

Overview of survey results

Haddington Primary School Survey 2020

Summary

The aim of the Haddington Primary School Council (“the School Council”) is to represent the views of the parents and carers of children who attend the school:

“To help make Haddington Primary School the best that it can be for everyone. To work together to create a school that:

- *has a strong identity;*
- *is part of the wider community;*
- *gives everyone an equal voice.”*

(Haddington Primary School Constitution)

The priorities of the School Council should be clear, based on the views of the parents and carers, and accessible to everyone.

From 14 October to 4 November 2020 the School Council ran a Google survey which invited the views of the parents and carers of children attending Haddington Primary School via a series of questions. 113 responses were received. The School Council will continue to periodically carry out surveys of parents and carers, and will, where possible, respond to the feedback received.

Most parents and carers who responded to the survey were content with the way the school operates and the priorities of the School Council for the current (2020-21) school year.

Introduction

Background to the survey

An email was issued inviting all parents and carers of children attending Haddington Primary School to participate in the survey. The survey sought views on how parents and carers think the school operates and what items they would like the School Council to get involved with in the current (2020-21) school year.

Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to give an overview of the key findings and issues raised through the survey. The information it contains provides valuable insight into the views of parents and carers and will help inform where the School Council focuses its attention.

Methodology

The response data was recorded, organised and summarised in a report generated by Google. The overall number of responses were counted by answer choices and free text responses. The summarised data for each question have been reviewed and key themes and views identified.

The findings of this report are specific to the survey and do not necessarily reflect the weight or range of views within the Haddington Primary School parents and carers as a whole.

Distribution and Advertising

The survey ran for a period of 3 weeks – from 14 October to 4 November. It was emailed to all parents and carers by the Haddington Primary School office. It was not advertised more widely as the aim was to capture the views of this group only.

Responses

Introduction

This report provides an overview of the responses to the survey identifying where trends were observed and/or issues that were raised. It does not analyse every response in detail, as the responses to each question are included in Annex 1 of this report. The percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number for ease reading, the exact breakdown is included in Annex 1. A table is also included in Annex 2 which summarises the issues raised and comments provided within the free text fields.

The survey asked for responses to 8 questions about how Haddington Primary School operates. The survey also asked 5 questions about the School Council and its priorities, one of which invited for free text answers. There was a final free text question to allow respondents to elaborate on any of their answers.

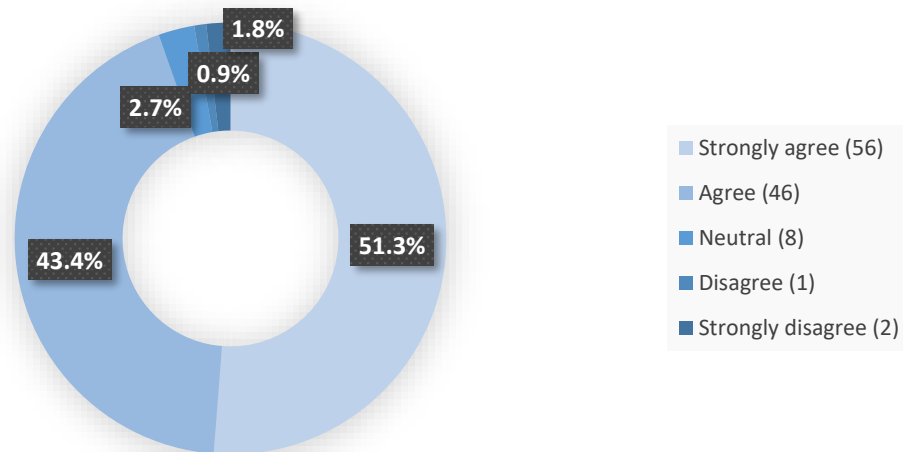
A total of 113 responses to the survey were returned, this is 22 less than last year. Parents and carers selected one answer from a pre-determined list (multi-choice) for most questions. Parents and carers with more than one child attending the school were invited to fill out the survey once for each child if they wished. The free text questions were optional. When responding to the free text questions, many parents and carers raised several issues within their answers, and some provided no comments. Therefore, the number of comments provided does not directly correlate with the number of respondents. 39 respondents provided comments on the first free text question and 28 respondents provided free-text comments on the second question, 63 issues were raised in response to the two free-text questions (see Annex 2).

Children in school

Three questions were asked about children in school.

