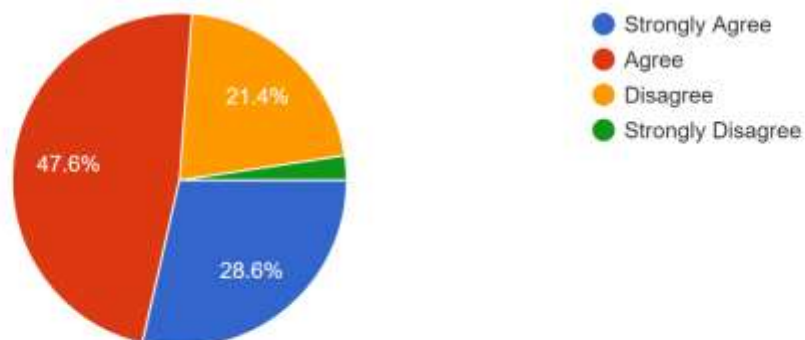
20. There are opportunities to discuss my child's progress and valuable information on my child's curriculum is provided.

84 responses



21. There are opportunities to take part in parent workshops/coffee mornings.

84 responses



Attachment 2

Woodside response to parent views for improvement (Summer 2020/21)

1. *Safety, specifically traffic and entrance safety.*

This remains a priority for the whole school community and also local residents.

The student council letter has been forwarded to Bexley Local Authority and also the local ward councilors.

Recently an officer from the council visited the site and will be making some adjustments to road markings. I also requested whether Pedestrian Control Railings could be installed and this is being considered. The officer commented that the school has been proactive in all of our current safety measures both within and beyond the school gates.

In September our school roll will increase to 200 children and young people. We will be almost full. This is likely to have a knock-on effect on how busy the road is at the beginning and end of the school day. Please do consider parking in the neighbouring Birling road and using the crossing patrol to safely cross the road.

There is very limited parking available on site. Every child attending Woodside has an EHC plan which outlines their own unique needs and so we are only able to issue parking permits in exceptional circumstances.

2. *Therapeutic support; OT and SALT*

As the school has grown significantly, and because we know that this aspect of our provision is as important to you as it is to us, I have also asked the local authority to increase the commissioned therapeutic input for our children. We have agreed to jointly review the level of therapeutic support with Bexley's Designated Clinical Officer for SEND.

I would like to assure you that all of our staff are trained and skilled in supporting communication, interaction and sensory needs. In general, there is a high level of expertise within the school team. We also receive specific training from both the S+L and Occupational therapists on a regular basis. Do have a look at the therapy page of our website; <https://www.woodside.bexley.sch.uk/parent-information/therapies-at-woodside>, which outlines how the therapists and school team work together to meet your child's needs.

3. *Curriculum and learning*

There were a few comments about the school's curriculum and some requests for more detail. We will look at how we can better inform you of what is on offer. Over the past 2 years, we have been reviewing our curriculum so that it meets new requirements.

Learning at Woodside is not just about progress in academic subjects. Lessons, break and lunch times are seen as learning time. There is a heavy emphasis on promoting communication and independence and also on helping children to develop awareness of themselves and their awareness of others. The 'Learning at Woodside' tab on the school's website explains how our curriculum works. There is detail regarding the themes in each phase, how we support personal development, how we are preparing our children and young people for life and employment. In particular, the holistic curriculum <https://www.woodside.bexley.sch.uk/teaching-and-learning/curriculum> will show you what skills are being developed as your child journeys through the school.

Careers and Work experience: Although the opportunity to provide external work experience has been limited, we do have our 'Workers of Woodside' scheme. Senior students are encouraged to apply for a number of roles in school including recycling, support for the admin and premises teams. There is a full process of application and interview for the roles on offer. Being a positive role model is an essential requirement for all students appointed to these roles. **Mrs Stone and Mr Jenkins are the leads on Careers and Work Experience** and more information on careers can be found here; <https://www.woodside.bexley.sch.uk/teaching-and-learning/careers-qualifications>.

Teaching of Relationships, Health and Sex Education: Parents and staff were consulted on the RSHE policy in March. This has now been published and we are in the process of updating and adapting the RSE curriculum so that it suits learners of all ages across the school. Do speak to your child's class teacher if you would like more information about this topic or check out the policy on the website.

Individual Personalised Learning Plans, PLPs, are used to identify small steps of learning for your child towards their academic targets and towards the long-term outcomes on your child's EHC plan. The format of these changes slightly as your child moves through each phase in the school. Current PLPs will be included with your child's annual report.

Positive Behaviour Support and Wellbeing plans, PBS plans, are used to identify the essential ingredients we can provide to help your child feel happy, safe and ready to make the most of the learning opportunities at Woodside. We review these frequently, often with input from parents and this really helps us to work consistently and adapt to any changes in your child as they grow and develop new skills.

Trips and visits: We hope to reinstate these as soon as it is safe and practical to do so. Unfortunately, the school was recently broken into. Not only was there a significant amount of damage to the entrance gates, one minibus was stolen and another was vandalized.

4. Communication between school and home

We agree that we need to get better at communicating with some groups of parents and carers. For example, those of you with children who are pre verbal or minimally verbal, and with parents of our older children in years 10 and 11. Some of you with younger children have indicated that you would like more detail in the contact books. We will review what information and how frequently we can share more detail with you and will keep you updated of any developments.

5. After school clubs & wrap-around provision

Since the start of the pandemic and the implementation of safety measures in schools, it has not been possible to run the wrap-around provision in school. The wrap-around provision relied on sufficient staff, usually from the amazing teaching assistant team, being able and willing to work beyond their contracted hours. Unfortunately, Woodside is no longer in a position to offer the wrap-around provision.

This is due to a number of complicating factors including staff availability and the staggered start and end arrangements, which are now permanent.

We hope to partner-up with some other organisations to offer after school clubs run by external providers and are in the process of making enquiries for both sports and creative activities. However, the school cannot guarantee that we are able to provide the additional adult support that some children need and so this may well have an impact on the costs to families.

The school does have links with SNAP and often lends the premises for holiday clubs and activities. We are also hoping to develop this partnership next year. More information can be found here, <https://bexleysnap.org.uk/>

6. Parent/carer events and possible PTA/ Friends of Woodside group

We hope to resume parent/carer workshops and coffee mornings as soon as it is safe to do so. In the final few weeks of this term, we are also running a series of autism awareness training sessions in small groups.

Recently, several of you and some new families joining Woodside in September have expressed an interest in setting up a PTA. I am pleased to inform you that we intend to get going on this early next term. Theresa Corcoran, Deputy Head Teacher, will be making contact with you in September. This is an exciting development for the school and we are grateful for all offers of support.