

St Alban's Primary School
Parental Questionnaire 2009

25 completed questionnaires were received and these covered all of the year groups.

Questionnaire returns

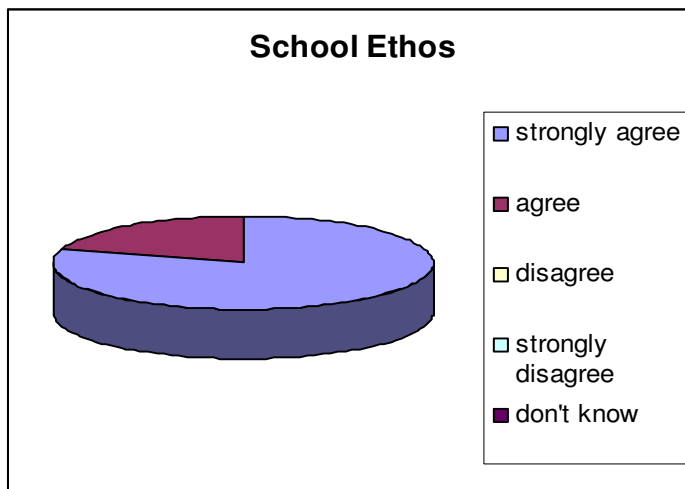
Anonymous	1
More than one child in school	5
Nursery	5
Reception	1
Year 1	4
Year 2	3
Year 3	1
Year 4	2
Year 5	1
Year 6	2

Views of Parents/Carers on school ethos, spiritual development, leadership, teaching and the school environment

School Ethos

The school has a welcoming, caring atmosphere demonstrating our Catholic ethos.

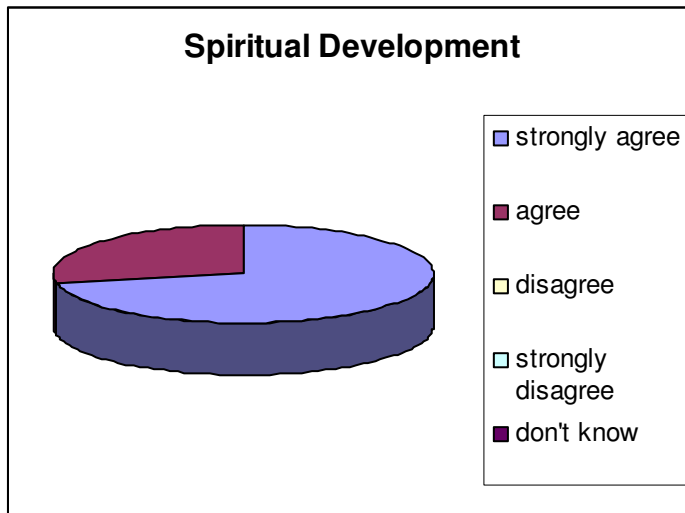
strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
20	5			



Spiritual Development

The school helps me to support my child in their spiritual development.

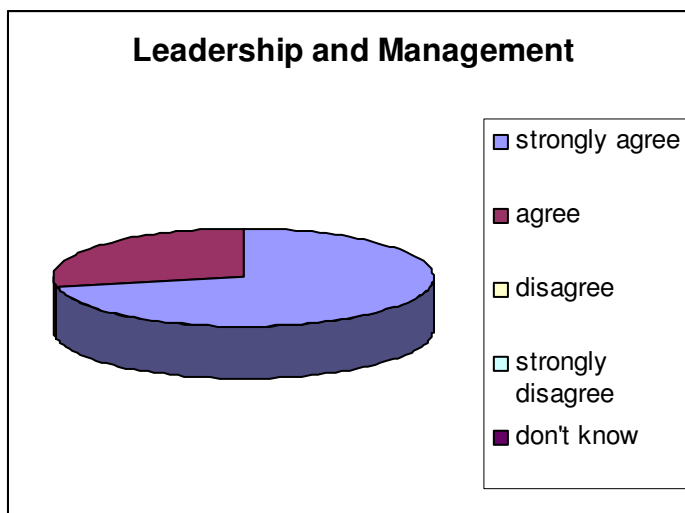
strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
18	7			



