

Parent Questionnaire Feedback



JANUARY 2021

WELCOME TO 2021

How effective was the school on joining the Management Partnership?

In short, the school would have been graded Inadequate by Ofsted in an inspection, which was due because children were not safe and the quality of education was poor. Other factors included:

- It did not have a substantive Headteacher.
- There was a sizeable budget deficit.
- Quality of teaching was inadequate because teachers had not been supported.
- Quality of safeguarding was poor and children were not safe.
- Children did not feel safe and stated that they would not tell an adult in the school if they had a problem.
- A punitive behaviour system was in place where children were punished not praised and not celebrated.
- No clear values or vision which reflected the distinctive nature of the school.
- Provision for children with special educational needs was chaotic with no clear plans and no impact on the children.
- Children left the school significantly below the national average - the school did not teach them how to read, write or have basic maths skills and they were not prepared for the next stage in education.
- No after school club provision to help working families.
- Unsafe elements in the grounds.
- No clear improvement direction.
- Staff feeling unsupported and frustrated that the school was not getting it right for the children.
- Parents felt communication was poor and never knew about events.
- Punitive approach to attendance where parents were locked out of the gate and children had to queue to get into school.
- No dedicated family support functions in place.
- A curriculum which centered on Maths and English rather than the full breadth of subjects.

However, there was a committed team of staff, children who were eager to learn, a supportive parent community and lots of potential! The Governors recognised the school would benefit from being part of a partnership which would ensure the long term future of the school was successful. This is when the Management Partnership with the Learning Academy Partnership began.

The offer for the children has come a long way, even within a pandemic, and we wanted to celebrate the improvements in the educational provision for your child. We are still on the journey and there is more to do and the parent questionnaire will enable us to feed the parent voice into the next steps.

Dear Parents

We wanted to provide you with the outcomes of the recent parent questionnaire.

We have also provided the journey and impact since Dartington has been in a Management Partnership with the Learning Academy Partnership.

Mrs Huish

Mrs Huish
Headteacher



HOW HAS THE TRUST IMPROVED THE SCHOOL?

- Provided the school with a Headteacher, Mrs Huish.
- Provided the school with Mr Trewinnard to help families and children who are in difficulty.
- Provided Mrs May to support the front office and ensure parent communication improved.
- Provided support from the Trust Finance team to help with the financial difficulties the school was in and to work with the Local Authority to clear the deficit.
- In September, as there were vacancies in the school, members of staff from the Trust were deployed at the school to support with improving the offer: Mrs McKnight, Mrs Grant, Mrs Rowe, Mrs Davies all joined the team alongside Mr Trewinnard, Mrs May, Miss Cleverly and Mrs Huish.
- Created an After School Club for parents who needed care.
- Put robust safeguarding procedures in place so that children were safe.
- Introduced a curriculum where children learnt more than English and Maths and removed the Gold, Silver, Bronze approach where children were limited in learning.
- Introduced coffee mornings to ensure parents had a place where their voice could be heard.
- Constructed a new Behaviour Policy with children and staff which reflected parent voice.
- Developed shared values with parents and staff to ensure it reflected the uniqueness of Dartington.
- Set up regular parent consultation so that parents get feedback on how their child is doing.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT ON THE CHILDREN?

- Children are safe and happy. The poor behaviour that was normal in July 2019 was eradicated very quickly and children have a kind and thoughtful environment where every individual is valued and children can learn.
- Children are safe. We have robust safeguarding training and procedures in place and everyone knows their responsibilities and signals which tell us children may not be safe.
- Children are no longer labelled by ability into Gold, Silver, Bronze. We have the highest aspirations for every child and they are not limited! We teach by adapting to meet the needs of each child.
- Teaching Assistants are now used effectively and can get on with the job that they are so brilliant at - supporting children.
- Teachers are now able to teach to a much better standard because they have had time and training invested in them. Staff feel valued and respected.
- Attendance has improved dramatically, learning is more irresistible, children are safe and parents want their child to be in school.
- More pupils are coming to the school. It has a growing reputation in the community! We are proud to give the community a school of choice.