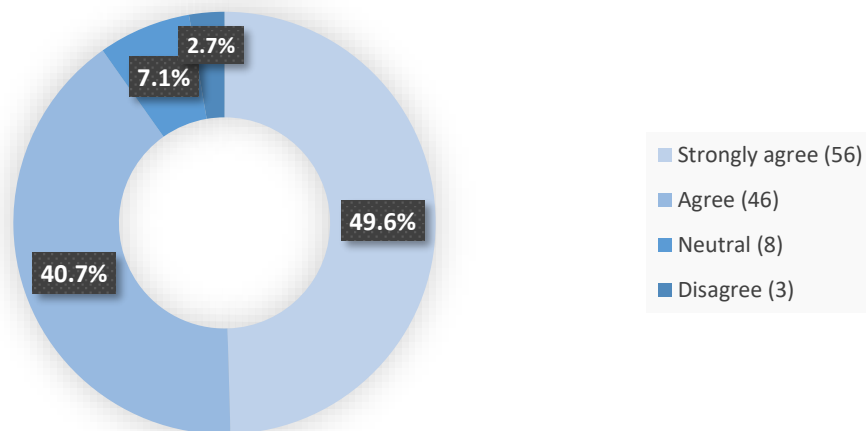
To the statement “*My child enjoys learning at school*” 94% (102 out of 113 respondents responded positively, this is an increase of 8% from last year. 3% were neutral and 3% disagreed.

Q1. My child enjoys learning at school



90% (101 out of 113 respondents) agreed with the statement “*My child feels safe in school*”, and 7% were neutral. However, 3% (3 respondents) disagreed with this statement, 1% less than last year. In addition to this there were 6 free text comments which highlighted bullying and/or respectfulness as an issue which should be tackled. Also, 4 of the free text comments suggested supporting the emotional and physical resilience of both children and staff should continue.

Q2. My child feels safe at school

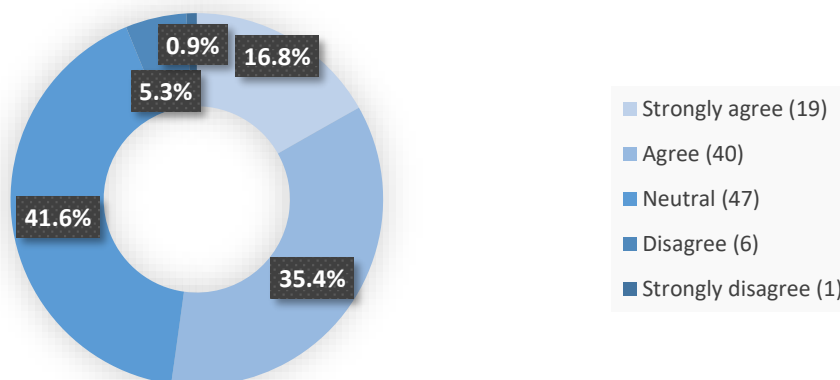


All but 2 (1.85%) of respondents agreed or were neutral about the statement “The school knows my child well and supports them as an individual.”

How Haddington Primary School operates

As with last year, most respondents (42%/47 respondents) were neutral about the statement “*The school works well across the campuses*”. However the number who either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement rose from 46% to 52%. The number of respondents who disagreed fell from 7% to 6%.

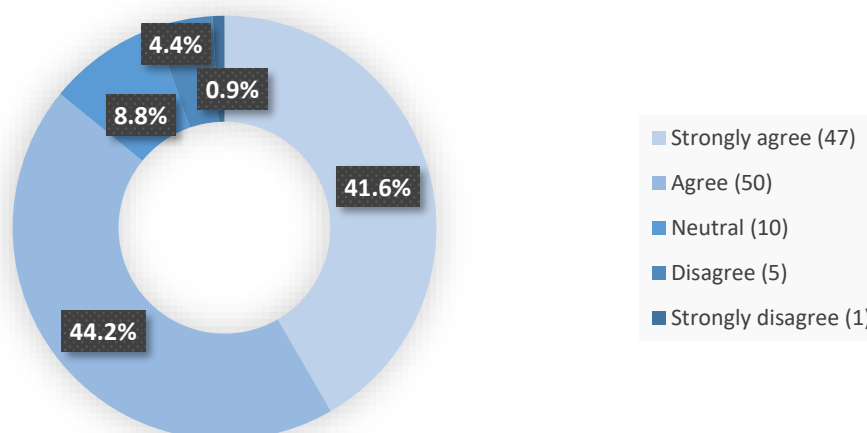
Q4. The school works well across the campuses



3% (3 respondents) did not feel the school has a strong identity, this has fallen by 9% from last year. The majority of respondents (82%) agreed that the school has a strong identity.