Leadership and Management

The school is well led and managed

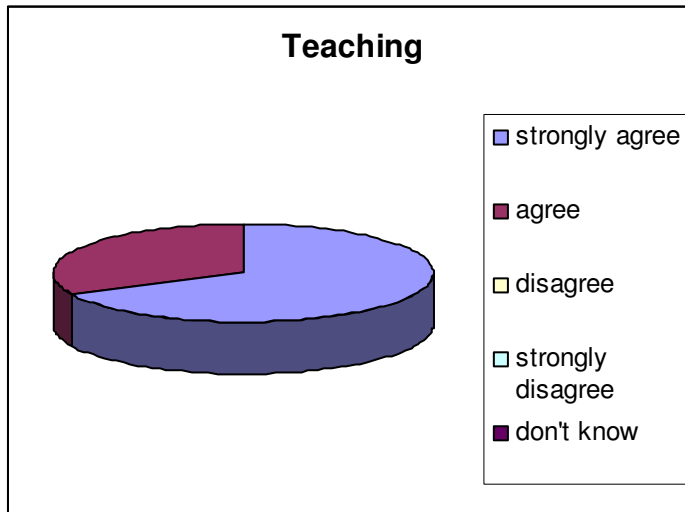
strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
18	7			



Teaching

The teaching is good.

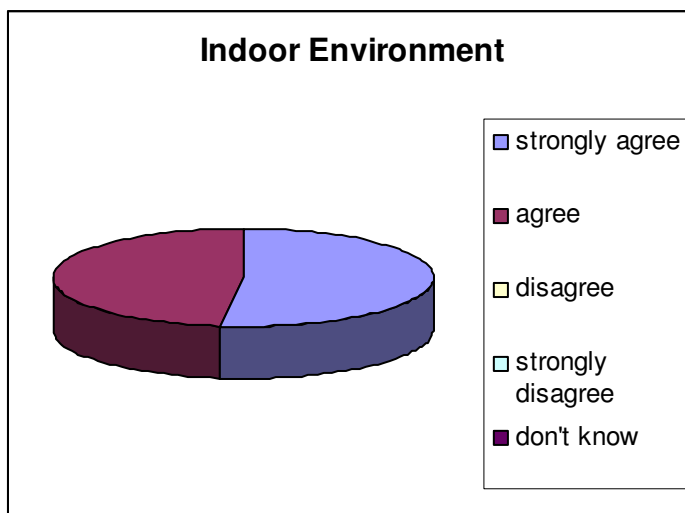
strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
17	8			



Indoor Environment

The school building is a pleasant place to play and work.

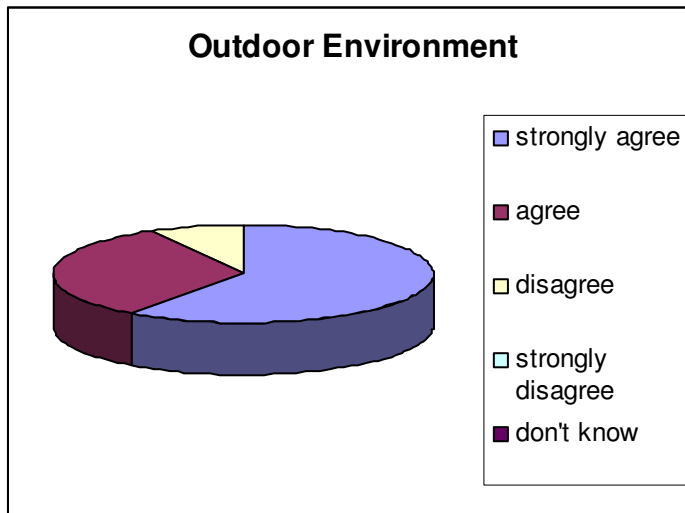
strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
13	12			



Outdoor Environment

The school grounds are well maintained and appropriate for their use.

strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
15	8	2		

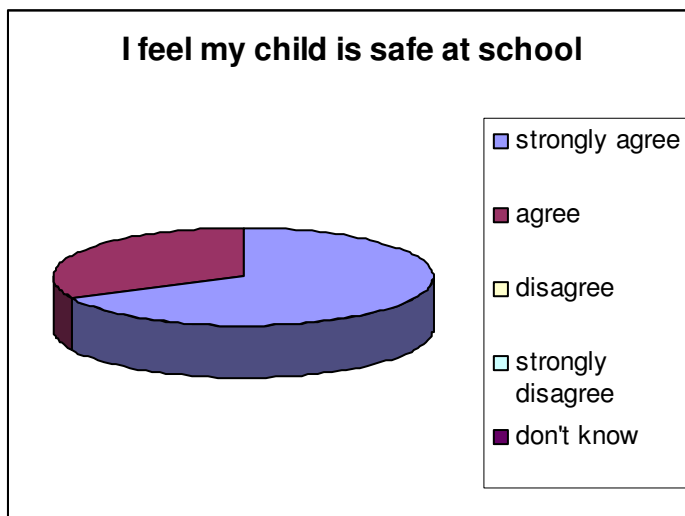


Views of Parent/Carers on the areas of 'Every Child Matters'

Staying Safe

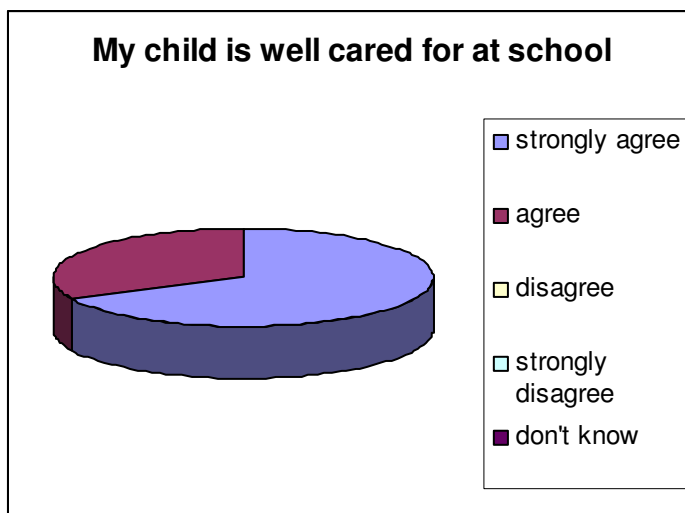
I feel that my child is safe at school.

strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
17	8			



My child is well cared for at school.

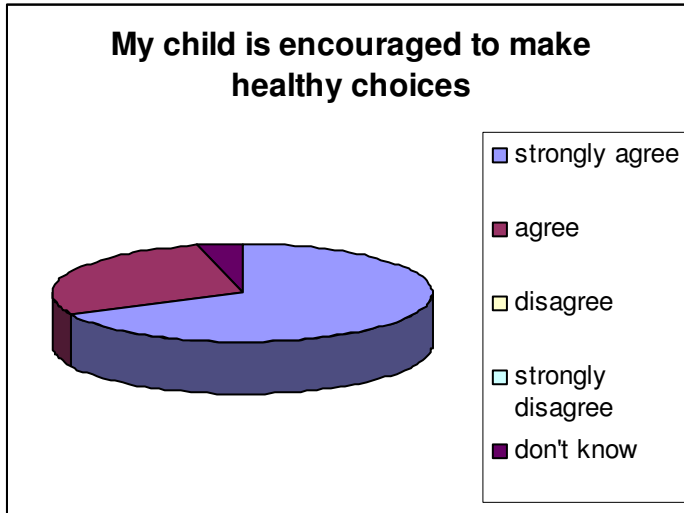
strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
17	8			



Being Healthy

My child is encouraged to make healthy choices.

