



BLAKEDOWN CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
 BIRMINGHAM ROAD
 BLAKEDOWN
 KIDDERMINSTER
 DY10 3JN

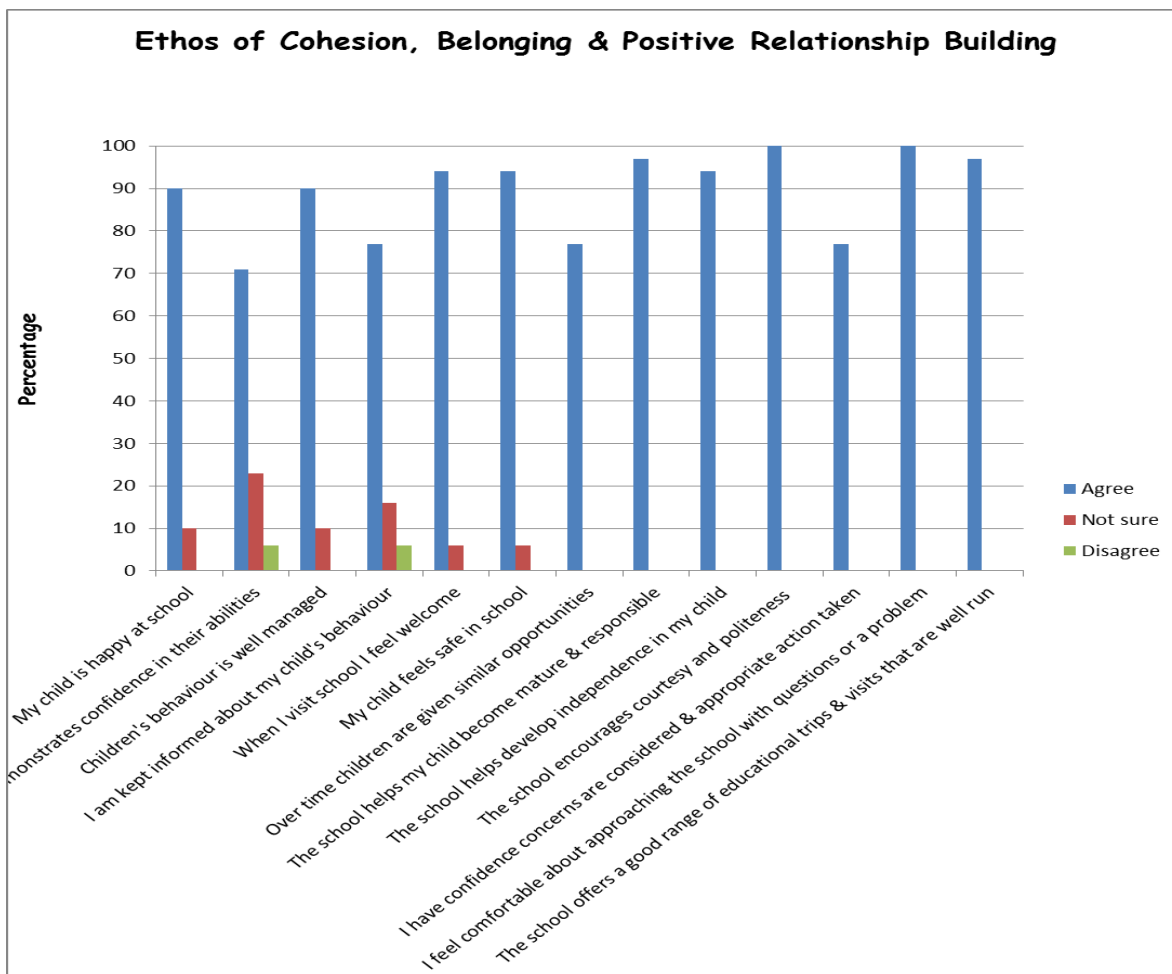
Telephone/Fax: 01562 700243
 Email: office@blakedownprimary.worcs.sch.uk