Of the 113 respondents 97 (86%) either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement “*The school is well led*”, and a further 10 (9%) were neutral. 6 (5%) disagreed. This area of the questionnaire was expanded upon by a number of respondents, with 4 making very positive comments about the high quality of the school leadership and teaching staff, particularly in recent difficult circumstances.

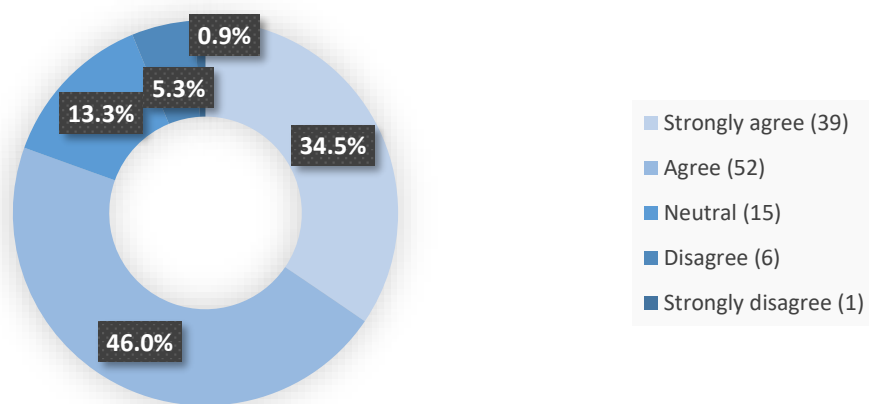
Q6. The school is well led



School Communications

The survey asked whether school communications were clear and helpful. 80% (91 out of 113) agreed that they were. This is a 9% improvement on last year. 6% either disagreed or strongly disagreed, this is a 13% less than last year. The remainder were neutral. School communications was one of most frequent issues raised in the free text responses last year. This year the free text comments focussed predominantly on improving parent-teacher communications and expressed disappointment about the decision to provide written parent consultations rather than verbal ones. There were eleven comments on these two areas.

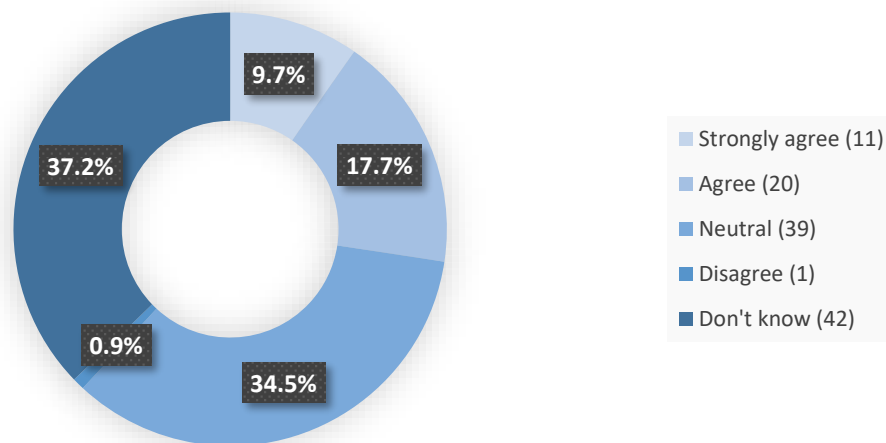
Q7. The school communications are clear and helpful



School Council and its priorities

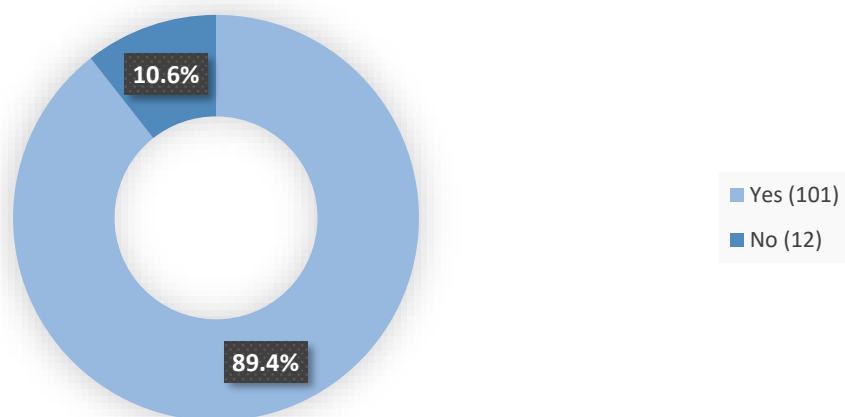
Most respondents (112 out of 113/99%) were aware that the School Council existed, a very small rise from last year. However, 31% (35 respondents) did not know how to contact the School Council. 27% agree that the School Council listens to their views, while most (81 respondents, 72%) either don't know or are neutral. A number of respondents clarified in the comments that their neutral response was because they had never had cause to raise issues with the School Council.