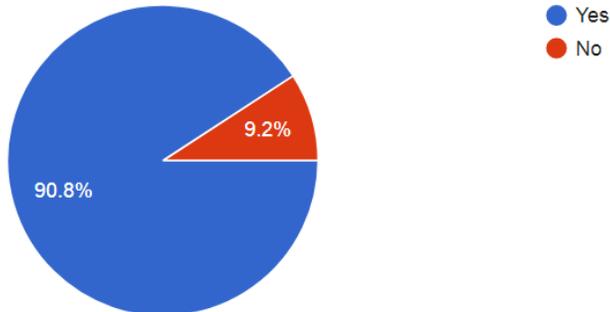
What do parents think?

We can honestly report that we receive mainly positive feedback from parents and families about the work we have been doing as a Trust and the impact on the children. However, we are not perfect and we do get things wrong. We are pleased that you come and tell us so that we can work with you to resolve it but we are thankful that these incidents are low.

WHAT DID YOU TELL US?

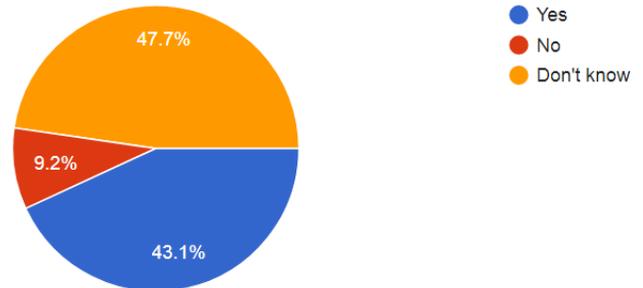
We also gauge parent opinion through questionnaires. We carried out one in February and again in November and we want to share with you what you told us about the school.

I would recommend this school to another parent



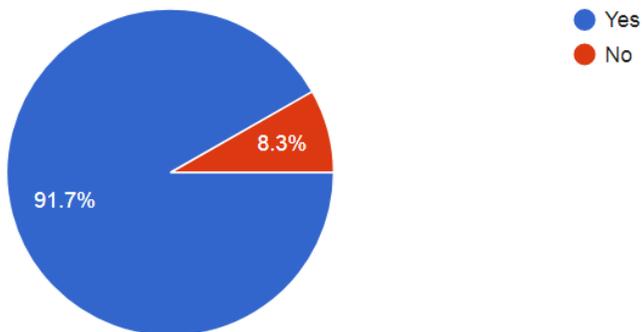
Responses
Yes 91%
Back in February only 74% of parents would recommend the school.

There is a positive benefit on my child's education from the school being supported by a Multi-Academy Trust



Responses		
Don't Know 48%	Yes 43%	No 10%
This tells us that we have further work to do to let parents know how the support and partnership from the Trust makes a difference and gives your child a better educational experience. Whilst we currently share this in newsletters there is still a sizable amount of parents who do not know and we need to review how we tell you about things which benefit your child.		

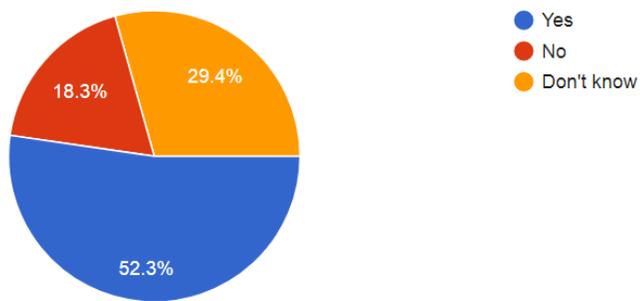
My child is happy at this school



Responses
Yes 92%
Back in February, only 72% of parents felt that their child was happy. This outcome demonstrates the impact of the measures that we are putting into place. We are thrilled that this has increased so significantly.



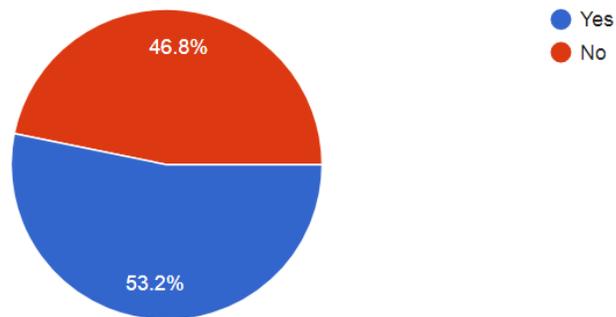
The school's Christian values and attitudes have a positive effect on my child