Head Teacher:
 Mrs. H. E. Beckford-Bond B.Sc (Hons) NPQH

22.05.15

Dear Parents/Carers

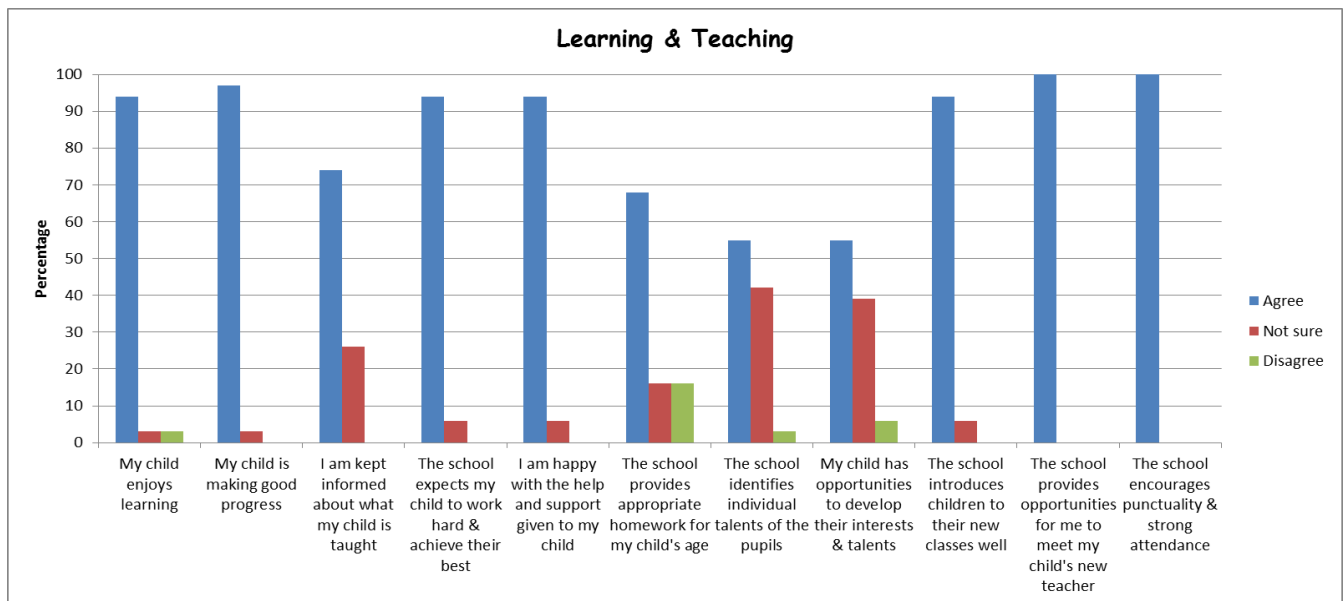
In December you were asked to give your feedback via a questionnaire so that the Governors and I could analyse areas of strength and areas for further development. Please find the results of the 31 returns and the actions that have been addressed regarding these. Each area of the questionnaire has been looked at separately.



Ethos of Cohesion, Belonging & Positive Relationship Building Actions:

- To address the building of confidence, maturity and responsibility each class works on the 'Secrets to Success' which are spoken about each day in relation to activities e.g. 'this might challenge you, but have a go and push yourself; work hard and concentrate; we learn from our mistakes, so let's try to improve this piece of work.' Individual activities have also been taught so that children understand how they can improve by being: resilient; persevering; pushing themselves; trying something new; working hard; concentrating; understanding other points of view and being creative.

