



Dear Families,

I hope you all had a fabulous Christmas. We have had a fantastic start to the new year and term, despite some nasty illnesses. The boys and girls are all happy to be back at school and are enjoying their new topics. It was particularly fun to return to arts week too!

We have lots more exciting things to do later this term, but for now, I hope you enjoy reading about some of the great experiences we have had so far.

Mrs Julyan

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## **Trips, visits and experiences**

### Art Week

The whole school took part in our Art Week focusing upon the theme of water. The children had the opportunities to work with a range of mediums and media to create wonderful pieces of 2D and 3D art. They included collages inspired by Paul Klee, creating felt bowls, seascape paintings, printing, photography and designing and painting intricate designs to create Mandala stones. The children used their own experiences as a starting point to develop skills and ideas into final pieces of work. Many pieces of work are displayed around the school on the boards and examples of three dimensional work can be found in the hall. Over the week the Year 6 children also had the opportunity to work with a local artist to produce a wonderful silk painting reflecting their ideas of the seaside in Torquay. It now has pride of place in our school reception-pop in and take a look! Thank you for co-ordinating this Mrs Beard.

### A visit from the Dog Trust, by Hannah Spear (Y5)

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January, a lady from the Dog Trust came in and told us how to be safe around dogs.

Here are some tips we learnt:

If you want stroke the dog:

1. Ask the owner of the dog if it is safe to stroke the dog



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## **Torre C of E Academy**

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### **Upcoming Events**

#### **w/c 6<sup>th</sup> February**

Life Caravan is arriving

#### **24<sup>th</sup> February**

Mid-year reports out to parents/carers

#### **28<sup>th</sup> February**

Parents' evening

#### **1<sup>st</sup> March**

Parents' evening

#### **13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> March**

Year 3/4 residential visit to Cockington

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### **PTA Events**

#### **24<sup>th</sup> March**

Easter Bingo

2. Let the dog sniff your hand by tucking your fingers in. This is called the potato. The dog may lick you, but he is just finding out about you.
3. Stroke the dog gently in the direction the fur lies to ensure the dog is comfortable.

**Safety:**

You don't have to stroke a dog if you feel unsure. If a dog runs towards you, STAND STILL! If you run, the dog will think it's a game and follow you.

**Protection:**

If a dog jumps up to you and you don't like it, do the 'X-Factor'. You do this by tucking your fingers in and placing your arms across your chest. The dog will soon grow bored of you and go back to playing.

If a dog knocks you over, curl into a ball. The dog will find you very boring and leave you alone.

**Ethos Group**

The Ethos group are continuing to work towards ensuring that our mission statement is followed through:

*"Our mission at Torre is to create an environment where God's children have the right to grow, learn, feel safe and be happy. We respect and look after each other in the way that God has taught us."*

*We "Live life in all its fullness." John 10:10.*

The group is currently working with the Exeter Diocese to develop the following:

- A school policy about how we can support our children, families and staff to 'live well'.
- A display in the school hall where we can celebrate how the children are living out our school values (6Ps) by sharing some of the things they have done outside school. This could be something very simple, such as eating a meal with their family which might demonstrate the value of 'Pride' (being proud of all the members of the family) or 'Praise' (thanking God for special family time).

We will let you know when we are ready for the children to start bringing in their achievements from outside school.

Finally, we are going to be starting a prayer group for parents/carers and staff. This will take place during a lunchtime on one day a week starting after half term. If you would prefer to leave your prayer, or details about what you would like to have the group pray about, please leave this in the 'Prayer Box' by the office reception. This is arriving soon.

**Special Visitors**

This month, we have hosted some Headteacher visitors at school who are participating in a national Headship programme. Two School Council members showed them round (they did an amazing job!) and they spent some time with Mrs Julyan and also visited some lessons. They very much enjoyed their day at Torre.

**Church and RE**

**Eucharist**

20<sup>th</sup> February

20<sup>th</sup> March

**Prayer Board**

Please remember to check out the prayer board at All Saints' Church where some of our children's prayers are displayed.

## School Meals

Donna and her team have decided to serve two roast dinners a week this half term. The children love roast dinner day and Donna makes sure that as well as our school meals being tasty, they are also balanced and nutritional. It is great to see so many of our children enjoying a hot lunch. Thanks Donna!

