EducationIMPACT Academy Trust

Queensbury School

Newsletter

October 2026



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A message from the Executive Head teacher

QUEENSBURY SCHOOL
AUTUMN NEWS | September – October 2026

What an incredible start to 2026/27!

What a fantastic first half-term it has been across Queensbury School, Discovery & Quest and New Horizons! September began with 396 pupils on roll, and we are incredibly proud of how well our new pupils have settled into school life.

We were also delighted to welcome 156 families to our Future Options Parents' Evening. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the evening such a success. Working together with our families is a hugely important part of preparing our young people for their future opportunities, independence and next steps.

This half-term captures what Queensbury is all about: creating exceptional environments, giving pupils meaningful experiences beyond the classroom, celebrating achievement and continuing to remove barriers to learning. Thank you to our pupils, families and staff for making such a positive start to the year. As part of Education Impact Academy Trust, we genuinely believe that **Better Never Ends**, and at Queensbury we continue to believe that **every child can unleash their limitless potential**.

SUMMER TRANSFORMED

While pupils were enjoying the summer break, our site team delivered a major programme of improvements. This included **three fully refurbished SEMH classrooms**, an additional classroom converted from the former therapy room, a new therapy room, refurbished student toilets and corridors, improvements to the staff room and foyer, solar panels at Main School and Discovery & Quest, a new outdoor regulation space, corridor noticeboards, and improvements to New Horizons' focus walls and outdoor spaces.



Chris Wilson
Executive Head Teacher

Dates

Term Dates:
November 2nd 2026 – December 18th 2026

We encourage all Parents/Carers to apply for Free School Meals

Online FSM Application

A message from the Executive Head teacher

The new and refurbished environments were designed to create **calmer, safer and more purposeful spaces**, supporting learning, regulation, therapy and the different needs of our young people.

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Our pupils have thrown themselves into enrichment this half-term. **Rocky delivered an African drumming workshop** across Queensbury and New Horizons, giving students opportunities to explore traditional rhythms while developing listening, communication, turn-taking, teamwork and creativity.

Discovery & Quest pupils enjoyed an interactive performance of **Dr Dolittle**, funded by Happy Days Charity, with students joining the actors and bringing the story to life.

Queensbury pupils were also selected to represent the school at an **FA-led inclusive football event on 1 October**, competing alongside pupils from other schools.

WELLBEING & COMMUNITY

On **9 October**, pupils and staff marked **World Mental Health Day** by wearing yellow in support of YoungMinds. Together, our community raised an excellent **£256.50** for the charity.

Our **Future Options Evening** gave students an opportunity to explore education, employment and training pathways beyond school and speak directly with a range of providers and professionals. Staff reported how proud they were of pupils' enthusiasm, maturity and curiosity about their futures.

INDEPENDENCE IN ACTION

Year 11 Venture pupils have been taking their learning into the community. Students visited **Rookery Park** to create photographic evidence towards their AQA Unit Award and subsequently undertook community access activities linked to local shops and services. Staff described the Rookery Park visit as a particularly positive opportunity for photography and conversation.

The class also visited **Premier Foods**, with staff reporting a positive experience, and pupils completed the final part of their **Step Up to English examination** with a positive attitude.

A message from the Executive Head teacher

WHISKER WORLD

Whisker World has welcomed pupils back with familiar and new faces. **Patch**, a rescue guinea pig, and **Barry**, an eight-year-old corn snake, have joined the school, while pupils taking part in Animal Care have been developing responsibility through feeding, handling, cleaning and enrichment activities.

ATTENDANCE ON THE RISE

There is also encouraging news on attendance. As at **20 October 2026**, statutory-age attendance had reached **92.7%**, with whole-school attendance including sixth form at **91.12%**. This builds on significant longer-term work to reduce persistent absence and support pupils and families to attend regularly.

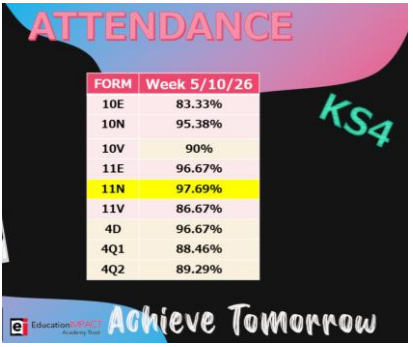
Wishing you a Happy Halloween and fantastic half term. We look forward to seeing families at our Winter Wonderland Event on Thursday 26th November 2026.

Warm regards

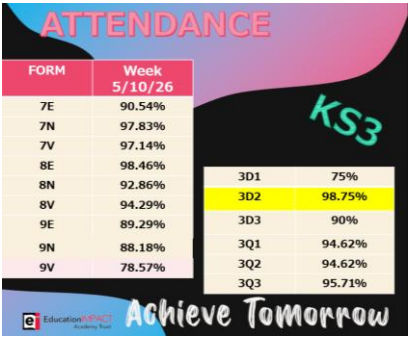
Chris Wilson

Executive Head Teacher
Queensbury School

QUEENSBURY SCHOOL | EDUCATION IMPACT ACADEMY TRUST
Kindness • Diversity • Respect | Better Never Ends

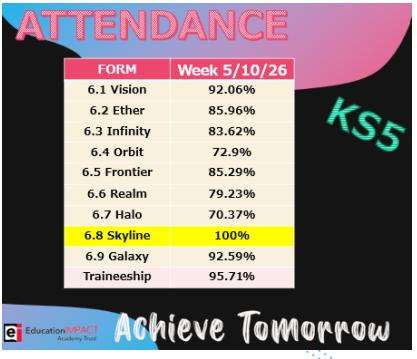


FORM	Week 5/10/26
10E	83.33%
10N	95.38%
10V	90%
11E	96.67%
11N	97.69%
11V	86.67%
4D	96.67%
4Q1	88.46%
4Q2	89.29%



FORM	Week 5/10/26
7E	90.54%
7N	97.83%
7V	97.14%
8E	98.46%
8N	92.86%
8V	94.29%
9E	89.29%
9N	88.18%
9V	78.57%

3D1	75%
3D2	98.75%
3D3	90%
3Q1	94.62%
3Q2	94.62%
3Q3	95.71%



FORM	Week 5/10/26
6.1 Vision	92.06%
6.2 Ether	85.96%
6.3 Infinity	83.62%
6.4 Orbit	72.9%
6.5 Frontier	85.29%
6.6 Realm	79.23%
6.7 Halo	70.37%
6.8 Skyline	100%
6.9 Galaxy	92.59%
Traineeship	95.71%

Drumming with Rocky

Rocky recently visited Queensbury School and New Horizons to deliver an engaging African Drum Workshop. Students had the opportunity to explore the sounds and rhythms of traditional African drums, practise turn-taking skills, and develop their listening and communication skills through group music-making activities. The session encouraged participation, teamwork, and creativity, while also providing students with a valuable opportunity to experience and appreciate an aspect of African culture. The workshop was thoroughly enjoyed by all and supported both personal development and Arts Award learning opportunities.







Drumming with Rocky





D&Q Dr Dolittle

The Discovery and Quest classes recently enjoyed a fantastic performance of *Dr Dolittle* by Image Theatre, kindly funded by the Happy Days Charity. The interactive show provided a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience live theatre within the familiar environment of school. Many students enthusiastically joined in with the performance, taking part alongside the actors and helping to bring the story to life. It was a memorable and engaging experience that encouraged participation, communication, and enjoyment for all involved.