Responses		
Yes 52%	No 18%	Don't Know 29%
<p>Since September 2019 the leadership team have worked with parents, staff and children to develop a Christian vision and values which reflect what we all want for our pupils. Together We Grow, Together We Flourish underpins how we plan everything in what we offer the children. Again, as with the previous question, there is still work to do about how we communicate this to all parents and children.</p>		

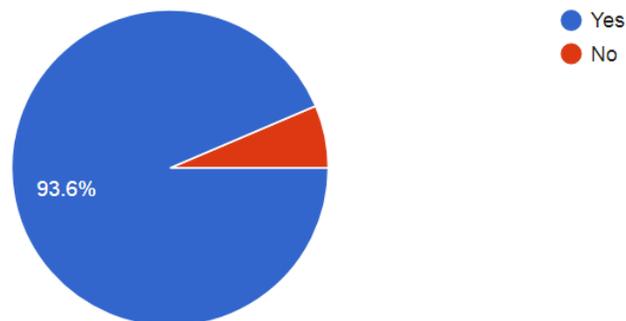


I receive helpful information about how being part of a Trust benefits my child's educational journey



Responses	
Yes 53%	No 46%
<p>This answer really reflects the previous two questions. It is an area that we need to work on to ensure that parents and the community are always aware of how working within a Trust supports your child's educational journey.</p>	

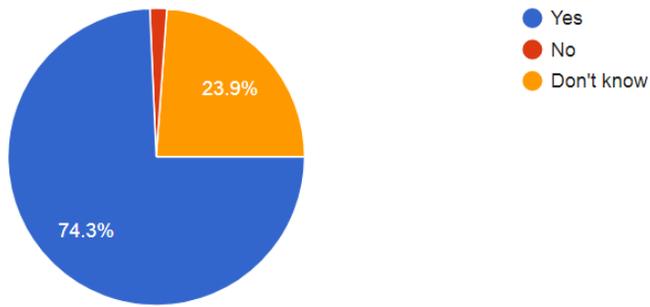
My child feels safe at this school



Responses	
Yes 94%	No 6%
<p>This has improved from 81%. Whilst we always aim for this to 100%, this is a significant improvement since we started working with the Trust. In September 2019, children told us that they did not feel safe in school and that they would not tell a teacher if they had a problem.</p>	



The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved



Responses

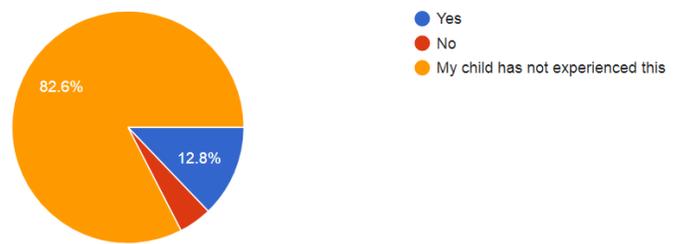
Yes 74%	No 2%	Don't Know 24%
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When forming the Management Partnership one of the key areas that staff wanted the Trust to support them with was the levels of poor behaviour in the school. The children did not have a clear framework to support them and as we know, the behaviour system which was in place at the time was negative and punitive and children felt uncared for as a result of the system. Teachers also felt the behaviour system was not supportive of children.

We have significantly improved the behaviour through our Christian values and understanding how to be kind and compassionate in school but also we have shown the children care and kindness and have a clear behaviour system so that children are praised and celebrated.

Behaviour is not a significant issue in the school and that is why we rarely discuss it in newsletters. This may be the factor behind why 24% of parents do not know. However, we must not be complacent and we have recently introduced an Anti-Bullying Policy which supports and quickly tackles any bullying at the earliest signs.

My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively



Responses

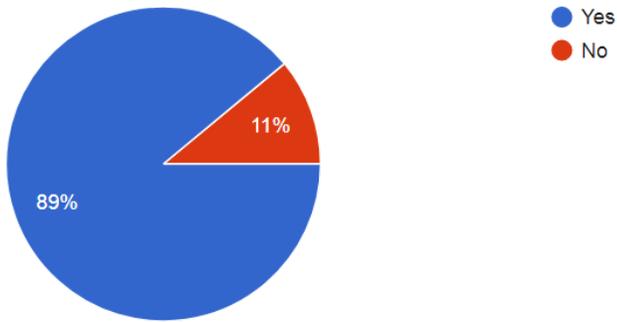
Yes 13%	No 4%	My child has not experienced this 83%
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We are pleased to see the impact of the measures we have put in place which has also included being explicit about our Christian values e.g. compassion and how this helps us look after each other.