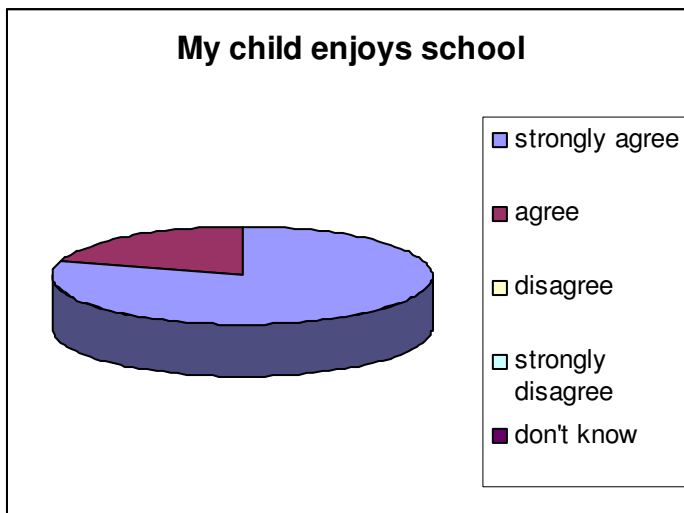
strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
17	7			1



Enjoying and Achieving

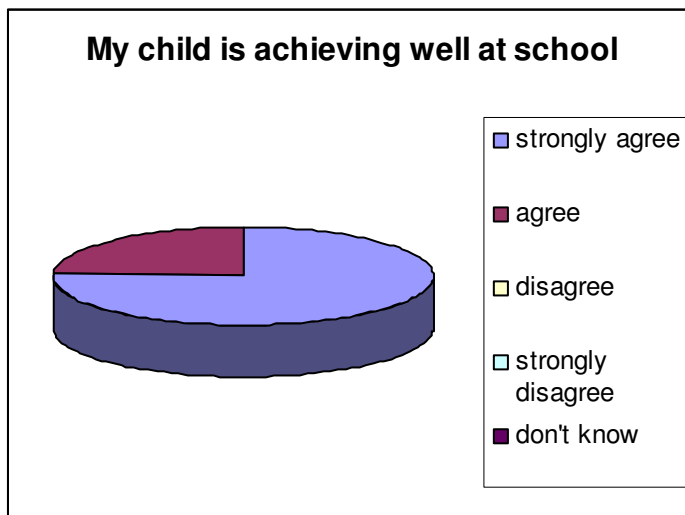
My child enjoys school.

strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
20	5			



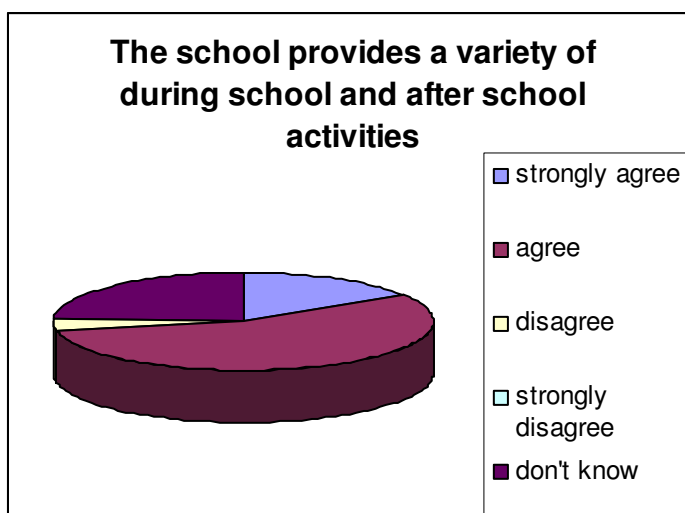
My child is achieving well at school.

strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
19	6			



The school provides a variety of during school and after school activities.

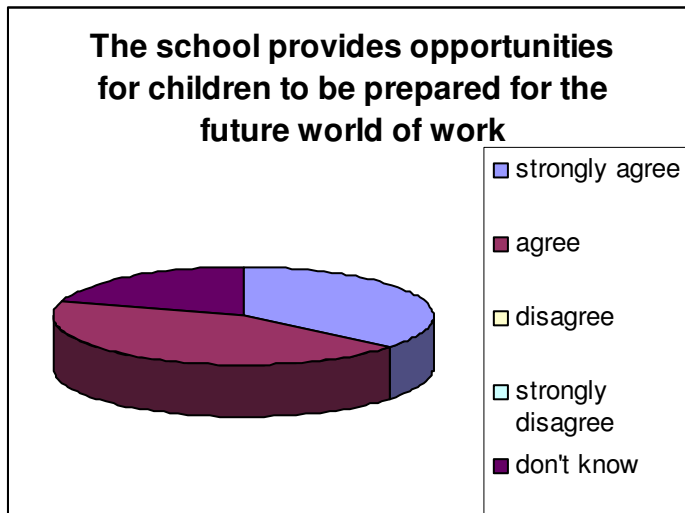
strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
4	14	1		6