World Mental Health Day 2026

On Friday 9th of October, Queensbury school celebrated world mental health day. In support of Young Minds charity, pupils and staff wore yellow and a fantastic donation of £256.50 was made. Thank you to all who supported and donated towards such an important cause.







Future Options Evening

Looking Ahead to the Future

Our Future Options Event was a fantastic opportunity for students to explore the many pathways available to them beyond school. Through conversations with a range of providers and professionals, students gained a greater understanding of future education, employment and training opportunities. We were incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, maturity and curiosity shown by our students as they considered the next steps in their journeys.





Solihull College & University Centre · NOVA TRAINING stand out from the CROWD · BMet · THE HIVE COLLEGE

CareFirst · HerewardCollege PROMOTING INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT · ruskinmill re-imagining potential · pinc college CREATIVE

QAC Queen Alexandra College · Sandwell College West Bromwich · SOUTH & CITY COLLEGE BIRMINGHAM · HONESTY INTEGRITY RESPECT

access creative college · Derwen College · sense connecting sight, sound and life · midlandmencap

Careers Day

Careers Day: Exploring Future Possibilities 🚀

Our recent Careers Day was a fantastic opportunity for students and staff across Queensbury and New Horizons to celebrate ambitions, aspirations and future career pathways. Everyone was invited to come dressed as a job or career that inspires them, and it was wonderful to see such a creative range of professions represented throughout the day.

As part of the event, staff shared their own life and career journeys with students, talking about their experiences of education, the jobs they have held, the challenges they have overcome and the choices that have shaped their careers. These conversations helped students understand that there is no single route to success and that career paths can take many different directions.

Students also explored emerging industries, including Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, Green Energy, and Health and Social Care, while discussing how technology is changing the world of work and why some traditional roles are becoming less common. The day encouraged everyone to think positively about their future, consider new opportunities and remember that with determination, resilience and hard work, anything is possible.

A huge thank you to all staff and students who took part and helped make the day such an inspiring success. 🌟







Careers Day









Class Dojo Clinic

Class Dojo Clinic Success

We were delighted to host a successful Class Dojo Clinic, with 14 parents attending the session. Parents received practical support with logging into their accounts, navigating the platform, viewing class updates, and communicating with teachers through messaging.

The workshop provided a valuable opportunity for parents to ask questions, build confidence in using Class Dojo, and strengthen home-school communication. Feedback from attendees was extremely positive, highlighting the importance of providing practical support to families.

Following the success of this event, we are looking forward to offering a ParentPay Clinic in the future to help parents access and use ParentPay with confidence. A huge thank you to everyone involved in making the session such a success.

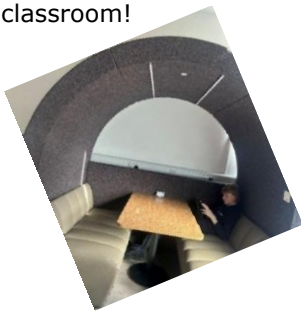


The Adventures of 8V!

Welcome Back, 8V!

It has been wonderful welcoming our 8V students back to school and seeing how much they have grown and matured over the summer holidays. Everyone has settled in brilliantly and has particularly enjoyed the beanbags, sofa and Learning Pod in our newly refurbished classroom!







We have certainly had a busy start to the year. Once again, 8V helped to plan and organise our **Macmillan Coffee Morning**, working together to make the event a success. The students also developed their Maths skills by counting the money raised on the day, and we are looking forward to finding out our final fundraising total.

Teamwork has been another important focus this half term. The students worked together to make delicious **Chocolate Hedgehogs** for the event, developing their practical skills while having lots of fun along the way.





The Adventures of 8V!













The Adventures of 8V!

We have also started working towards our **Silver Award in RSBP**, linking this with our **Exploring the Community** work and **The King's Trust programme**. These opportunities are helping our students continue to develop their confidence, independence and wider life skills.



Sensory breaks have continued to be an important and enjoyable part of our school day, with students enjoying time on the swing and completing laps around the field.





The Adventures of 8V!

Finally, spooky season has arrived in 8V! We have started preparing for **Halloween**, and everyone had great fun getting creative and carving pumpkins.











The Adventures of 8V!









Whisker World

Welcome back everyone!

Our animal family has had a busy summer, and we're excited to share all the latest news from **Whisker World**.

🐰 **Smoke and Cinders** are back, happy, healthy and ready for another year of treats, fuss and adventures.

🐻 **Squeak** has returned and is looking forward to seeing familiar faces around school.

💔 Sadly, we said goodbye to **Pip** over the summer. He was a much-loved member of Whisker World and will always be remembered fondly.



🩹 We've also welcomed **Patch**, our rescue guinea pig. He's settled in brilliantly and has already earned a reputation for looking like a tiny capybara!

🐍 We have some exciting reptile news too! **Barry**, an 8-year-old corn snake, has recently joined us and has settled in wonderfully. He now shares the spotlight with **Ember**, our other corn snake, and both have been helping students learn more about reptiles.

🐛 Our **millipedes (Moss and Mulch)** are back, our **giant African land snail (Boogie)** has returned, and we are still hoping to welcome **Puddle the Frog** in the future.

🐶 **Therapy Dog Corner**
Our therapy dogs will continue to visit school whenever they can:
🐶 **Trixie** - alternating Wednesdays and Fridays
🐶 **Henry** - Wednesdays
🐶 **Pablo** - mornings whenever possible
Please remember that therapy dog visits depend on availability and can't always be guaranteed.

Whisker World



🌟 Animal Care Superstars

A huge well done to all the students who have taken part in Animal Care lessons this term. We have been incredibly impressed by the kindness, responsibility and enthusiasm shown when caring for our animals.

From feeding and handling to cleaning and enrichment, students have helped make Whisker World a safe and happy place for all our animal residents.

🏅 Coming Soon: Animal Care Ambassadors

After Halloween, we will be launching our new **Animal Care Ambassador Programme**!

Students who have shown dedication, responsibility and a genuine passion for animal welfare may be chosen to become Animal Care Ambassadors. These students will help promote excellent animal care across the school and support with special animal-related activities.

To give more students the opportunity to get involved, ambassador roles will be reviewed each term and may change throughout the year.

🤔 A New Name?

With rabbits, guinea pigs, snakes, millipedes, a giant snail, therapy dogs and hopefully even a frog joining the family, we're starting to wonder...

Is "Whisker World" still the right name? Or should it become... ANIMAL WORLD? 🐾

Watch this space... you never know which new animal friend might arrive next!
🐰🐭🐌🐶🐚🐍🐸✨

Whisker World



Happy Halloween











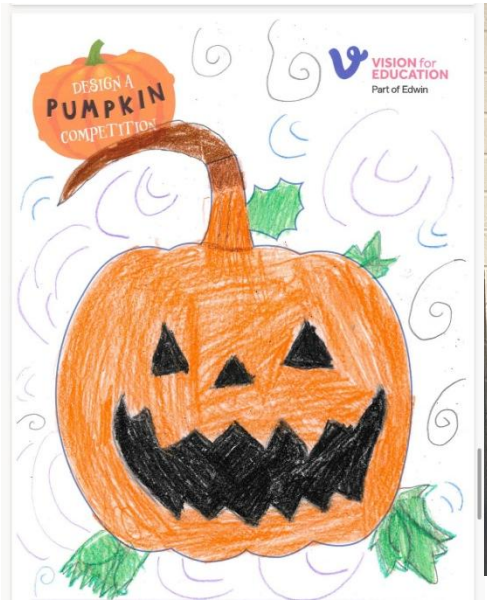




Halloween Pumpkin Poster Competition

A huge thank you to **Vision for Education supply agency** for giving our students the opportunity to take part in their Halloween Pumpkin Poster Competition.

