

ANNUAL SURVEY RESULTS

JANUARY 2018



Registered Office: VANDYKE UPPER SCHOOL VANDYKE ROAD LEIGHTON BUZZARD BEDFORDSHIRE LU7 3DY

ANNUAL SURVEY – JANUARY 2018

INTRODUCTION

This is the 23rd year of our annual school survey. Through the survey we seek the views of students across all year groups, parents, support staff and teaching staff. It is conducted anonymously and collated in a form that is then published. Questions have been kept broadly the same over the years, to facilitate comparison over time. It deliberately takes place mid-way through the school year and in the “darkest days” of the winter as we have always done.

All parents were invited to participate through emails, Vandyke Voice and the website and 162 chose to do so (97 last year), with each year group evenly represented as it turned out except for a little under-representation of Y12. A sample of subject classes was asked to undertake the survey during lesson time. 449 responses were received (298 last year). A broadly even spread of students across year groups was achieved with Y9 slightly over-represented. 36 support staff and 30 teachers chose to complete the survey, which is in line with most years but significantly less in terms of teachers than last year (45 teachers).

Overall responses remain positive. They are similar to last year in many sections.

Presented here are graphs reporting responses by students, parents and staff, together with some of the data that was generated. The survey is extensive and responses are grouped into a smaller number of categories. The survey also includes an opportunity for respondents to make additional comments using free text. Since moving to an on-line survey several years ago, this has certainly generated more such comments than the paper-based version used to. These comments are always interesting and are all carefully read, but are not reproduced here. This year in particular the comments were largely positive and those by parents especially made extremely encouraging reading. The large number of parental responses makes the survey more representative and hence more powerful.

Support staff responses are very encouraging, with responses in many sections above last year. 97% of support staff believe the school provides a high quality of education, 100% believe the pastoral system is supporting students well (80% last year) with 100% wishing to recommend the school to a parent. One staff member wrote, “I see staff working so hard together to ensure the best outcomes for all students.”

Under Communications, support staff responses are significantly up on last year. 89% believe communication within the school is good (last year 68%) with 89% saying they feel staff are consulted about change (last year 78%). In this section there is a divergence of views however, as only 77% of teachers believed communication within the school is good (down from last year at 88%). However 97% of teachers believed communication within their team is good and 87% felt staff are consulted about change, both figures similar to or higher than last year.

Teacher responses in the section on Professional Development are a little below last year but overall satisfaction remains high (97% say Vandyke is a good place to work and 97% would recommend the school as a place to work – up from 87% last year).

The relatively low rate of response to the survey by teachers this year makes comparisons with other years difficult and is a matter for further follow up, even if surveying non-respondents to a survey is in itself a challenge! A small number of comments relating to the impact of parent consultation events, general workload given the introduction of new courses, the impact of teacher vacancies and the changes to the timing of the school day suggest areas for some follow up.

For students, we have developed the School Forum over the last 18 months as an addition to our existing Student Voice work. The responses from the survey will inform some of the discussion over the coming months at School Forum. The results in important sections such as Teaching and Learning continue to be especially encouraging. This year, 80% of student respondents expressed

satisfaction with the marking of their work (82% in 2016) and the feedback they receive. This is well above levels of satisfaction in the years prior to last year and I believe reflects the significant work undertaken in school to improve written feedback. A slight drop in satisfaction with out-of-school opportunities is surprising given the extensive and genuinely quite extraordinary programme of enrichment activities, catch-up and revision sessions and trips and visits available to students.

For parents, 79% say they understand the role of governors. A small number continues to respond with "Don't know" in relation to the work of governors (16%), although the figures are improved again this year. A great deal of work is done by governors to be accessible and visible for parents, staff and students, including frequent school visits during the school day and at evening events and the production of a termly Governor Newsletter for parents (now in its fourth year).