As mentioned above, we have introduced a new Anti-Bullying policy which sets out clearly that it is about the perception of the victim and shows how swiftly it can be tackled.



The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year

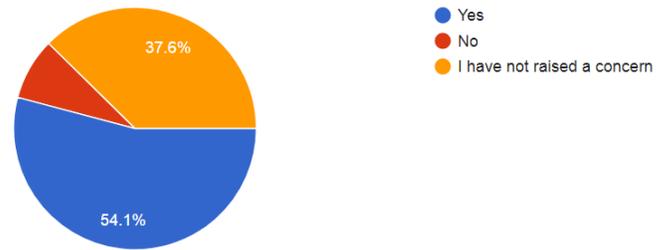


Responses

Yes 89% No 11%

This has increased from 76% in the previous questionnaire. Before the Management Partnership there was very little information for parents about the curriculum, what would be covered and what the children were doing. Since then we have introduced different ways of communicating this such as: social media, weekly newsletters, monthly newsletters and the website. Before the pandemic we also held parent workshops to explain how their child learnt different aspects of the curriculum. Whilst there is still more to do, this demonstrates the impact to date.

When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly



Responses

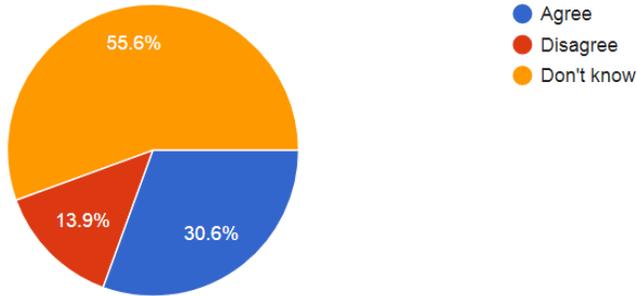
Yes 54% No 8% I have not raised a concern 38%

In the previous survey, 22% of parents felt that the school had not dealt with concerns and we are pleased to see a decrease in this figure to only 8%. We have worked hard to make ourselves available to talk to parents through leaders being on the gate, being able to make appointments to speak to teachers, Mr Trewinnard and Mrs Stubbles being available to talk to parents and the increased parent consultation meetings.

We are pleased that this is improving. Of course we are concerned that some parents do not feel that we dealt with their concern and we continually review what we do. We urge you to continue to share your concerns with us.

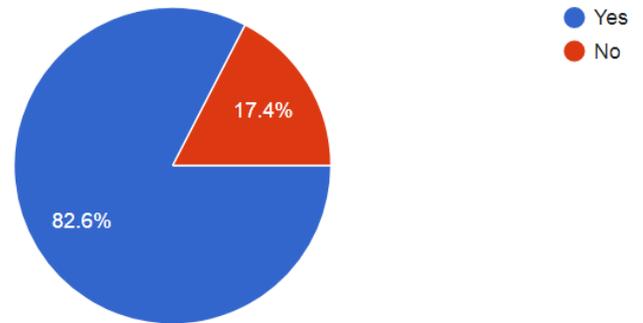


**How strongly do you agree with this statement?
"My child has SEND and the school gives them
the support they need to succeed."**



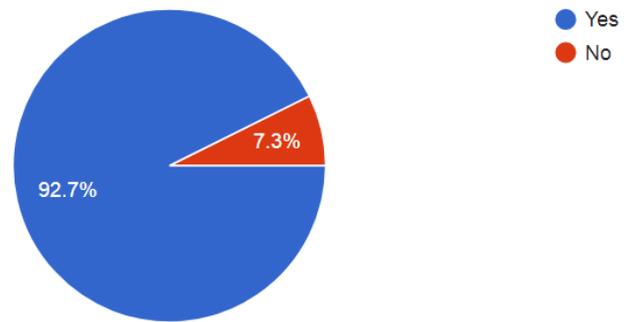
Responses		
Agree 31%	Disagree 14%	Don't Know 56%
<p>This has been a significant area of focus since September 2019. On joining the Management Partnership, the quality of provision for SEND children was poor. The systems in school were chaotic and any child who may have some gaps in their learning were automatically labelled as SEND with nearly half the school being labelled as SEND and often parents had no idea that their child had been labelled and there was no communication about what was being done. Staff were poorly trained and often spent time dealing with behaviour issues which were totally avoidable. The school was not meeting the Equalities Act and the provision was poor.</p> <p>The piece of work to improve this is long and ongoing. Mrs Stubbles and the team have worked tirelessly to make as many rapid improvements as humanly possible but there is more work to do. We appreciate that some parents feel that we are still not getting it right for their child and we assure you that we work towards this each and every day. However, we are confident that the majority of children who have a learning need have a much improved educational offer than before.</p>		