We are delighted to share the winning design, created by one of our talented students, who was also presented with a special prize for their design. We are incredibly proud of their creativity and congratulate them on this fantastic work. Thank you again to Vision for Education for supporting and celebrating the artistic talents of our students. 🎃🏆

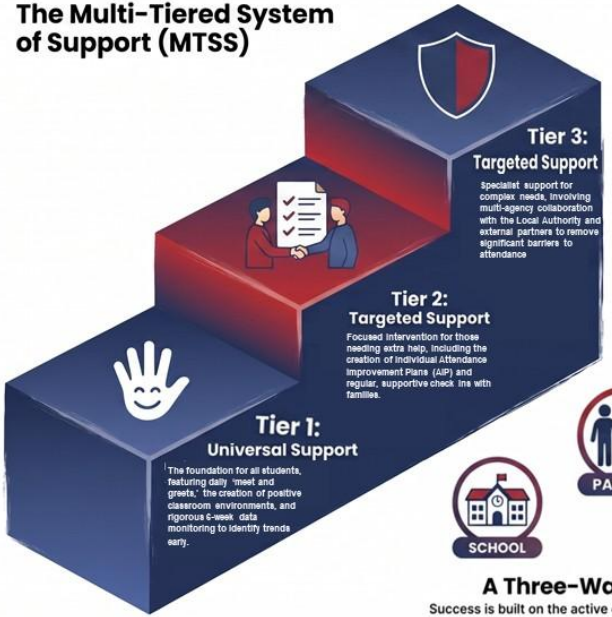




Our Attendance Journey: Support and Rewards

'Unleash your limitless potential'

The Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)





A Three-Way Partnership

Success is built on the active collaboration between the school, parents, and students to ensure every learner can thrive.

Attendance Rewards



Weekly: Dojo Dollars

Attendance % announced in assembly or in form class.
Reward:
Class with highest % attendance per KS – Every student in class receives 1 Dojo Dollar



Half-Termly: Movies and Vouchers

Attendance % announced in assembly.
Reward:
1) Class with highest % attendance per KS – Final day of half term: Movie afternoon in class after lunch.
2) 3 students per KS with most improved attendance compared to previous academic year, receive a £10 voucher (Love2Shop).



Termly: Pizza Parties and Badges

Attendance % announced in assembly.
Reward:
Class with highest % attendance per KS – Final day of term: Pizza
Most improved attendance – certificate/badge



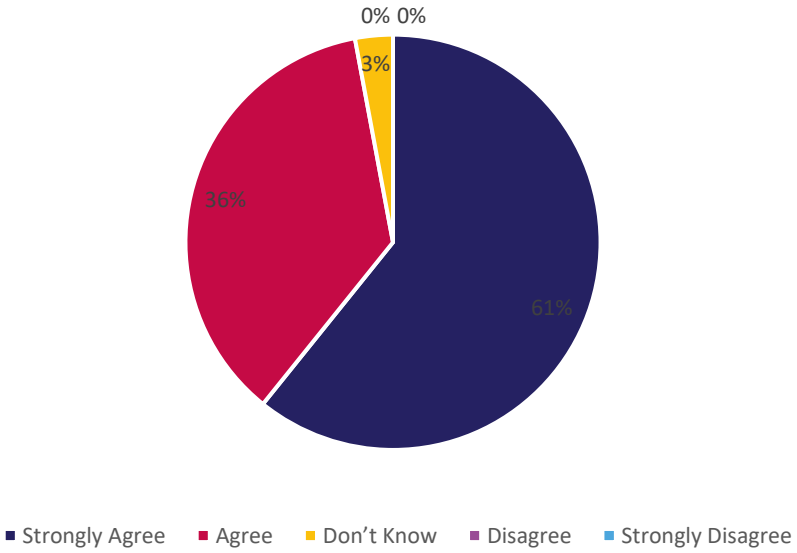
End of Year: Drayton Manor and Disney

Attendance % announced in assembly.
Reward:
Per KS 12 Learners receive fully funded trip to Drayton Manor (6 learners with 95% plus attendance and 6 with most improved attendance. 95% plus attendance – majority funded end of year trip to Disney
Head teachers yearly most improved attendance certificate

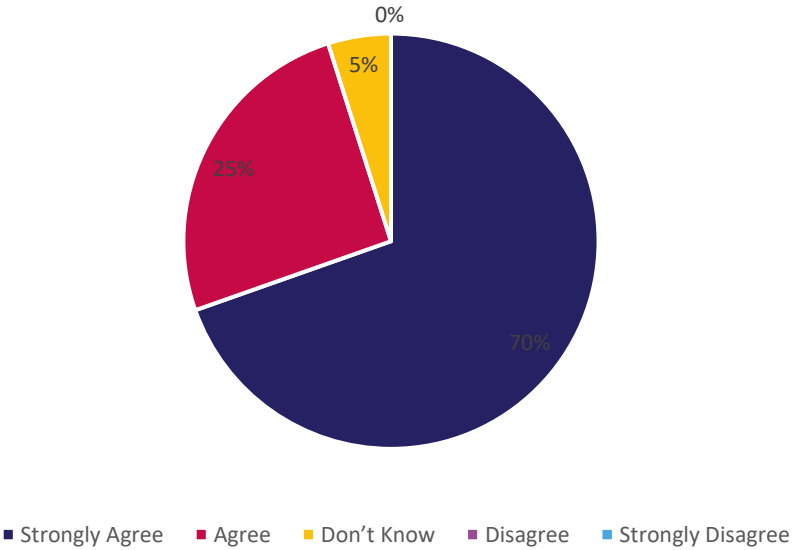
Parents' Evening Data

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Other
1	My child is happy at the school	62	37	3	0	0	N/A
2	My child feels safe at this school	71	26	5	0	0	N/A
3	The school makes sure the pupils are well behaved	57	38	7	0	0	N/A
4	My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	13	16	11	1	0	My Child has not been bullied =59
5	The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year. Information can be found on the school website.	48	42	8	0	0	N/A
6	When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.	36	42	2	0	0	I have not raised any concerns =21
7	My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed	58	39	5	0	0	N/A
8	The school has high expectations for my child	51	40	11	0	0	N/A
9	My child does well at this school	57	38	7	0	0	N/A
10	The school lets me know how my child is doing	50	45	3	4	0	N/A
11	There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.	51	39	9	3	0	N/A
12	My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	42	33	19	7	0	N/A
13	The school supports my child's wider personal development.	48	48	12	1	0	N/A
14	I am aware that ClassDojo is now the school's main form of communication.	Yes=101			No=1		
15	The school communicates well with me about things I need to know.	55	42	1	3	0	N/A
16	When the school makes decisions, it has the child's best interests at heart.	45	53	2	2	0	N/A
17	The school gives my child the right support to enable them to learn well.	44	52	6	0	0	N/A
18	I would recommend this school to another parent.	Yes=99			No=3		
19	Strong school attendance is vital to support your child's learning	Yes=102			No=0		