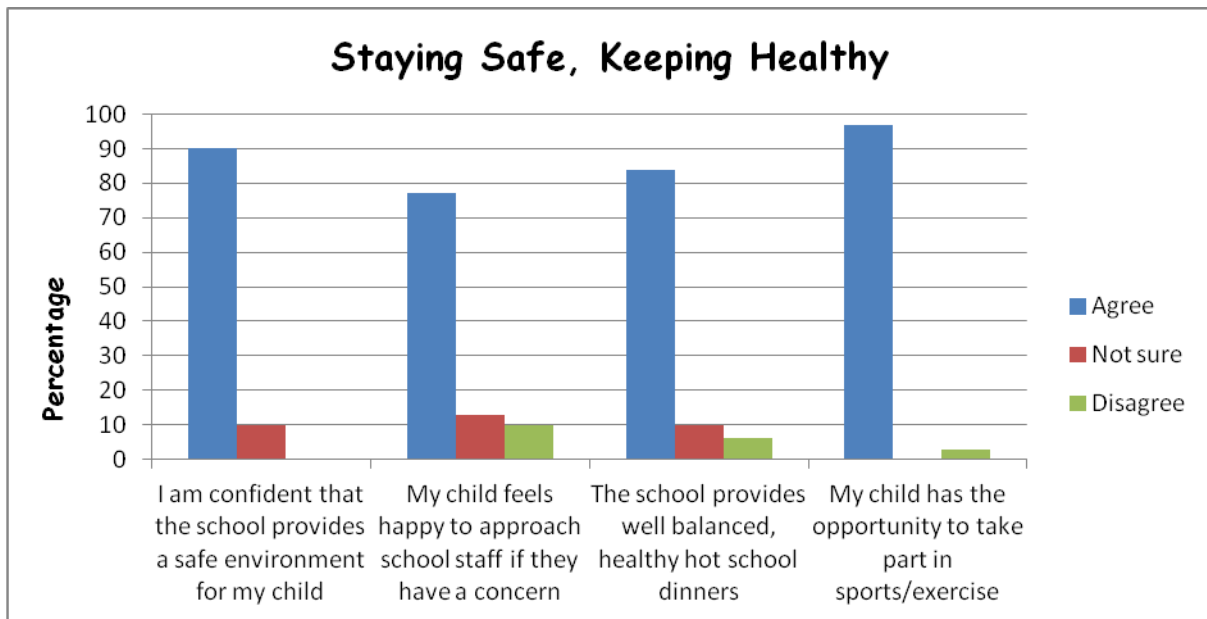
- To address further communication about behaviour, the Parents' Forum has reviewed the Behaviour Policy and this is also being reviewed with the children to ensure that good behaviour is recognised and rewarded and that consequences for unwanted behaviour deter children from repeating it. Additionally, ensuring that communication to home for both types of behaviour is received in a timely fashion alongside our current reward system of team points, star cards, achievement certificates and postcards home.



Learning & Teaching Actions:

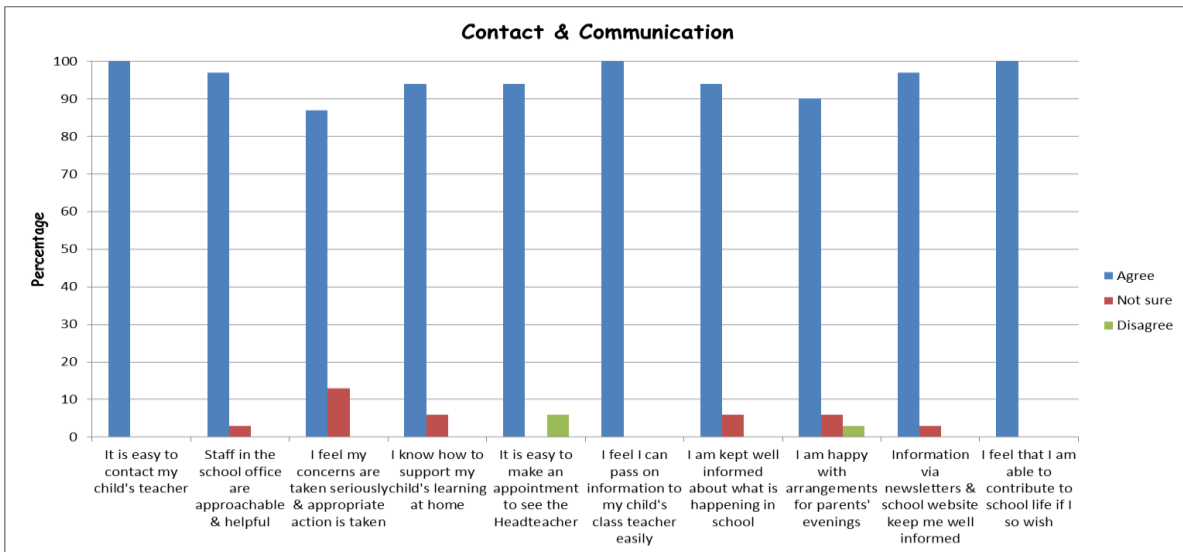
- The questionnaire highlighted some concerns about the amount of homework being provided, particularly for Year 5 and over the holiday periods. This has been reviewed by staff to ensure there is a balance between pupils becoming independent and responsible for their learning at home which builds as they progress through their educational journey and the need for pupils and their families to have time together without becoming overly stressed. Further discussion is due to take place at the Parents' Forum at their next meeting on Monday 15th June about this and will guide further actions related to the setting of homework for the new academic year.
- A number of the questionnaires asked for more information about what their children were learning. A number of parent workshops have been held to address some of the main areas of concern and these have included: Expectations for the year; Curriculum & Assessment and Maths Calculations. The staff have responded by including topic webs on their class pages and by reporting on the activities that have been covered throughout. Most recently a newsletter about our reading topic has been shared and at Parents' Evenings copies of our assessment and target records for individuals has been given out to parents so that information about what has been covered and understood has been shared. Schools decide to share this information to parents in different ways due to the different organisational structures a school may have. Consideration to how this can be done in a manageable fashion to ensure time is not taken from inside school learning is paramount. I hope that the additional information this year has been useful so that a full picture of the years learning has been seen.
- Two areas that returned as quite low on the questionnaire regarded the individual talents of pupils. There is a recognition that some of these talents are developed outside of school and are shared