## PE and Sport

Mrs Crompton took the skiing club to Barton Ski Club for the Devon Schools' Ski championships. The children did really well and for some, it was their first ever ski competition. It was a chilly day, but everyone had fun. Thanks to Mrs Crompton for taking them for this experience.

Well done to the Y5/6 netball squad for getting to the semi-final of the cup competition and for continuing to train hard this term.

Next week, some children will be taking part in a sports' festival at Torquay Boys' Grammar School.

## Parent Pay

Please ensure that all payments are made via ParentPay online before the child attends the trip or takes the meal. Many thanks for your support in this matter.

## Stay and Learn

The next 'Stay and Learn' sessions are coming up soon. Reception and Key Stage 2 will be on 1<sup>st</sup> February from 9am until 10am. Key Stage 1 will be hosting parents and carers on 8<sup>th</sup> February from 9am until 10am. We really encourage you to come along if you can, to find out how your children are learning at Torre.

## Attendance

Despite lots of nasty illnesses doing the rounds, we are still managing to have an overall attendance of 96.26%. Thanks for your support with this. We really hope that everyone starts to feel a bit healthier soon!

We currently have 72 pupils with 100% attendance, which is great.

We have introduced a slightly different reward system for attendance this year, meaning that if a child is poorly for a day or so in the autumn term, but they are then in school for the rest of the year (for example) they will still be rewarded:

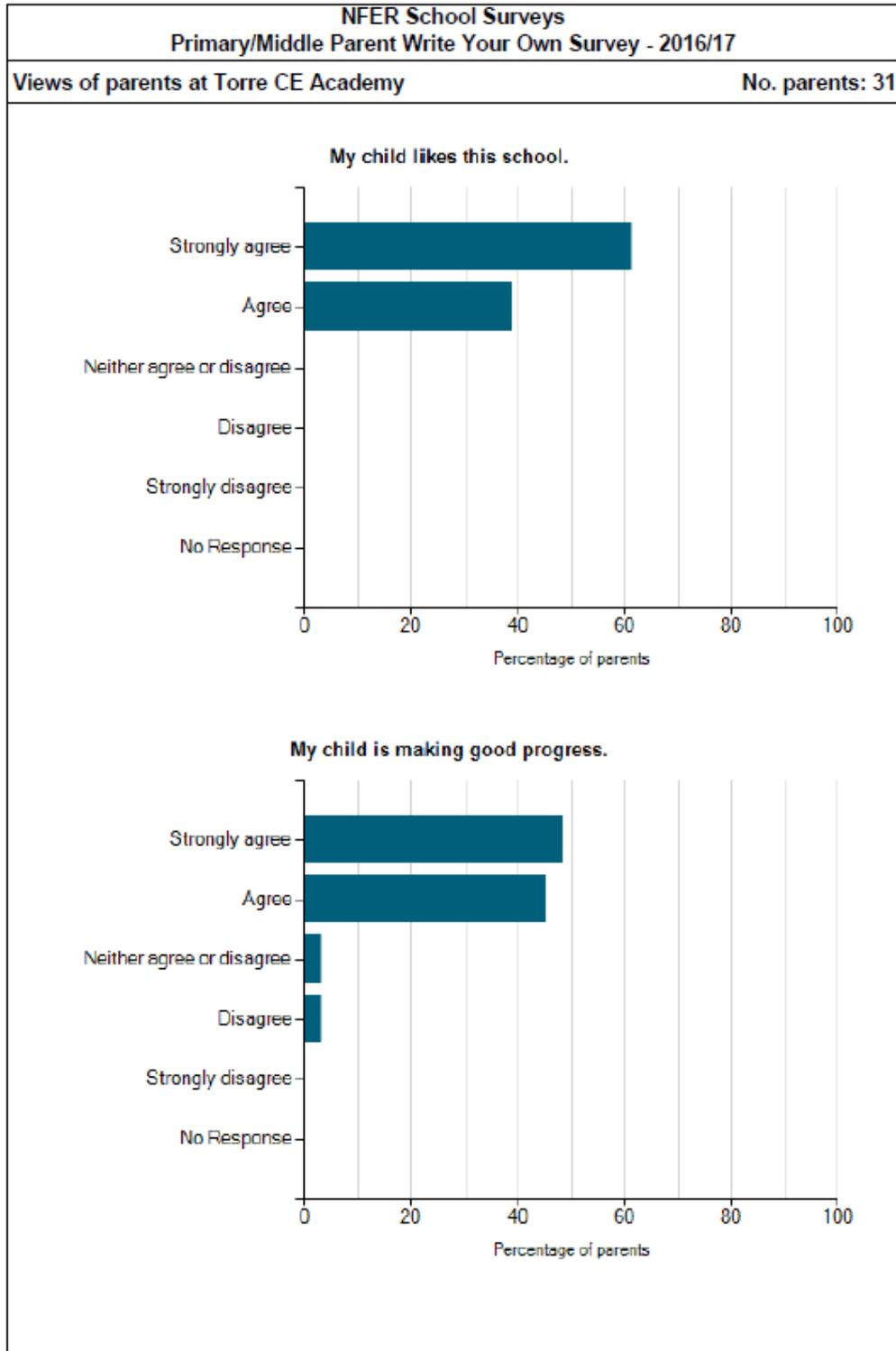
### Rewards for good attendance:

- Class attendance will be monitored half termly. At the end of each half term, the class with the best attendance will receive certificates and a class shield.
- At the end of the school year, children with an overall attendance of 100% will be presented with a certificate.
- The attendance notice board displays current attendance achievements in the school hall.
- Bronze certificates will be rewarded for 100% attendance for a full term. Silver certificates will be rewarded for two terms of 100% attendance. Gold certificates will be rewarded for three terms of 100% attendance.
- There is a grand prize draw for attendance at the end of the school year for children with 100% attendance for three terms. A prize draw (for a smaller prize) will also take place for those who have attained 100% for two terms.
- These will be given out at the end of each term.
- Names will be displayed on the Attendance notice board.

Reminder: another change to our policy this year, means that if a child is absent from school, the parent/carer has not telephoned in and we cannot reach the family by telephone, then representatives from South West Family Values will visit the family home so as to enquire as to the whereabouts of the child.

**Parent Survey**

Unfortunately, despite investing in an externally conducted survey, only 31 parents/carers contributed to this. Sadly, this means that the data from this is statistically unreliable. One respondent equates to 3% of the responses. However, for those parents/carers who took the time to complete it, here are the results:

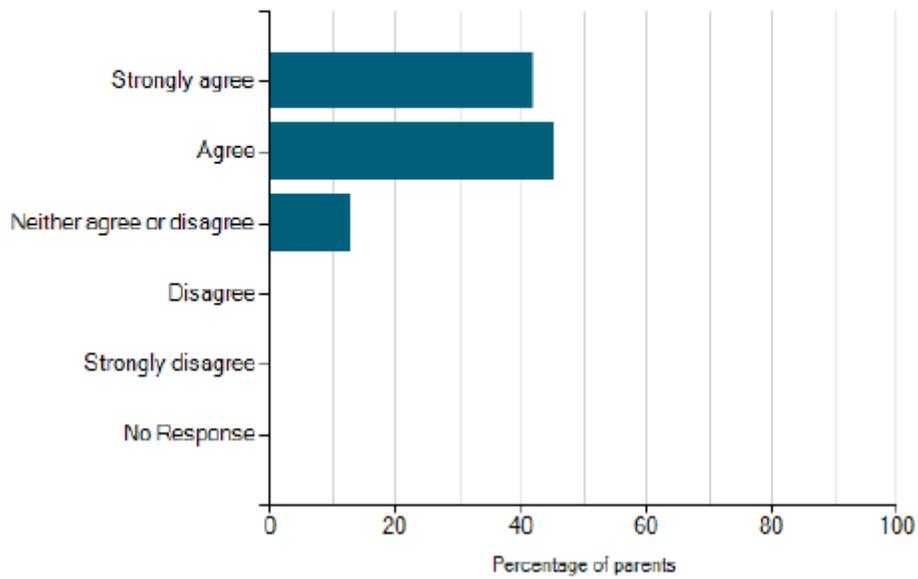


NER School Surveys  
Primary/Middle Parent Write Your Own Survey - 2016/17

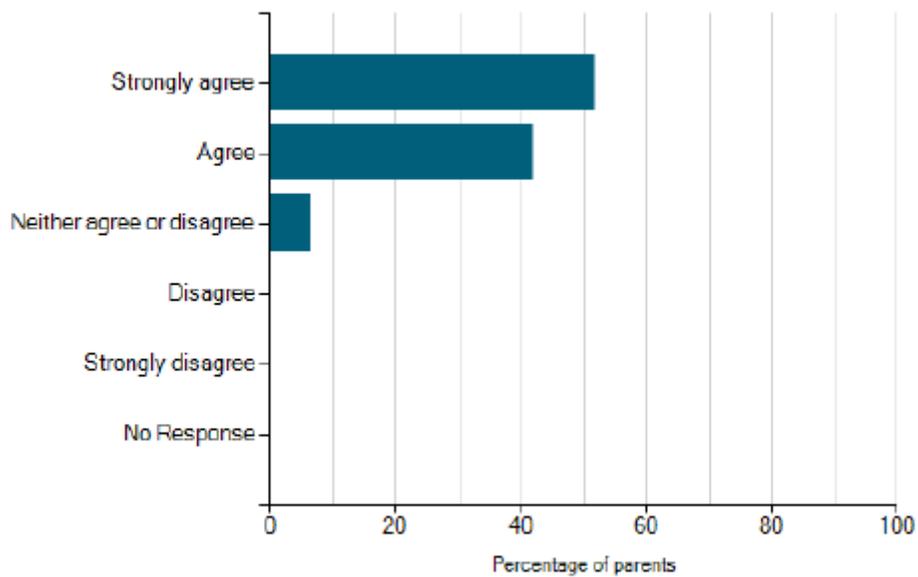
Views of parents at Torre CE Academy

No. parents: 31

The behaviour of the pupils in this school is good.



Teaching in this school is good.

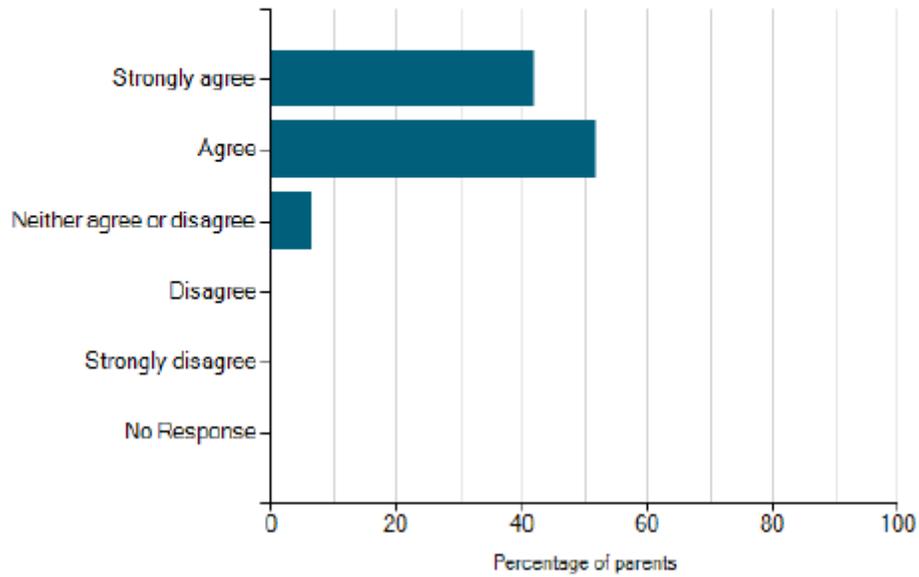


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Primary/Middle Parent Write Your Own Survey - 2016/17