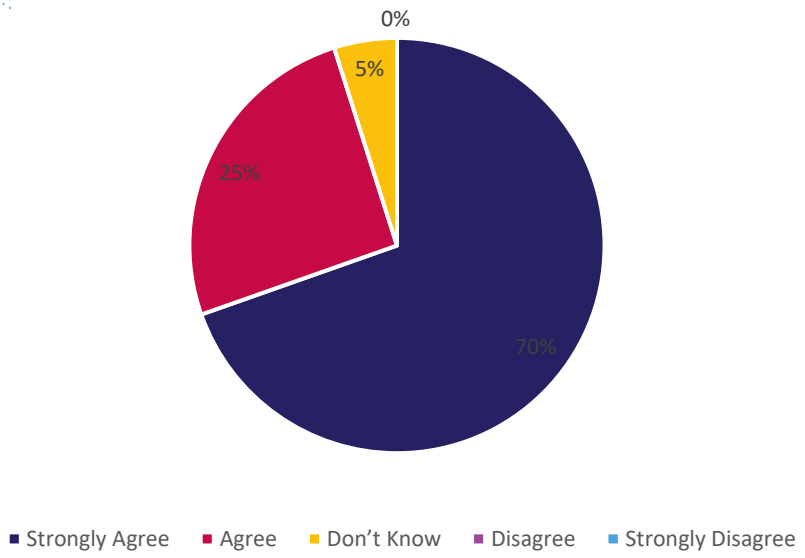
My child is happy at the school



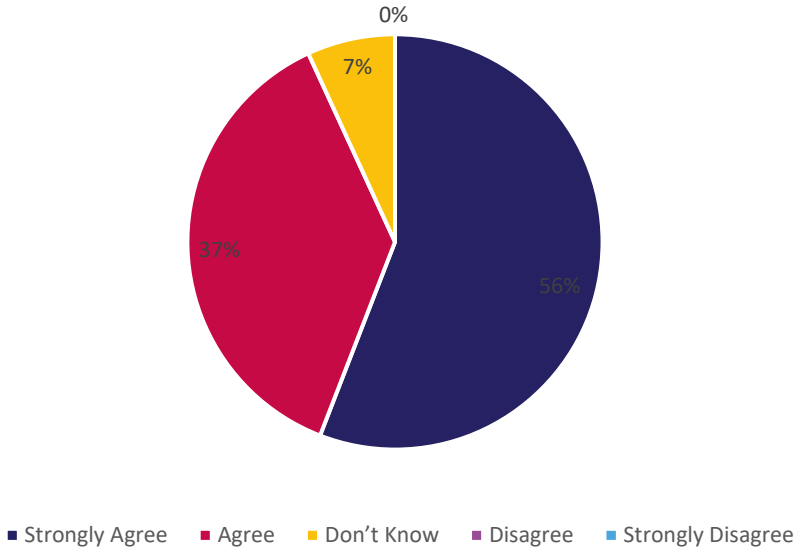
My child feels safe at this school



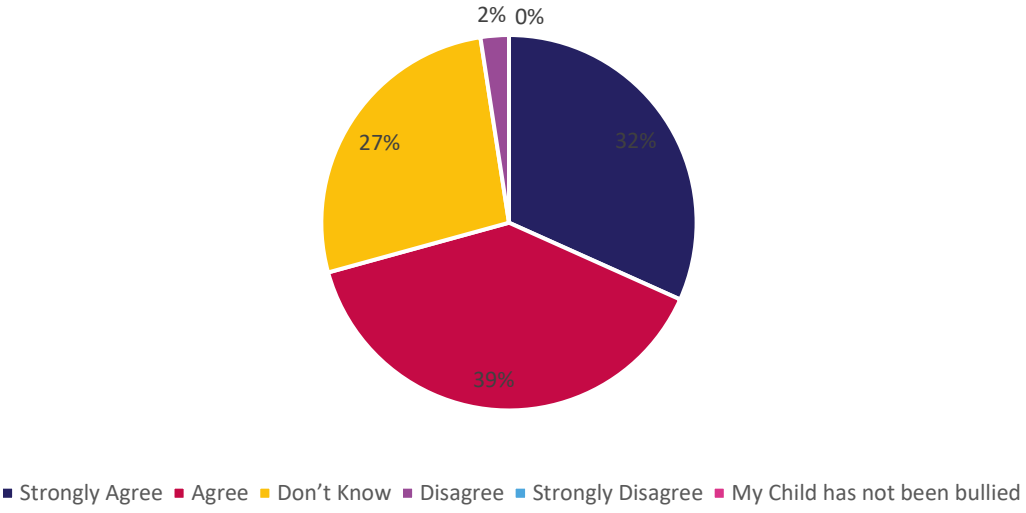
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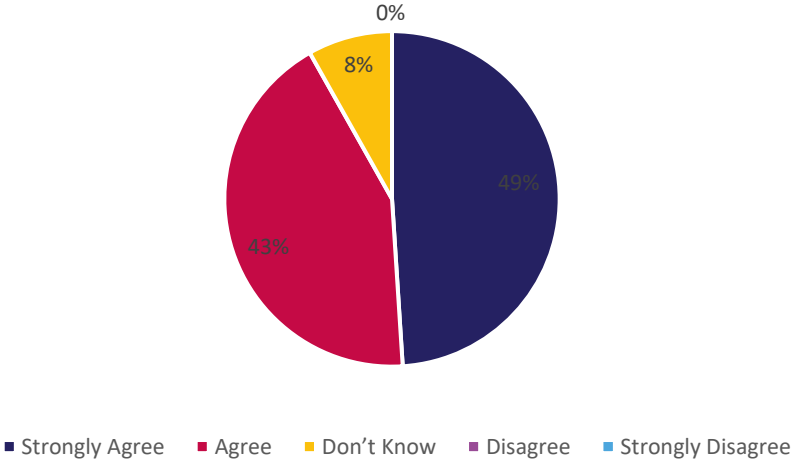
The school makes sure the pupils are well behaved