with the school at Home Certificate Assembly. Where children have a musical or sporting talent, the school attempts to develop these through the inter-school activities and specialist PE and Music lessons that are provided on a weekly basis. Where children have other skills and interests, these are included within the learning sessions and developed through some of the school curriculum activities such as: Learning for Life Academy in KS2; drama productions; dance festivals; school councils; extra-curricular clubs and class assemblies. However, it is part of our school vision and values to ensure that children are not only supported with their skills and talents, but also develop in areas that they are not as strong with to become all-rounded young people.



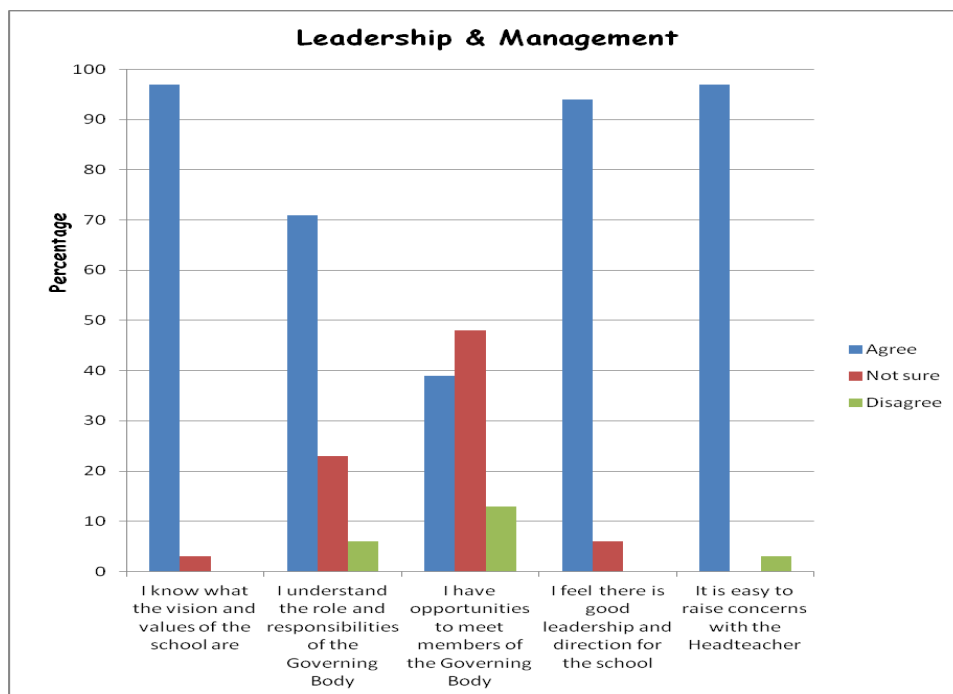
Staying Safe, Keeping Healthy Actions:

- A pupil survey was carried out to ensure that pupils felt safe in school. With the small number (7%) that said they did not feel safe an independent study was undertaken to identify what it was that made children feel unsafe. Their responses were about worries regarding falling over and hurting themselves. All of the pupils were able to explain who they would go to if they felt unsafe and what to do if a stranger was seen in school or on school property.
- Shire Services is our hot dinner provider, they have to follow very strict regulations regarding how food is cooked and the content of ingredients to meet certain standards. They formulate a menu plan that addresses these requirements, but also tries to make the food appealing to pupils. We are very lucky that in our school the Teaching staff volunteer to oversee the giving out of food each day which enable us to monitor the quality of the food provided and tackle any individual pupil concerns straight away.



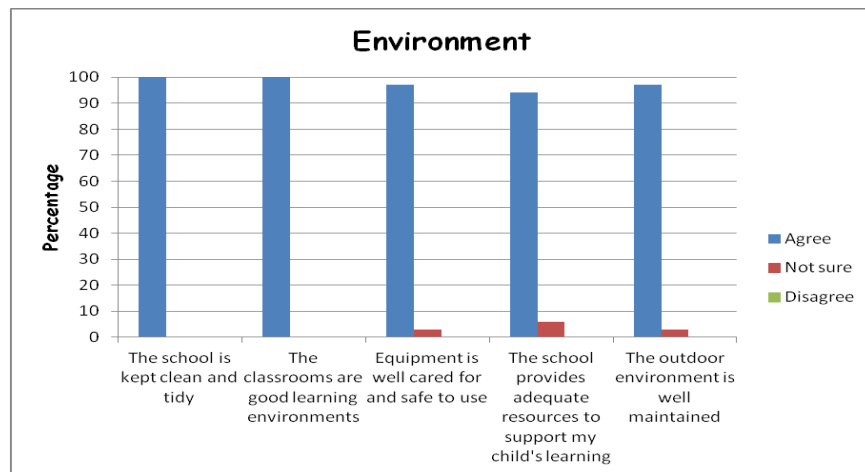
Contact & Communication Actions:

- Although the feedback was very positive in this area, it is important to the Governors and I that this remains so. Therefore, where a concern has been raised, the staff and I have tried to ensure that we contact you again to follow-up on progress towards the concern. The Parentmail system was upgraded to improve the access and efficiency of communications. Although this will be better in the long term, this has unfortunately had some teething problems initially.



Leadership & Management Actions:

The main areas for development linked to parents wishing to know more about the role of the Governing Body and the work that they do, as well as having opportunities to meet them. The Governors regarded this very seriously and updated their website page to ensure there was more information about their role in school. They started to write a newsletter about the work that they undertake in school each term and were in attendance at the Parents' Meetings held in Autumn and Spring as well as attending the workshops on Curriculum & Assessment. There is an acknowledgement that there is still work to be done here so that you will feel that you know and recognise them with plans to put their photographs on the website and to have a board in the main porch with their photographs and roles on.



Environment Actions:

This area returned positively although at the time of the questionnaire there were concerns about the loss of space and Forest School due to the new building. I hope that now the building is completed and that the grounds are starting to be reinstated that some of these concerns have been allayed. We still have a good space for Forest School and Miss Brine will be starting this again on our return next half term. New playground markings are planned for next term to enable children to play constructively with team and creative games.

I hope the information above helps to inform you of the actions that have been taken this year and how we have addressed some of the low returns from the questionnaire. I also hope that you feel that these have improved over the course of the year. A further questionnaire will be going out to you nearer the end of the year so that this can be measured.

If you have any questions regarding this information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

H.E.Beckford-Bond