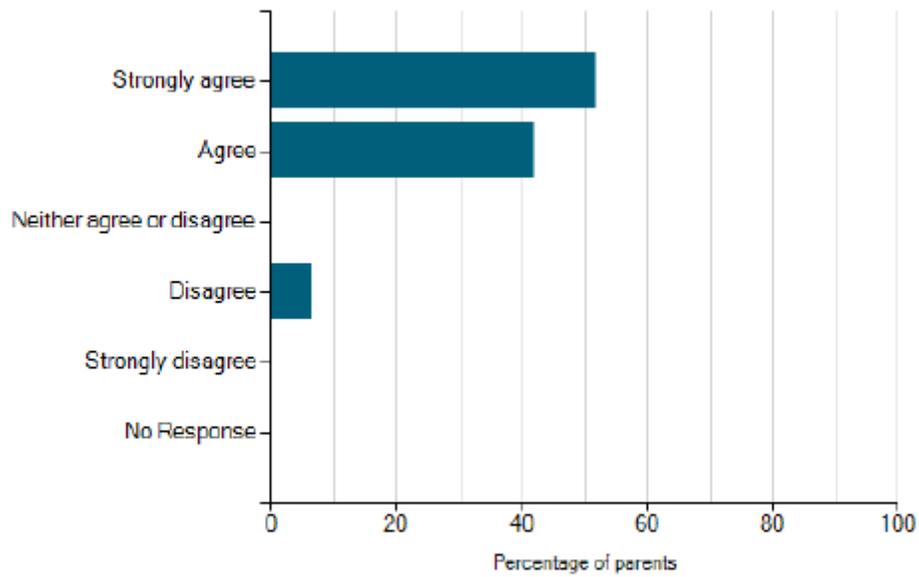
Views of parents at Torre CE Academy

No. parents: 31

I feel well informed about how my child is getting on at school.



My child feels safe at school and knows who to talk to about a problem.

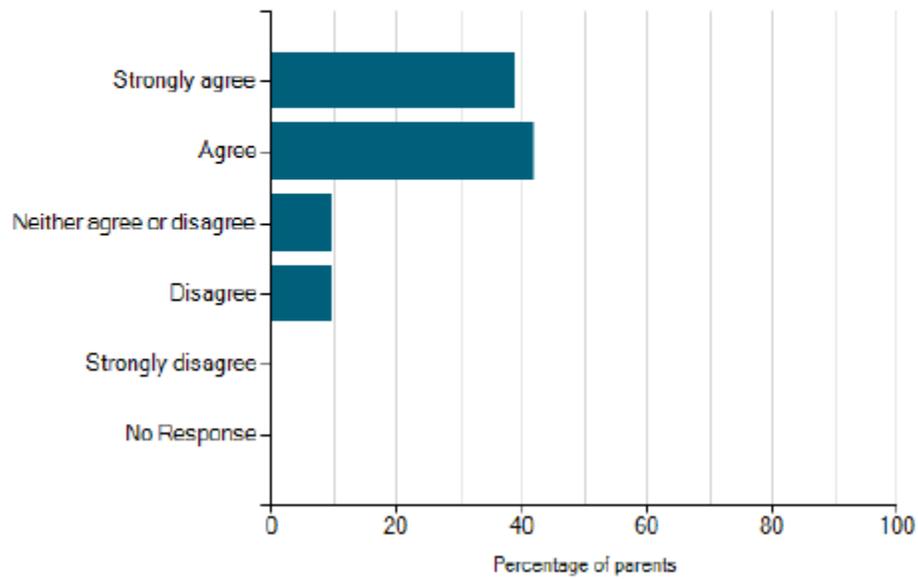


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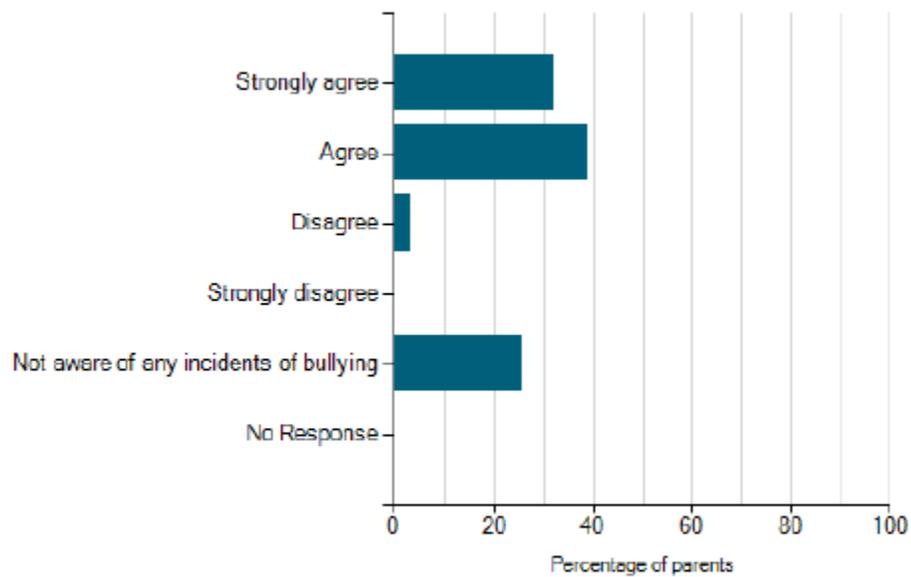
Views of parents at Torre CE Academy