Q11. The School Council listens to my views



89% (101 respondents) agreed with the School Council's identified priorities this is 5% lower than last year. A follow-up question asked about other priorities parents or carers might have. 4 respondents commented that the School Council should not input into the school curriculum. There were several supportive comments in relation to focussing mainly on priority 4, assisting the school and community through the Covid-19 pandemic. It was also suggested that the School Council should focus on climate action, rather than just sustainability in the school environment.

Q12A. Do you agree with the identified priorities?



The free text answers in response to question 12B overlap significantly with those in response to the final question, which asked for any additional information in relation to other answers provided.

15 comments and suggestions were made in relation to learning, learning support and resources. 13 comments focussed on parent-teacher engagement, and 13 comments were about wellbeing, with particular focus on emotional resilience for staff and pupils and bullying/respect at a similar level to last year.

As mentioned above, some of the free text comment themes are very different from last year. Communication only featured once this year, compared to 13 comments last year. School operations and the way the two school buildings work were not mentioned in the free text comments this year, although circulation, social distancing and smoking on the Butts, as well as road safety were highlighted as issues.

The free text comments have been combined, assigned categories and summarised in Annex 2.

Conclusions and Next Steps

Most parents and carers who responded to the survey were satisfied with how their children felt in school and how the school operates. They are also aware of the School Council and agree with most of its priorities for the year ahead.

There are, however, a number of areas for improvement, and parents and carers have made helpful and constructive comments on this. It is not in the gift of the School Council to tackle all of the issues which have been raised, however the Co-chairs will meet with the School Management Team to discuss all the responses.

The School Council is now reviewing its priorities, including considering how best to tackle the new issues raised. The School Council will update parents and carers when progress is made, and welcomes discussion with parents and carers at any time in person (with appropriate social distancing), at School Council meetings (which are open to everyone), video call or via haddingtonpscouncil@gmail.com.

Acknowledgements

Haddington Primary School management team and School Council would like to thank everyone who took the time to respond to this survey.