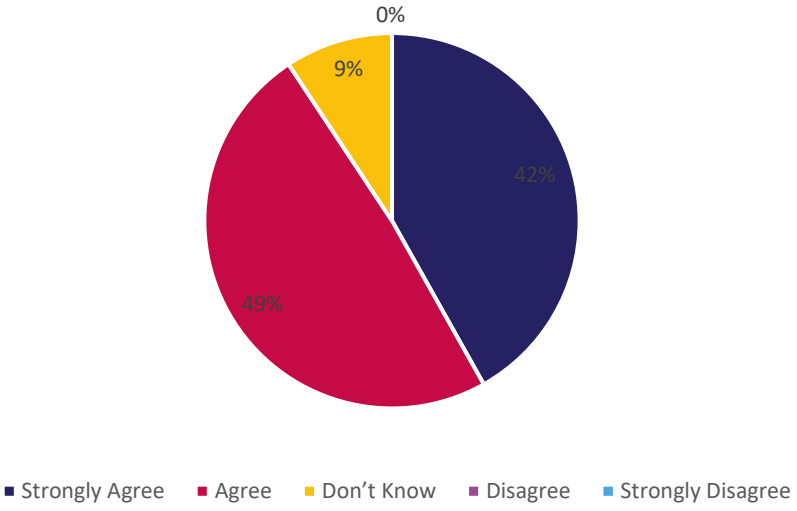
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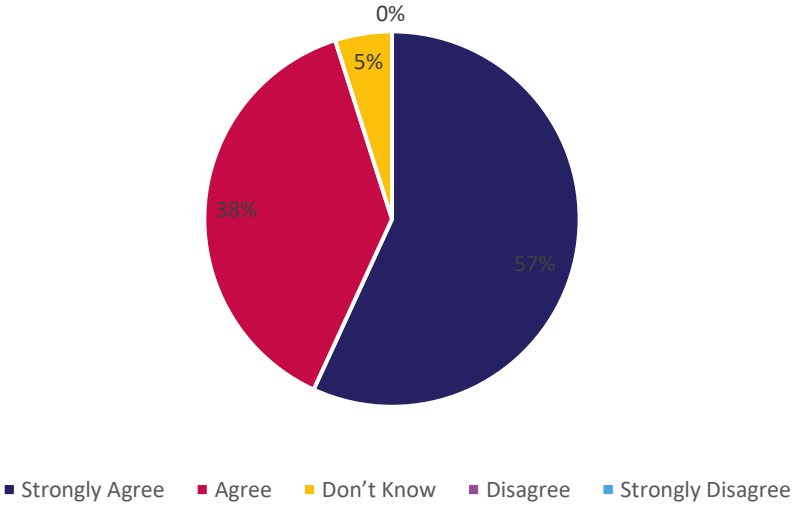
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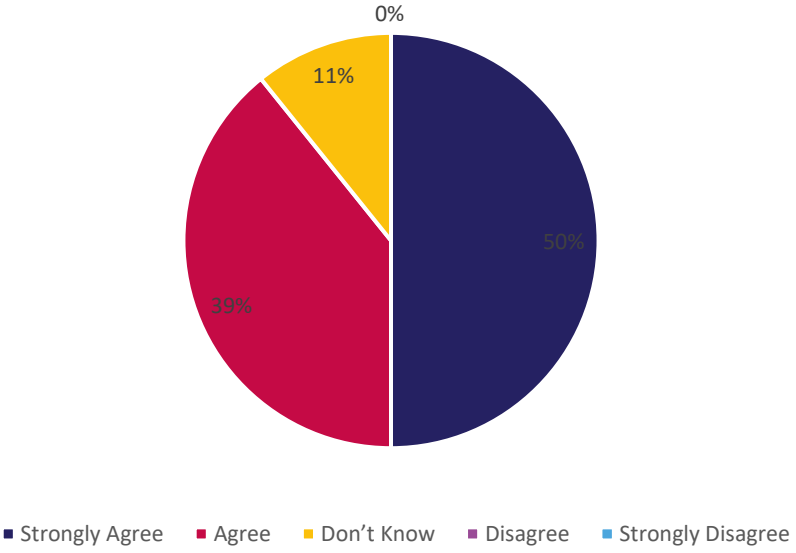
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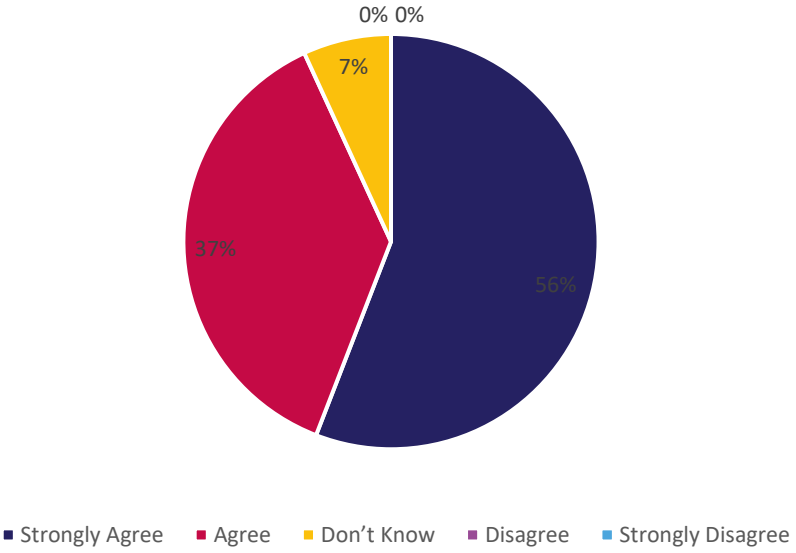
My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed



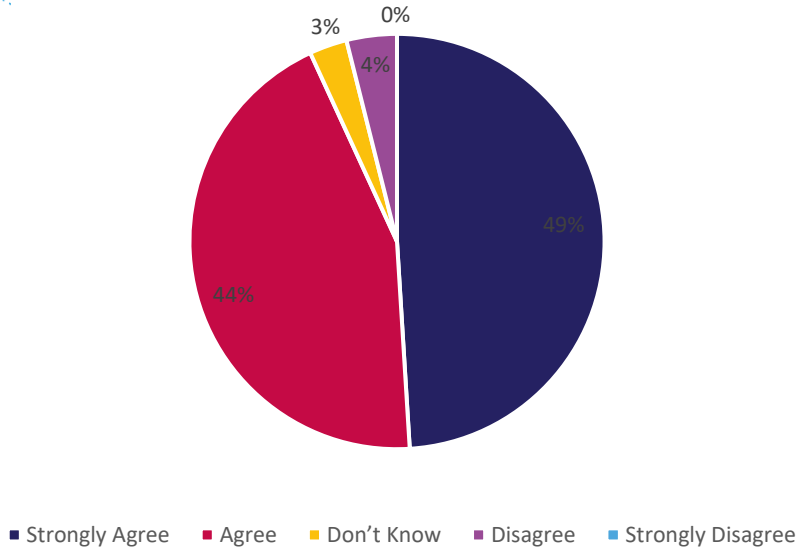
The school has high expectations for my child