No. parents: 31

**My child's social and emotional needs are met at this school.**



**Torre tackles any issues of bullying appropriately and effectively.**

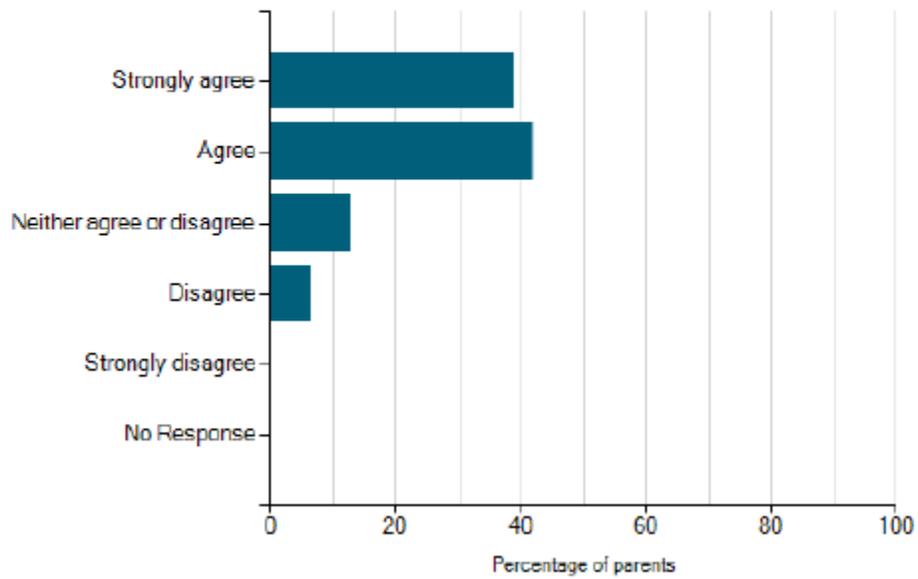


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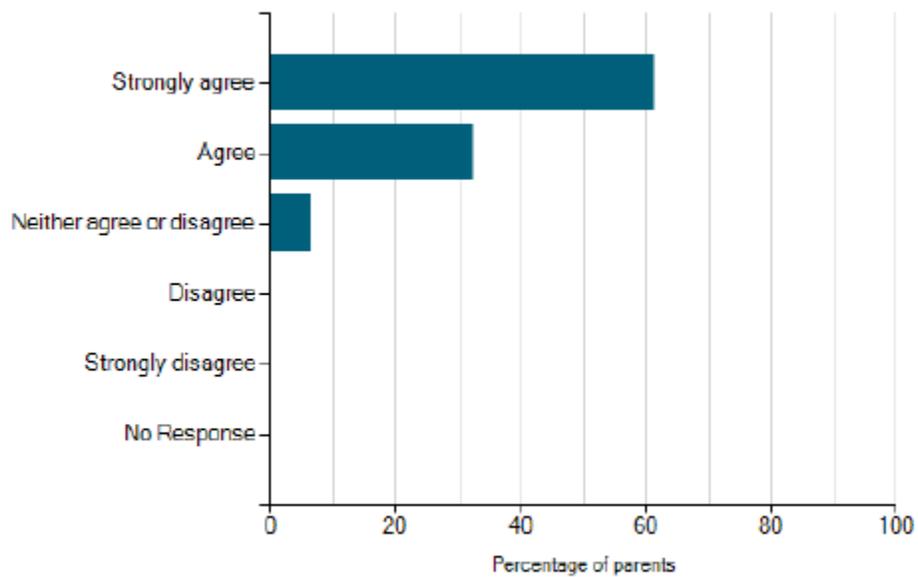
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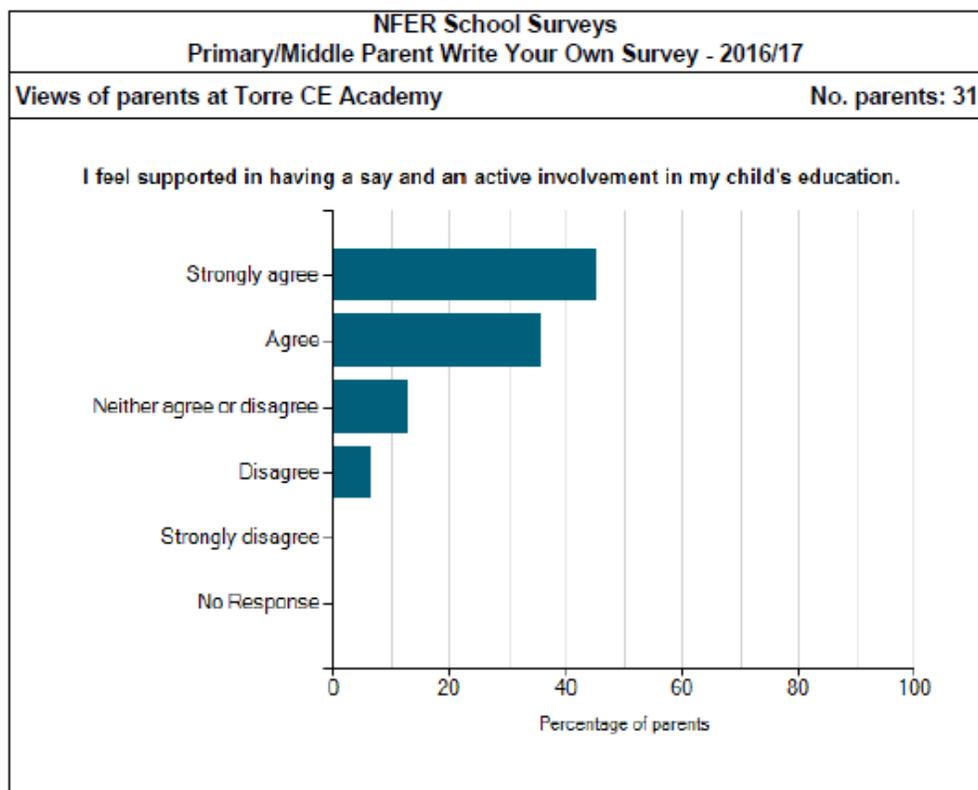
No. parents: 31

The curriculum prepares the children at Torre for a life in modern Britain.



Torre supports and develops its Christian ethos well.





### Free responses from individuals

- I would welcome spellings to learn at home weekly and weekly tests – with results shared with parents. Also, more maths homework with results shared with parents. Thank you.  
These points will be taken into consideration when we next review our home learning policy. We did consult with parents/carers when we last changed the policy and will do so again when we next review it.
- I feel Torre is going from strength to strength and my child is progressing well; both academically and emotionally. I would like to thank all the staff for all their hard work.
- Lovely school, my daughter has only been there for three months (in Year One) and is already showing great progress. The teachers are lovely and it is a truly nurturing school- we are very happy our daughter is there :-)
- My children are all happy and progressing well. Class lists and parent email address given to parents would help me as a parent to network with other parents and help my child build stronger friendships.  
Unfortunately, we are not allowed to give out class lists for safeguarding reasons. However, staff are always happy to look a list that you have compiled and spot anyone who might be missing from it.
- It would be nice if parents got invited to class assemblies to support their children and see their progress.  
Parents/carers were invited to some class assemblies last year, but I am aware that this was not consistent across the school. I have spoken to teachers about this and have reminded them to invite parents to some class assemblies.
- I do feel that in the past year the school is asking for contributions towards materials and activities that should be fulfilled by the school. If it is a contribution not to be plagued by texts until the contribution is paid. We always pay in full for our child's activities but feel we are subsidising the shortfall of others.  
Thank you for your thoughts about this matter. School budgets continue to be squeezed and, at Torre, we like to offer lots of wider opportunities to the children. Unfortunately, like many schools, we are struggling to find the funds for these additional experiences in our school budget, so in order for us to continue with these things we have become more reliant on voluntary contributions. We try our best to fund as much as we can – such as the amazing arts' week at the beginning of this term.