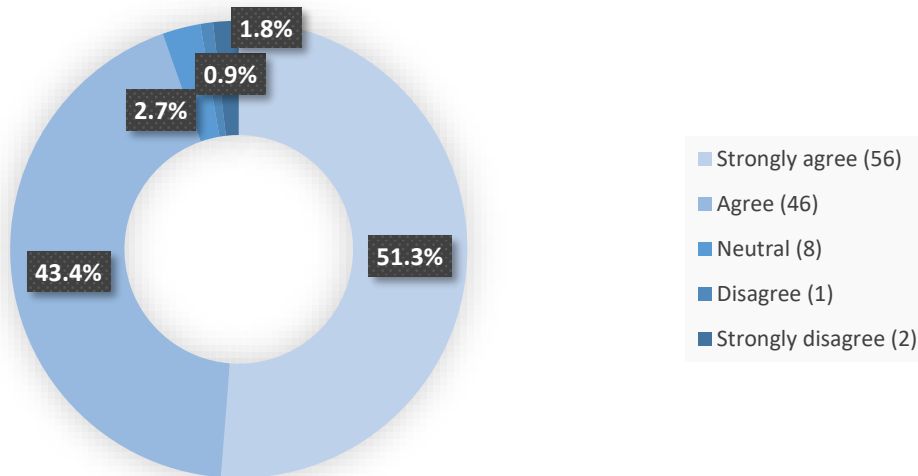
November 2020

Annex 1

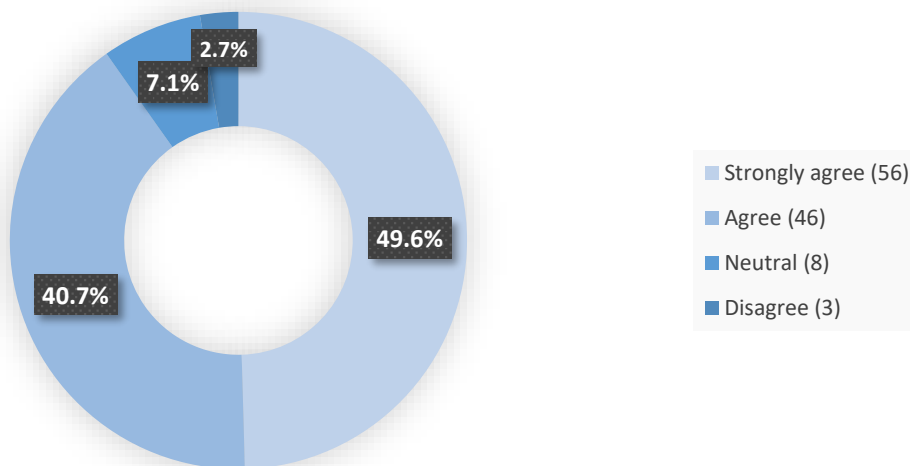
Breakdown of Survey responses

HADDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

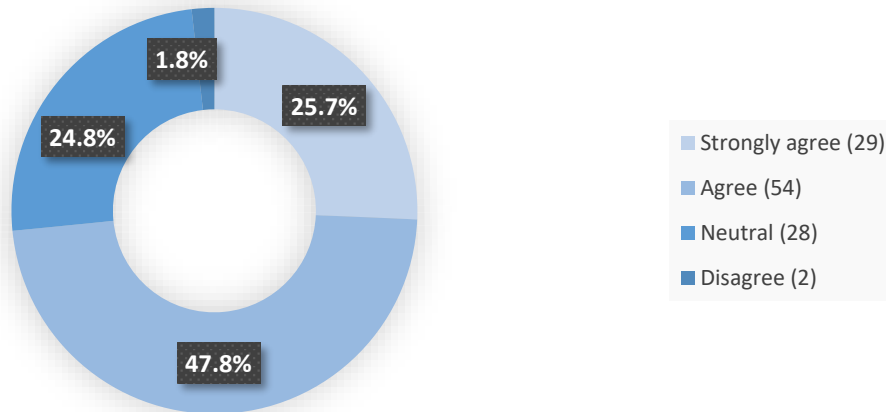
Q1. My child enjoys learning at school