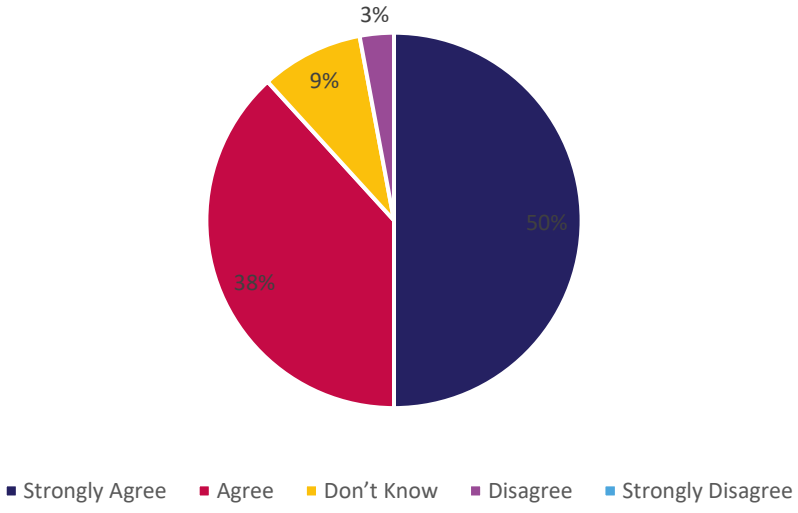
My child does well at this school



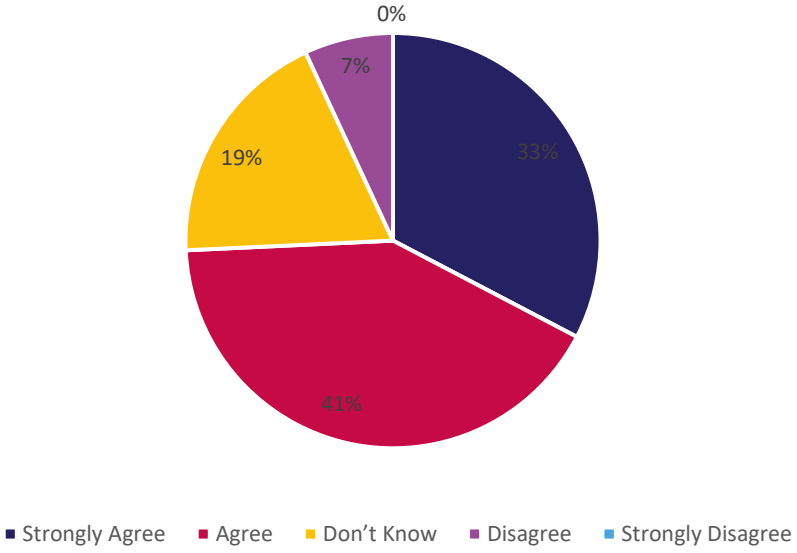
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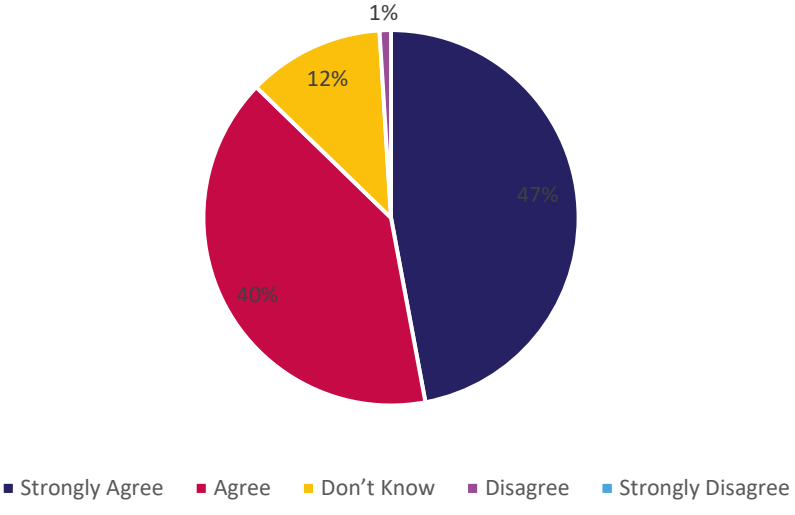
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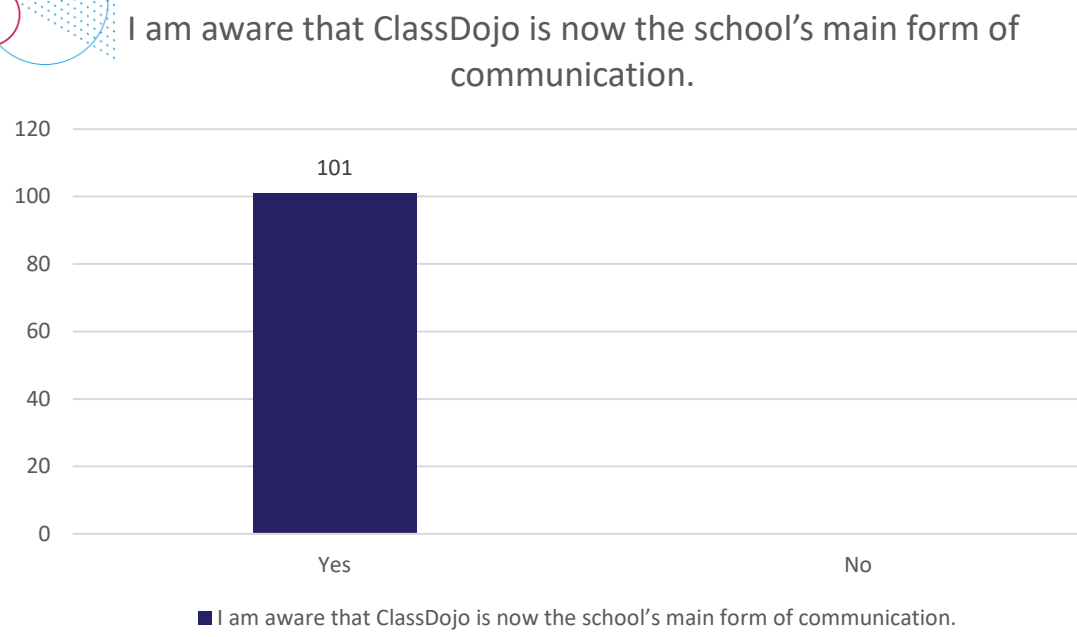