Overall satisfaction with the school remains high (81% of students agree, with only 8% disagreeing; 98% of parents agree (2016: 98%; 2015: 91%), while 1% disagree). 96% of parents state that they would recommend the school to new parents moving into the area (2016: 97%; 2015: 91%).

I am especially pleased to continue to see such high levels of belief in our school expressed by parents, such as 93% saying their child likes school and 98% saying they feel welcome at school. On any scale these are remarkable outcomes that should be a source of real pride for staff, as they reflect the success of our work in creating an environment where parent partnership can flourish and support students' learning effectively.

One section of the survey provides opportunity for free comment.

Parents' comments include:

"Having had 2 very different children go through Vandyke, I would more than recommend it to anyone looking for a new school for their child. All children should be educated within a positive and secure environment with their needs at the forefront - a great school, we shall miss it!"

"I do recommend the school wholeheartedly to everyone. Our experience in the last two years has been nothing but positive. The boys are both settled and happy. We receive timely and useful communications. Staff are incredibly friendly and helpful."

"Excellent school. Welcoming, efficient, effective, respectful of students and parents, clear roles and direction, obvious that teachers are all singing from the same songsheet and on the whole get the best from students despite difficult education policies and set ups. I do hope that the school feeds back strong messages up the line in order to ensure a build towards healthy and sane future generations in schools."

"A very good school not only in education but also the welfare side of the students."

"We have never had cause to doubt our decision to send our son to Vandyke and, based on our combined experience of it, would highly recommend it to other parents."

"The front line reception staff are a fantastic first communication point. They are always friendly and keen to help. They are a great example of how important first impressions can be."

"Vandyke is an excellent school."

"I'm happy with how the school is run and the opportunities that are there for my child and very much looking forward to my daughter joining Vandyke."

"My son enjoys school. Feels grown up and tells me that teachers are kind, caring and fair. He enjoys school and I think he has matured a lot since Sept."

"I have been a parent at the school for 10 years and have always been very happy with the school and the progress my children have made."

"We have been very happy with the school for both our children. Very impressed with the GCSE teaching and sixth form so far. My youngest daughter is doing incredibly well and is more settled than she has been at any of her previous schools."

"So far my child and I are extremely pleased with all aspects of Vandyke Upper. Certainly made the right upper school choice."

"Overall our son is extremely happy with Vandyke and has achieved great results since joining last September. We find the environment very professional (both staff and building) and it has a great positive feel about the place. We, like our son, are very happy with Vandyke."

"I always recommend Vandyke when I am asked. Thank you for all your hard work."