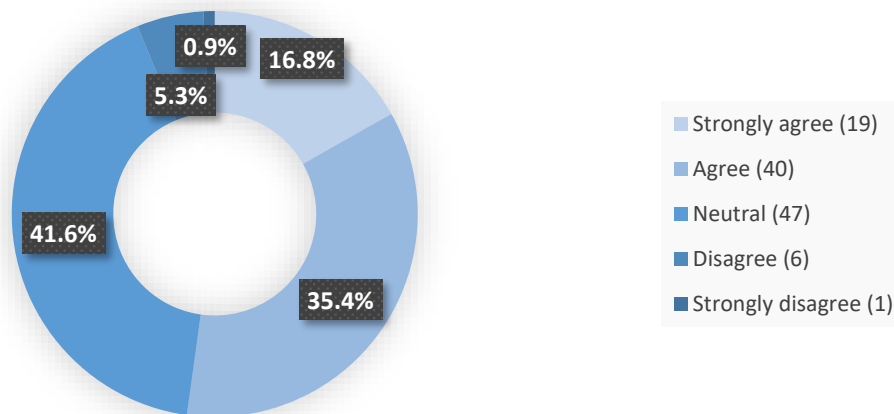
Q2. My child feels safe at school



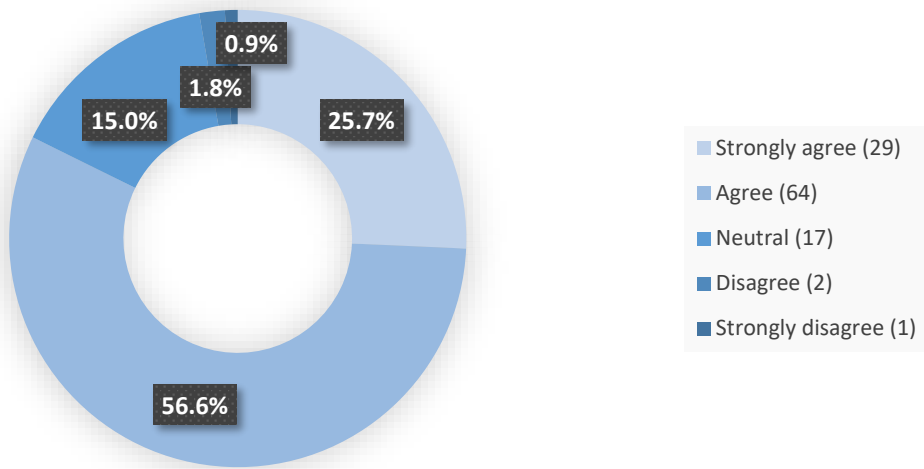
Q3. The school knows my child well and supports them as an individual



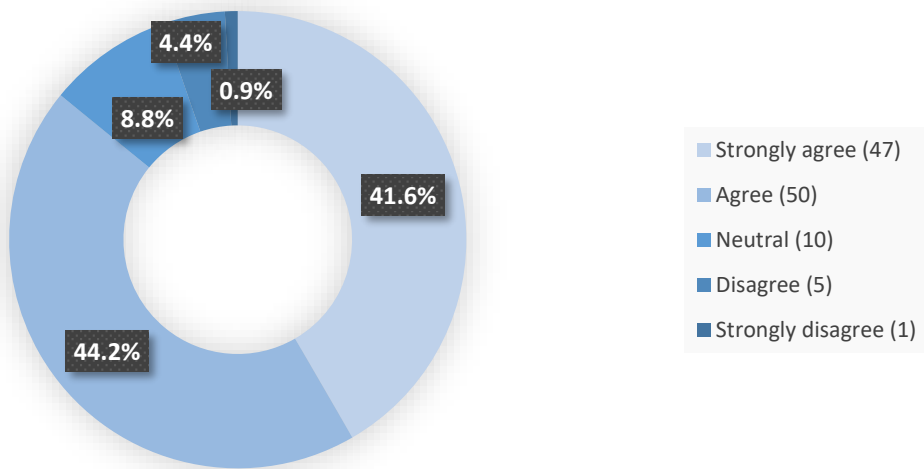
Q4. The school works well across the campuses