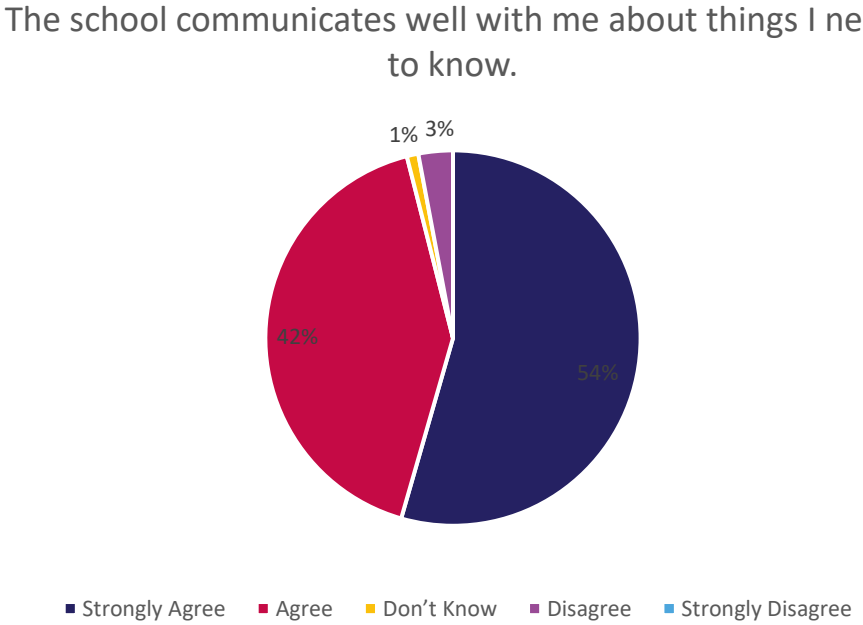
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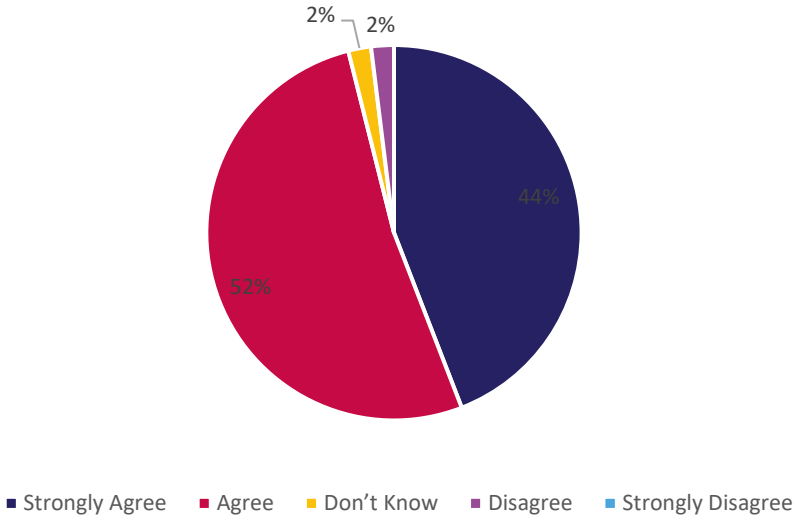
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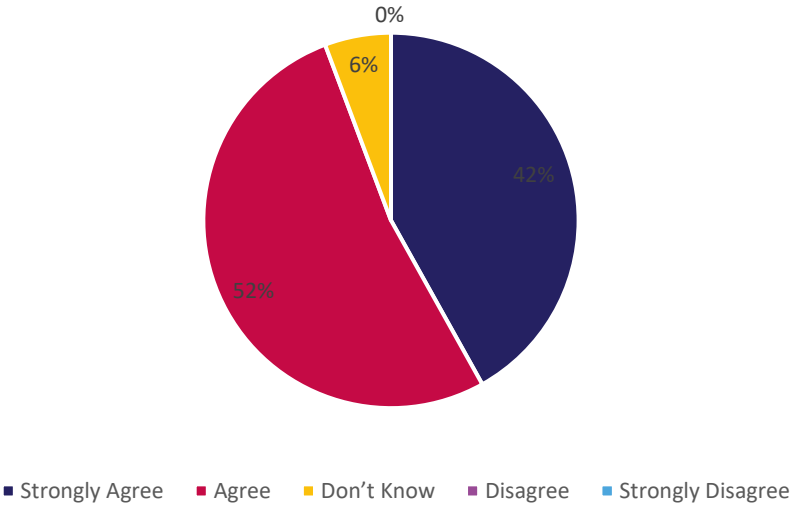

I am aware that ClassDojo is now the school's main form of communication.
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
101
Yes
No
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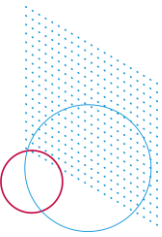

The school communicates well with me about things I need to know.
1%
3%
42%
54%
Strongly Agree
Agree
Don't Know
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

When the school makes decisions, it has the child's best interests at heart.

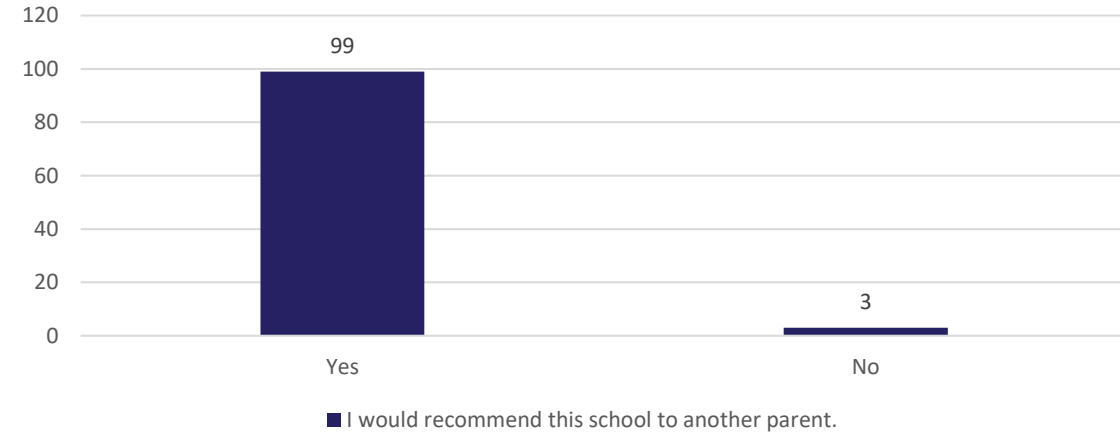


The school gives my child the right support to enable them to learn well.

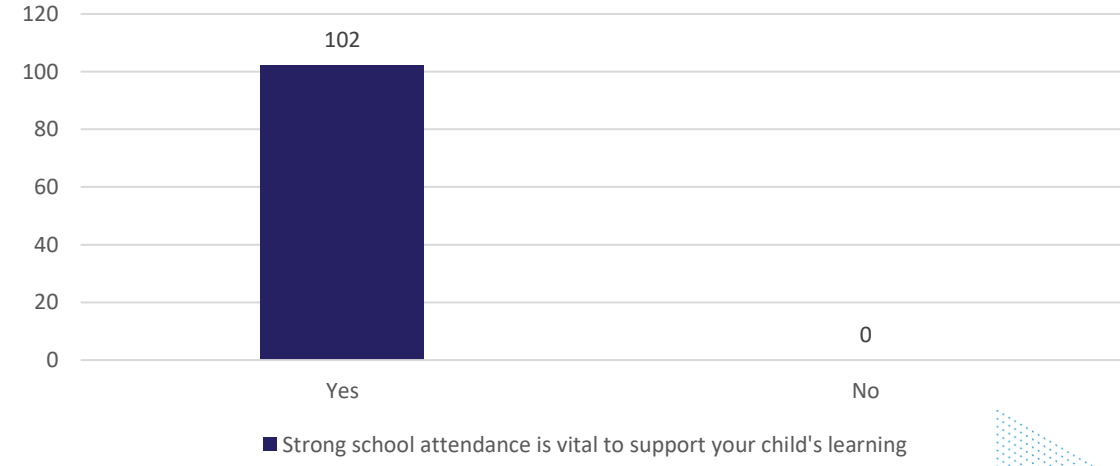


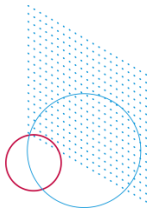


I would recommend this school to another parent.



Strong school attendance is vital to support your child's learning





Comment Responses

No

No

I am very pleased with the progress my child has made.

No

No

Nothing

None

Thank you for all your hard work and support

Great staff and support

I have no concerns

Lovely to have many animals in school

Add Arabic language

No

No

No

Very good school with great support and staff

No

No

No

Thank you

Very good

No

Could not have a picked a better school for my son, LR (7V) he actually enjoys going to school everyday and that's thanks to the friendly staff who create a warm nurturing environment for the children

It is to early to know now the above

School is nice

No

No

My son happy here

Good job

No

I am mainly happy with the school.