The school has high expectations for my child



Responses	
Yes 83%	No 17%
<p>This has increased from 66% to 83%. We want to improve further on that figure as we progress through the journey.</p>	

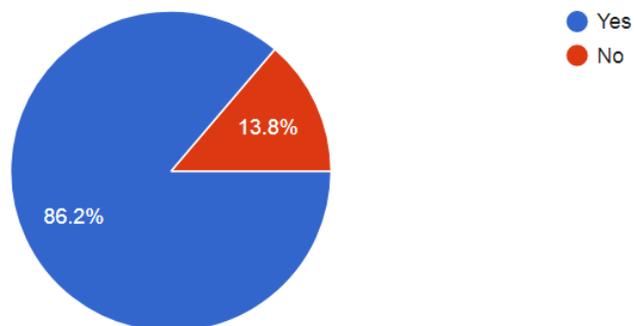
My child does well at this school



Responses	
Yes 93%	No 7%
<p>This is an increase of 20% since the previous questionnaire and reflects the impact of the improvements that the leaders and teachers have put into place with the guidance and support of the Trust.</p>	



The school lets me know how my child is doing

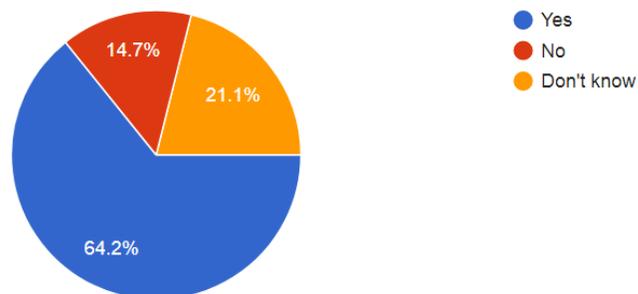


Responses

Yes 86%	No 14%
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Last spring only 56% of parents responded yes and we are thrilled that parents are seeing the impact of the actions we have put into place so far. We have increased parent consultation meetings to three times a year and introduced an end of year report for every child. However we need to seek further feedback from parents about what else they would like to see from the school in order that all parents understand how their child is doing.

The school supports my child's wider personal development

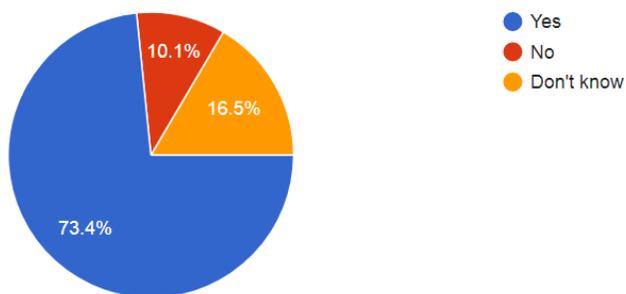


Responses

Yes 64%	No 15%	Don't Know 21%
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There has been a slight increase from 56%. As we develop the curriculum we are putting in more opportunities to develop this. The pandemic has hindered this slightly such as the opportunities to work in forest family groups, the clubs and opportunities we can offer. We have introduced the new Relationships and Sex Education curriculum which a number of parents attended the consultation on. We have also increased Forest School provision and access for children. However there are limitations due to the fact that we cannot mix bubbles and staffing across this.

There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school



Responses

Yes 73%	No 10%	Don't Know 17%
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Since September 2019 Mrs Huish and the team have revamped the curriculum and have introduced the full range of subjects. The pandemic has meant that the planned work on parent workshops and information sessions were put on hold. As we move into 2021 we will now seek to run these virtually so that parents understand what is on offer for their child. In the spring 61% of parents responded yes.