Achieving Economic Well-being

The school provides opportunities for children to be prepared for the future world of work.

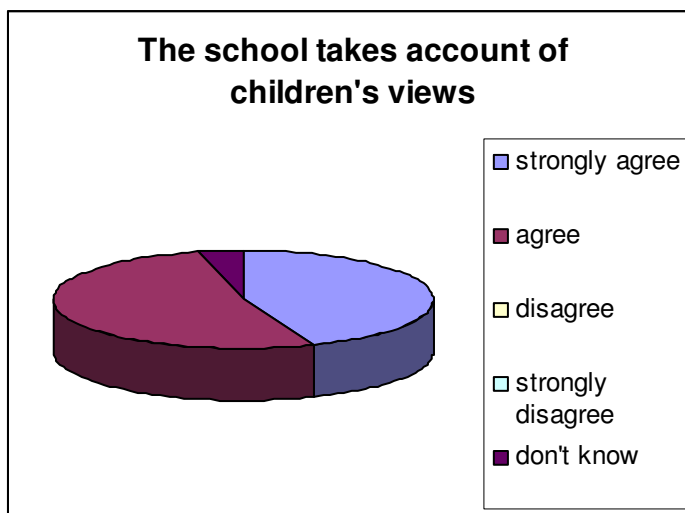
strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
9	11			5



Making a Positive Contribution

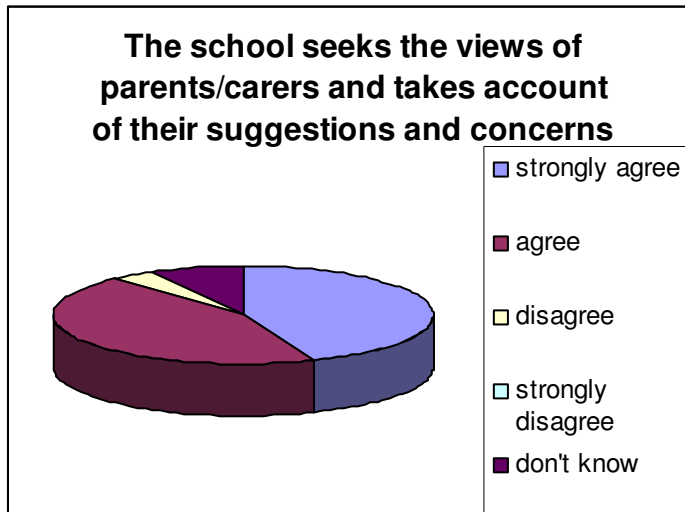
The school takes account of children's views.

strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
11	13			1



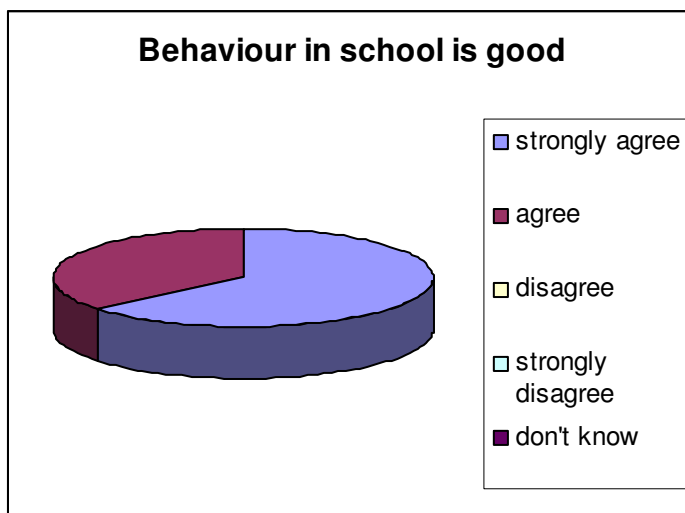
The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns.

strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
11	11	1		2



Behaviour in school is good.

strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
16	9			



Please tell us what you think the school does particularly well

- The school fosters a warm and caring environment in which pupils are encouraged to learn about spirituality and to consider the needs of others. The school also provides a structured learning environment.
- I particularly like the ethos of the school; my children feel it is a happy, family and caring environment.
- This school has a holistic approach to children and sees them as a complete entity rather than just things to teach. children's personalities are always taken into account. Encourages all children to achieve their best.
- This school makes the children feel safe and secure so it is a happy place for them to be. The teachers are always around at the end of the day so you can speak to them if there is a problem. Mrs Reynolds is always happy and polite whenever I ring up.
- Encourage the children to be strong, confident and independent young people. Nursery is managed extremely well with professional and approachable staff.
- The school provides a safe, welcoming environment for the children to learn and a very happy place to be.
- This school is extremely well managed. The personal care and education my son has received has been outstanding. I have been very happy with all aspects of this school.
- Well structured with excellent leadership. Lovely school environment which is well looked after and a pleasure for my children to attend. The nursery school I believe provides great development for the children to attend and an asset to the local community.
- Teaching. The extra support and help if needed for the children.

- Keeping the parents informed of school events/activities. The term list of events handed out at the start of each term is good for working parents. Reading initiative for year one, although I would still like at least one reading book home for the weekend.
- The school reading scheme is fantastic. Think this should definitely continue through the whole school. My daughter has become a very confident beautiful reader and I do believe this is in part to do with the reading morning scheme.
- Safety. Building confidence in children e.g. liturgies etc. Involvement of parents in events.
- We like the idea of the buddy system and we feel this has been a great plan for the younger children as I am sure moving to the bigger class or big yard is very upsetting for children but if they have a buddy this helps settle the children.
- All staff are very friendly and approachable. Always put the children's needs first. Plenty of trips. Improving the field is great.
- The school is very well managed and this is demonstrated in the consistency of teachers and the information given well in advance of parents i.e. trips, event dates etc. The school and staff are very approachable when situations or concerns arise which develops trust that children are continually cared for and supported during their learning.
- Ensuring children feel safe and valued. My child is very happy and loves school. Well done!
- St Alban's provides a well ordered, caring environment which encourages children to have confidence which enables them to realise their academic potential. This is underpinned by a pastoral care system that meets the changing needs of pupils as they grow and develop.
- The school is really good at organising trips and events with parents always being kept up to date with things and also

parents are given ample notice of future events. I also think everything is really well organised and the children are well drilled on what is required of them.

- St Alban's inclusive approach whether or not children are of the Catholic faith. Good teaching methods. Happy, friendly atmosphere. Approachable staff.
- The school is a warm and friendly school. All of the teachers are fair with children and they teach them well.

Please tell us how you think the school could continue to improve

- Continue to develop the outside play area
- More play apparatus in the playground. Provide a wider range of teaching about other world religions rather than just focussing on Judaism and Islam.
- If possible to improve the playground by levelling it out.
- This would be more PE and music lessons as part of the curriculum. Languages would be started at a younger age and more regularly. I think this should be part of the national curriculum and therefore available to all children.
- I am still of the opinion that the children in Key Stage 1 should be bringing home reading books.
- More male role models within school given it is a female dominated school. To advertise opportunities for new parents to the school to join parent/teacher discussions/meetings/activities.
- Does not need to improve.
- More parental involvement within the school/nursery to develop and assist with the educational development of their children.