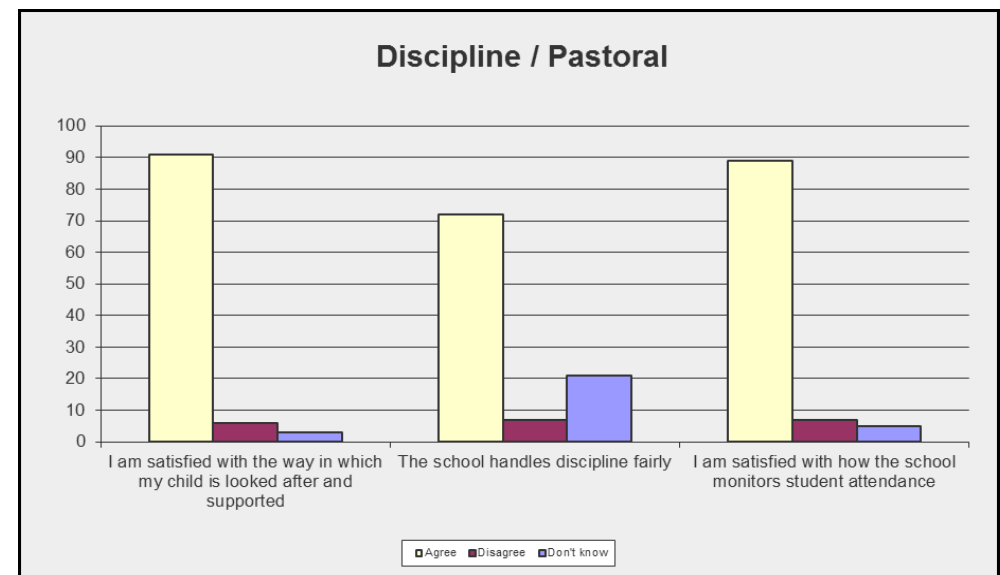
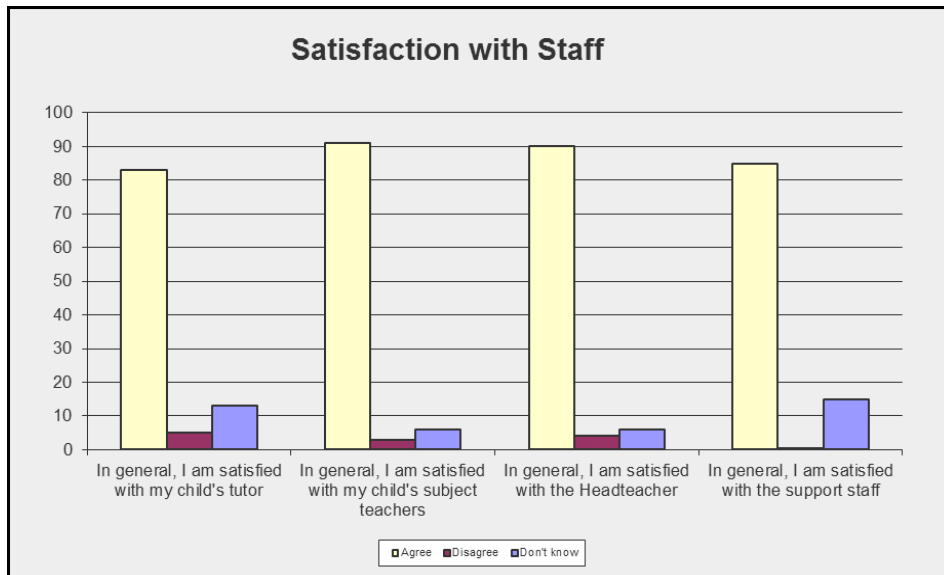
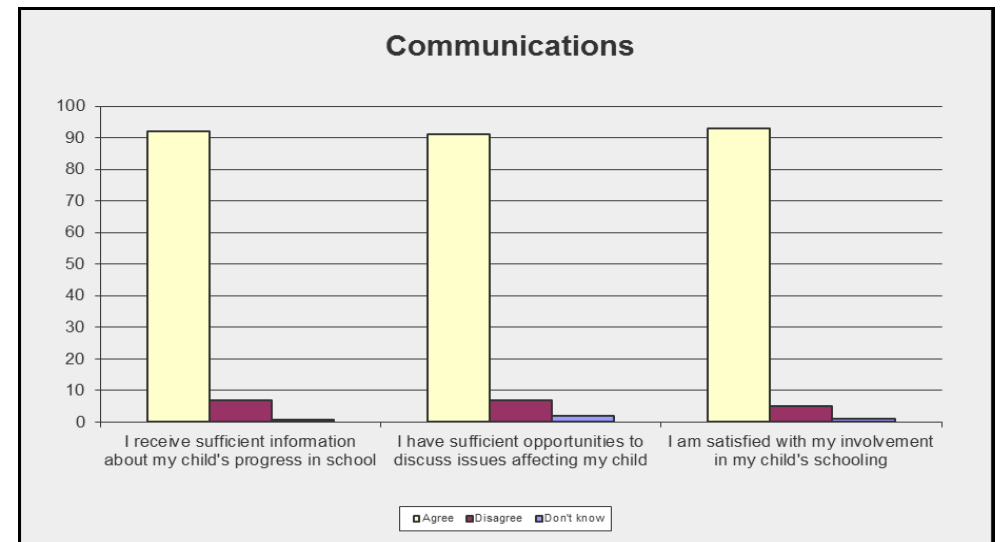
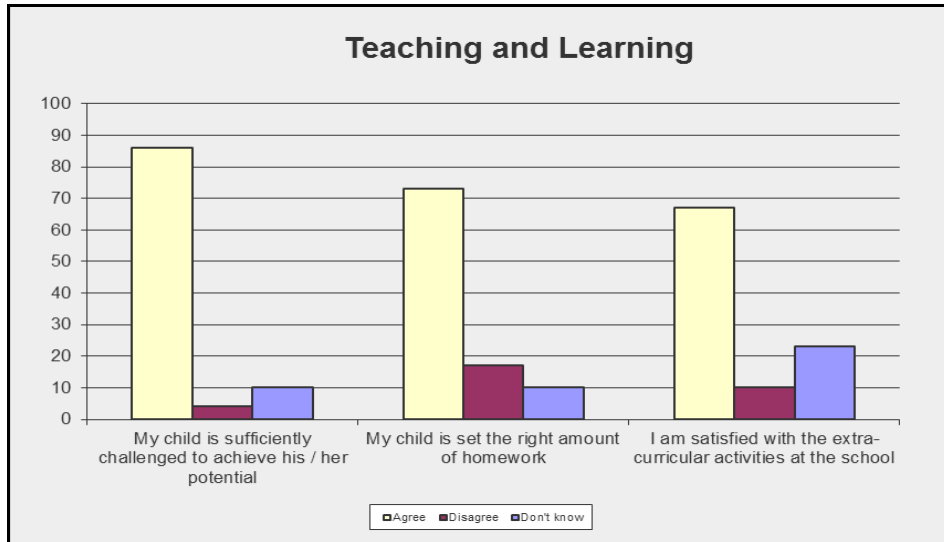
Reading all of the comments provides a flavour of opinion and spurs us to value our Student Voice and survey work and to continue to work hard at communication with all stakeholders, to build our shared understanding of our world here in school.