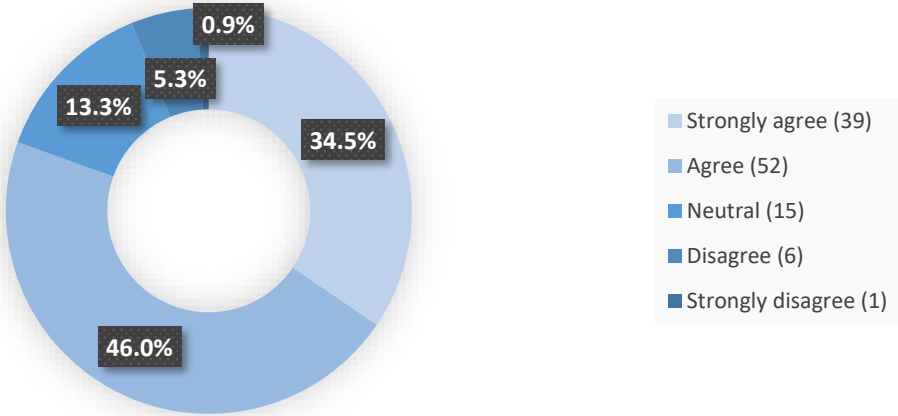
Q5. The school has a strong identity



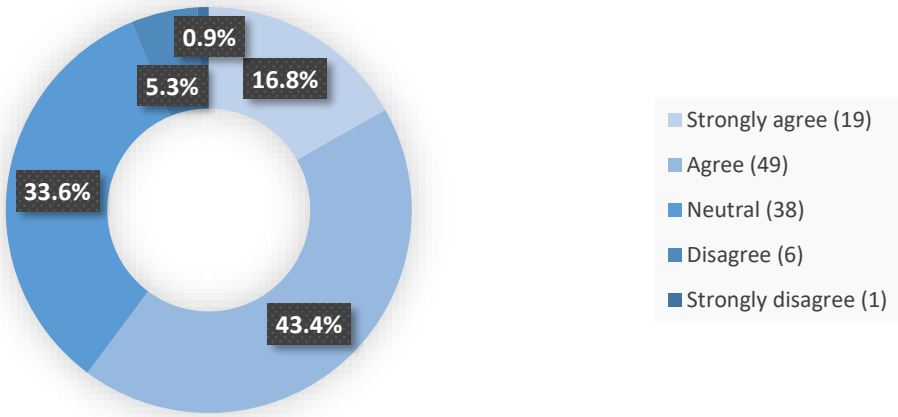
Q6. The school is well led



Q7. The school communications are clear and helpful

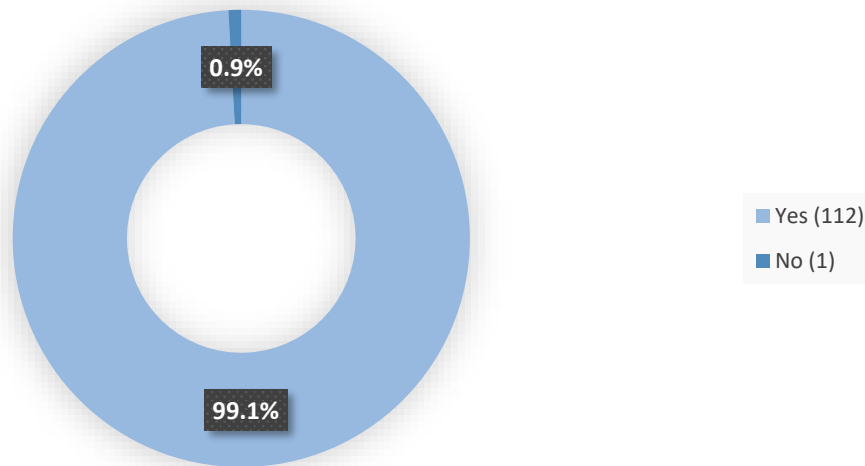


Q8. The school listens to my views and opinions

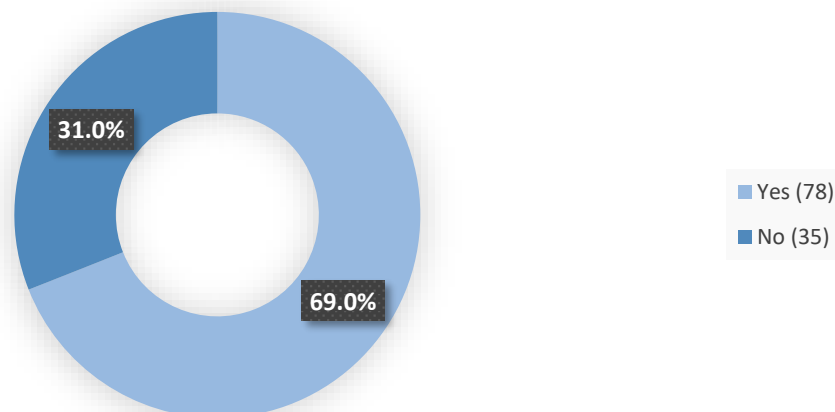


HADDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL COUNCIL

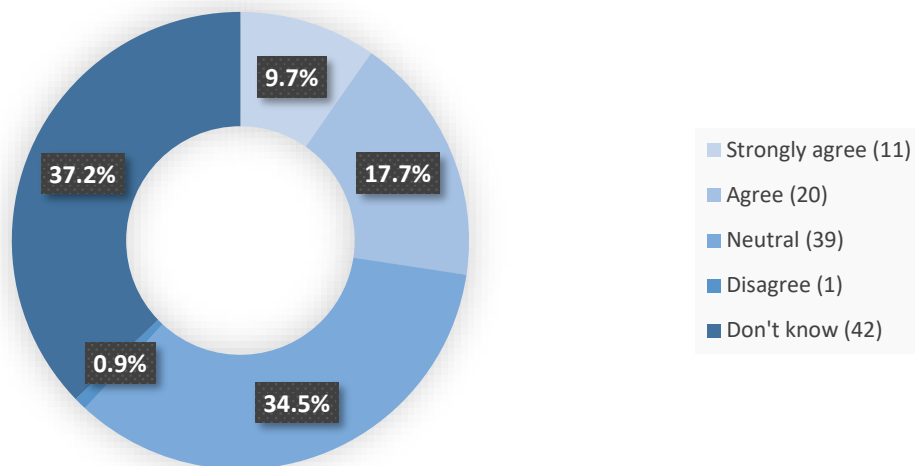
Q9. I am aware that we have a School Council