- A brilliant school with excellent ethos, giving children a good start in life with the confidence they need excellent teachers and a great open door policy if you need it. My child respects his teachers and feels safe and is very proud to go to Torre. Great job Mrs Julyan
- I'd like to know what work is being done with regard to helping children be aware and tolerant of those from other cultures, as an ignorance of multicultural issues is something I have been unhappy to hear from both other parents and children at the school. Modern Britain is a multicultural nation and I'd love to know that acceptance and consideration of those from diverse backgrounds is intentionally encouraged.  
*Many thanks for sharing your thoughts and opinions on this matter. As a school, we do place high importance on educating our pupils about life in Modern Britain and promoting British values. You can find a self-evaluation of what we feel we are doing well and what is perhaps not going so well on our school website (see 'About Us', 'SMSC' tabs. We had input from parents at one of our parent/carer forums last year and are always working on our action points. I am pleased to note that the number of logged racist incidents has decreased over the past two years.*
- Torre is a great school. We've been fantastically supported.
- At times the communications from the school can be the untimely therefore making it difficult for working parents to get involved at very short notice. Quality of communications is not always great, i.e. Message is unclear or not explained fully.  
*Thank you for your feedback. I agree that at times, not enough notice is given for some events. We have drastically improved communication over the past two years and will continue to try to improve this important aspect of school life further.*

### **Ofsted Parent View**

When we had our Ofsted inspection, in May, 80 parents completed Ofsted's Parent View survey online. From this, we have been able to get a more accurate picture of how our parents view the school. Here is a summary of the results:

- My child is happy at this school: 98% (78% strongly agree; 20% agree)
- My child feels safe at this school: 99% (83% strongly agree; 16% agree)
- My child makes good progress at this school: 97% (61% strongly agree, 36% agree)
- My child is well looked after at this school: 99% (71% strongly agree, 28% agree)
- My child is taught well at this school: 95% (69% strongly agree, 26% agree)
- My child receives appropriate homework for their age: 87% (51% strongly agree, 36% agree)
- This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved: 98% (70% strongly agree, 28% agree)
- This school deals effectively with bullying: 76% while 21% not aware of any bullying and 2% disagree)
- This school is well led and managed: 94% (64% strongly agree, 30% agree, 3% don't know)
- This school responds well to any concerns I raise: 93% (55% strongly agree, 38% agree)
- I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress: 92% (56% strongly agree, 36% agree)
- Would you recommend this school to another parent: 99%

We are delighted with these responses and welcome any feedback about how we might make further improvements.

### **Something to think about – servant leadership**

We are all leaders in our own way and I take great strength from Jesus as I take steps along my leadership journey. We encourage every member of our staff and all of our pupils to play a leadership role in some way. I have been considering

how Jesus washing his disciples' feet at the Passover meal makes me want to be the kind of servant leader that Jesus is (John 13: 1 – 17).

This famous poem has helped me to reflect on how I want to lead - with Jesus by my side:

### **Footprints in the Sand**

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed  
he was walking along the beach with the LORD.

Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.

For each scene he noticed two sets of  
footprints in the sand: one belonging  
to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him,  
he looked back at the footprints in the sand.

He noticed that many times along the path of  
his life there was only one set of footprints.

He also noticed that it happened at the very  
lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he  
questioned the LORD about it:

"LORD, you said that once I decided to follow  
you, you'd walk with me all the way.

But I have noticed that during the most  
troublesome times in my life,  
there is only one set of footprints.

I don't understand why when  
I needed you most you would leave me."

The LORD replied:

"My son, my precious child,  
I love you and I would never leave you.  
During your times of trial and suffering,  
when you see only one set of footprints,  
it was then that I carried you."

*Author: Carolyn Joyce Carty*

### **Personal Achievements**

A big well done to the following children:

- Brooke Mawhinney – attended a free 'Two Wheels Tuition' session at the Velopark and learnt to ride her bike in half an hour! Well done Brooke!
- Ivy Hodgson-Hunt – Ivy had a bone graft at Bristol Children's Hospital (her 5<sup>th</sup> operation in total) and she was incredibly brave, cheerful and positive throughout. What a super-star!
- James Gehringer-Shore – gained his 5m swimming award. Great!

**Well done!**