Very pleased with school would recommend to other parents

No

N/A

No

Frank loves the school and he is doing very well to date,long may it continue

-

My child is happy here

No

No

Have no problems with the school

Welcoming & supportive staff

Best wishes

Thank you

N/a

Very good start for my child. He is happy and excited for school

My child started in year 7 this year and I'm extremely pleased with the open communication relationship between staff and parents. My child is happy at school and they are supporting him to be his best self

My child has really settled at new horizons and seems like they really get him and his needs

Thank you all the staffs are supportive.

No

She loves school x

My child really enjoys school, and enjoys coming in

The school goes above and beyond for both my children

I cannot thank the support and updates i received fron this school.

I am happy with everything. Thank you

Don't know has been an answer because I could do a lot better at discovering myself

All things are taken care of

Yasmin is very happy in her class

Really happy with the school, out son is very happy

I don't receive some emails as much as jacks mom

If possible, clearer and detailed communication to parents with non-verbal children, especially when they first start and are establishing toileting and eating routines as these have medical impact aswell as impact in learning during the day.

This school is very good

My child is doing well at the school

Great staff and school so much support available and aleays someone willing to help

Mobile Phones

We have recently seen a rise in the use of group chats and social media by our students outside of school hours. This had led to an alarming number of incidents stemming from inappropriate online interactions, which have had a significant negative impact on both the learning environment and the wellbeing of our students.

These incidents include, but are not limited to, cyberbullying, harassment and the spreading of harmful rumours. Such behaviour not only disrupts the school community but also causes severe emotional distress to the students involved. The consequences of these actions are grave, and we have already begun to see the detrimental effects on academic performance and overall school morale.

In light of these issues, we must emphasise the critical need for parental support and intervention. Monitoring your child's use of their mobile devices and social media is essential to safeguard not only their well-being but also the well-being of other students within the school.

Therefore, we strongly urge you to:

•Regularly check the content and nature of your child's group chats and social media interactions

•Have open conversations with your child about appropriate online behaviour and the potential consequences of their actions

•Reinforce the importance of kindness, respect and responsibility in all forms of communication

•Assess whether your child is cognitively able to safeguard and be responsible for having their own mobile device

Mobile Phones

Please be aware that serious breaches of our school's Code of Conduct, whether occurring in person or online may result in disciplinary action which could include:

•Confiscating a student's phone or device for a reasonable time, until it is possible to meet with families, discuss and hand the device to parents

•Fixed term or permanent exclusion

We trust that you understand the gravity of this situation and will join us in taking proactive steps to ensure a safe and positive school environment for all students. Your co-operation is vital in helping us address and mitigate these issues effectively.

The school has legal abilities to confiscate, keep or dispose of items that cause harm or risk to the safety of others under Section 91 of the Education Act 2006. A mobile device that causes harm (intentionally or not) is categorised as bullying and harassment and the school has a duty to keep all of its students safe and has a strict zero tolerance policy on any form of bullying or harassment. If these rules are breached, if required the school will pass any devices onto the Police for their investigations and procedures.

If you have any concerns or require guidance on how to monitor your child's online activities, please do not hesitate to contact the school. We are happy to support you and work together in the best interests of our students.

Thank you for your continued support with this matter.

Compass Birmingham

Be a part of our Compass Community Birmingham!



Are you a parent or carer of a child who attends a school supported by Compass Birmingham Mental Health Support Team (MHST)?

Sign up today and be the first to get important updates, parenting tips and strategies and resources straight to your inbox

How it works:

1. Scan the QR code
2. Type in your name and email and click on subscribe
3. Check your inbox (or spam and junk folder) to confirm subscription.
4. If our emails go into your spam and junk folder, make sure to make us a safe contact so you don't miss any emails from us.
5. All done! You are now part of our Compass Community Birmingham

Scan me

Stay Connected!

Compass Birmingham
Mental Health Support Teams

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0121 227 8254
www.compass-uk.org
Instagram: @compassbmhst
Facebook: @compassbirminghamMHST

Your privacy matters

We will only use your email address to send you relevant updates and information. Your details will be stored securely in line with GDPR guidelines and will never be shared with third parties. You will also have the option to unsubscribe at any time.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)



What is the Queensbury School PTA?

Our School PTA is a group of parents and teachers who meet to organise events and activities to improve communications and experiences amongst all members of our school community: school as an organisational body of staff and teachers, parents and pupils. Our primary purpose is to raise funds for items the school would not normally be able to afford and to have fun whilst doing so. Every parent automatically becomes a member of the PTA when their child enters the school. Meetings usually take place via Zoom 1 per half term, and last approximately an hour.

Why do we do this?

Simple – for Our Children whose welfare and best interests are our paramount consideration. We try to organise fun events for them. What does the PTA do? The PTA usually gets to organise a lot of the fun stuff! Main events may include: Christmas/Summer Fetes; school discos; parents' social evenings. The PTA always welcomes feedback and new ideas.

Join Queensbury school PTA team by emailing us on pta@queensbury.eiat.org.uk
OR
Contact us on 0121 373 5731 to speak with PTA team



Useful Information

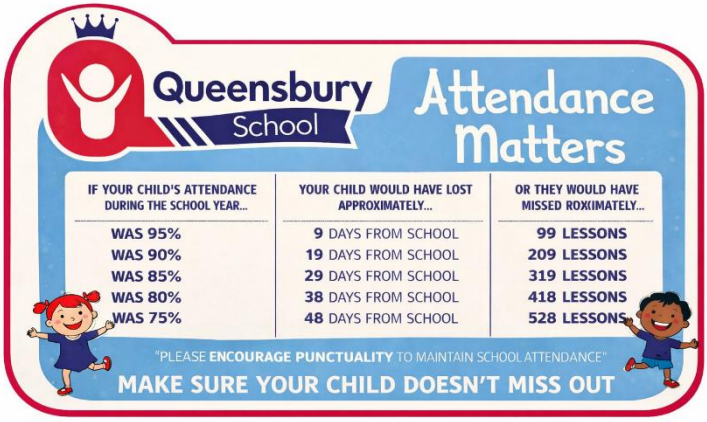
PLEASE NOTE - There is NO Staff supervision in School before 8.30am. Students must not be in School unaccompanied before this time.

Also, if your child is being collected by a different family member/friend please notify Reception.
Without prior permission we are unable to let your child off school premises until we have contacted you.

Breakfast in the Classroom at Queensbury

We continue to provide breakfast alongside Felix, Tesco & Bookers. This means students will be offered a breakfast of toast or pastries in class every morning free of charge





A message from our CEO



Jon Harris
CEO

"A stormy end to a very calm half-term! The students have settled in really well and I would like to thank everyone for their involvement in a successful transition process. This newsletter shows the range of great learning opportunities that we are providing for our students. It was great to see that going right until the end with the display of Art at the Hive Cafe in Rookery Park.

Queensbury students were part of an EIAT residential to Barcelona that also included students from The Hive and Mayfield School. I know that everyone had a great time and learnt a lot about a great city.

We have appointed Sarah Davis to the role of Adulthood Aspirations Leader across EIAT. This shows our commitment to working together to help shape better futures for all of our students.

Enjoy the half-term break"

We believe all students have the ability to unleash their limitless potential.

EducationIMPACT Academy Trust

Queensbury School

@queensburysch @queensburysch @queensburyschuk @queensburytv

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