- To stop parents of afternoon nursery cutting through the yard at dinner time. Maybe have an area for the children's bikes so some can ride to school.
- An after school activity for the younger members of the school i.e. football etc. A more detailed school report that would state whether the pupil has achieved the targets set out in the curriculum for their year group.
- More homework for children.
- School yard could be improved in line with the field now being completed. More after school clubs for all years with a wider choice of activities.
- More assistants in the classroom as I am sure it is very difficult at times for one teacher per 35 children to help/listen to all children. To continue with parents/carers reading with the children in class.
- Just carry on what you are doing.
- I would like to have the option of opting for school dinners for one or two days a week rather than every day of the week or not at all. This could be done providing days child is staying for is paid for on the Monday of the commencing week.
- To be more considerate to working parents. Maybe have activities involving parents out of school hours. I appreciate this may not be achievable however when you cannot attend and your child stresses you were the only one not there (on time probably) you feel so guilty.
- I would like to see more sporting activities after school. As I attended the Athletics Festival I felt the children really loved it but could tell they may benefit a lot more from sporting activities.

Additional comments

- I do feel this year my son has had a lot of supply teachers, which he did at times find unsettling.

- I am extremely disappointed that cycling proficiency has been withdrawn particularly when other local schools are still offering it to their pupils. Not only does this discourage pupils from using alternative methods of travel to school, but it is difficult as a parent to teach cycling proficiency skills to my children on busy roads.
- I am very happy I decided to send my children to this school. I think the teachers are great and incredibly hard working. Mrs Fox has led and turned this school around in just a few years. No wonder she is now a super head and is sent to other schools. My children flourished in this school, thank you.
- I marked disagree about the school outdoor environment not because of the maintenance but because the school yard is not really child friendly having such a slope on it. Now that the field has been finished it looks great.
- Thank you for successful beginning to my child's education.
- St Alban's has proven itself as the best choice I could have made at the beginning of my sons education. He has been very well cared for and enjoyed every day at nursery. He is with much regret though through personal circumstances that I have had to accept a place at another school. I would have no hesitation in recommending St Alban's. Thank you all very much.
- Head Teacher can't be praised enough for what she and the staff provide for the school. As a new parent within the nursery/school environment, I am very impressed.
- Still think it would be nice if children could bring a school book home to read so that family who are unable to hear the children read at school have a part of their school learning.
- I'm concerned about the impact of Mrs Fox managing two schools and would like to know how it will be run e.g. 2.5 days at St Alban's and 2.5 days at St John's.

- We feel that since my son has joined St Alban's he has grown more confident. He has also improved (slowly) with his spelling and reading.
- Would be nice if you could put your child on dinners just a few days a week, providing you must pay on Mondays.
- Would like more sports/football teams for younger children not just Years 5 and 6. Thank you for improvements outside my son loves to play football now.
- Just to add that my son really enjoys St Alban's. It's really well organised and I think all of the teachers are brilliant and so in touch with pupils and also a mention to Mrs Fox for being the figurehead to whom all children look up to and respect.
- Our daughter has enjoyed every year and stage at St Alban's-thank you.
- I feel that both of my children who have been to St Alban's have benefited from going there. It is a very good school and the teachers are lovely. My children have spent many happy years there and I have never had any problems.
- The teachers have been great role models for my daughter and without their help and support over the past years she would not have grown into the perfect young lady she is now. Thank you for everything.

Conclusion

Although fewer questionnaires were returned than in previous years, there is a good range across all of the year groups.

Comments made indicate that parents/carers are very happy with the ethos of the school, the learning environment and all of the staff team.

Parents/carers indicated that they have confidence in how the school is led and managed and acknowledge the commitment of the Head Teacher and the staff team.

Parents/carers highlighted that St Alban's is a happy, safe and secure environment for their children and many complimentary comments were made about the structure of the school day.

The level of the school yard was raised again this year as a barrier to play and parents/carers hoped that this could be improved over time. In addition some parents/carers felt more after school sporting activities would be beneficial for children with the option of parental involvement.

The responses to how the school could continue did raise individual issues for parents/carers such as home reading books for Key Stage 1, flexibility within school meals to enable children to stay for part of the week, the impact of the Head Teacher managing two schools and the lack of male role models within the school.

The additional comments section gave parents/carers the opportunity to confirm how St Alban's nurtures children in relation to their education and as an individual.

Michele Spencer
Parent Governor
October 2009