Q10. I know how to contact the School Council



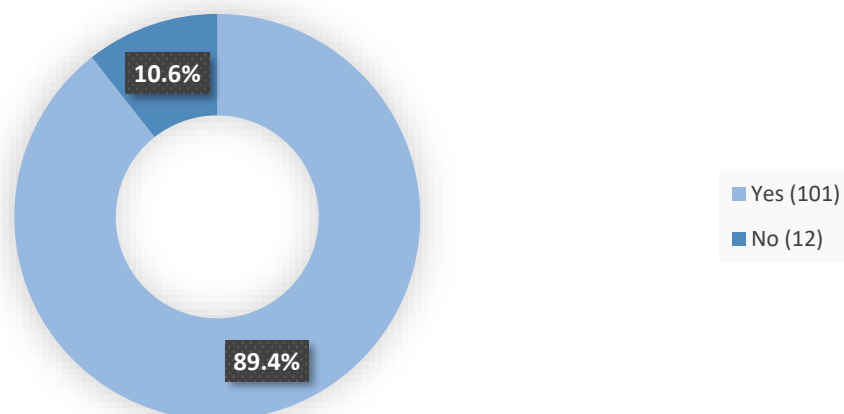
Q11. The School Council listens to my views



The School Council has identified 4 key areas to contribute to over the coming school year, these are:

1. working towards a “one school” across the campuses;
2. input to the school curriculum
3. improving the sustainability and the school environment; and
4. working to identify opportunities to assist the school and the community through the Covid-19 pandemic

Q12A. Do you agree with the identified priorities?



Annex 2

Summary of free-text responses

The following table summarises free-text comments in response to two questions:

- Q12B: Are there any other priorities that you would like the School Council to consider?
- Q13: Is there any additional information in relation to any of your answers above you would like to include?

The answers to the above questions overlapped significantly, so they have been combined in the summary.

It is not possible for the School Council to act directly on number of the issues raised, so these will be raised with the School Management Team.

| You said you would like... | % of comments made |
|---|--------------------|
| Communication - clearer communication generally | 1.6 |
| Community - higher profile for the school in the wider community | 1.6 |
| Learning - embrace technology to improve learning | 1.6 |
| Learning - environment - emphasis on outdoor learning | 1.6 |
| Learning - homework - use of Google Classroom consistently and to provide updates | 4.8 |
| Learning - homework | 1.6 |
| Learning - in depth learning opportunities for those who excel | 1.6 |
| Learning - playground - different play opportunities | 3.2 |
| Learning - reading - consistent approach to reading books coming home | 1.6 |
| Learning - reading - information about child's readability range (ZPD) to inform home-reading | 1.6 |
| Learning - reduction/eradication of barriers to learning | 1.6 |
| Learning resources - chromebooks and sports equipment for children | 1.6 |
| Learning support - information about individual children's progress | 1.6 |
| Learning support - support for learning staff should not be diverted | 1.6 |
| Lunch break - length (unsure if longer or shorter is wanted) | 1.6 |
| Nursery - more hours at nursery to prepare children for school | 1.6 |
| Parent engagement - (post-Covid) open mornings, evenings, assemblies and chance to speak to staff | 1.6 |
| Parent engagement - Accelerated Reading (AR) information to be available to all parents | 1.6 |
| Parent engagement - parent consultations/discussion, rather than written report | 11.1 |
| Parent engagement - two-way communication about children's progress | 6.3 |
| School Council - Climate action, not just sustainability in school environment, to be a School Council priority | 1.6 |
| School Council - focus on priority 4 (Covid-19 support) | 1.6 |
| School Council - information about how to contact School Council | 1.6 |
| School Council - more attempts to make School Council accessible | 1.6 |
| School Council - no input from School Council into curriculum content | 6.3 |
| School council - School Council taking the lead on after school activities | 1.6 |
| School environment - safer roads - campaign to reduce cars, speeding | 4.8 |
| School environment - The Butts - improved circulation/social distancing/no smoking | 3.2 |
| Teacher feedback - gave thanks for hard work of school in difficult time | 6.3 |
| Wellbeing - adequate resources to support children under Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) | 1.6 |
| Wellbeing - emphasis on practical and emotional resilience (pupils and staff) | 6.3 |
| Wellbeing - more school lunch options | 1.6 |
| Wellbeing - online security and safety teaching and info for parents | 1.6 |
| Wellbeing - learning about respecting others and tackling bullying | 9.5 |