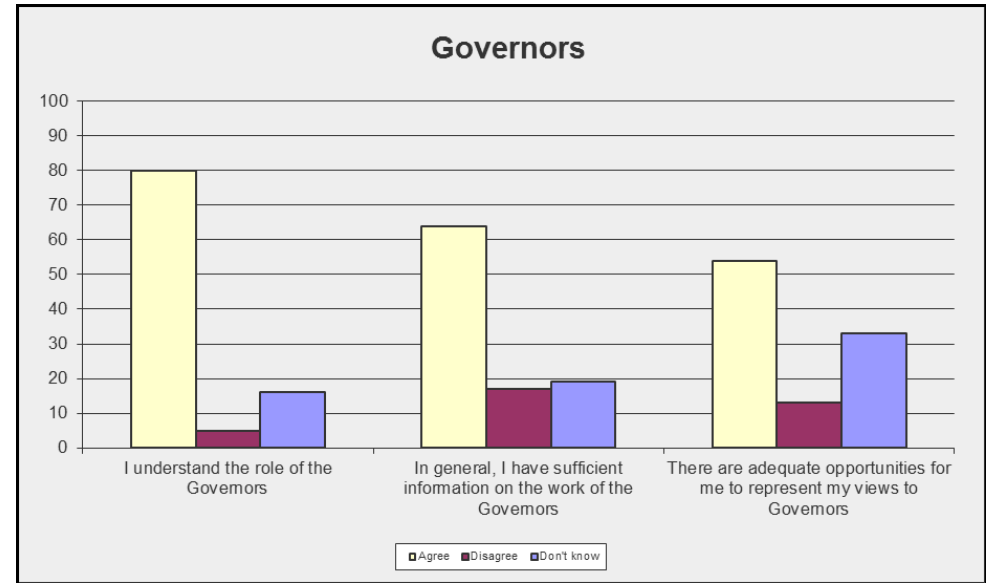
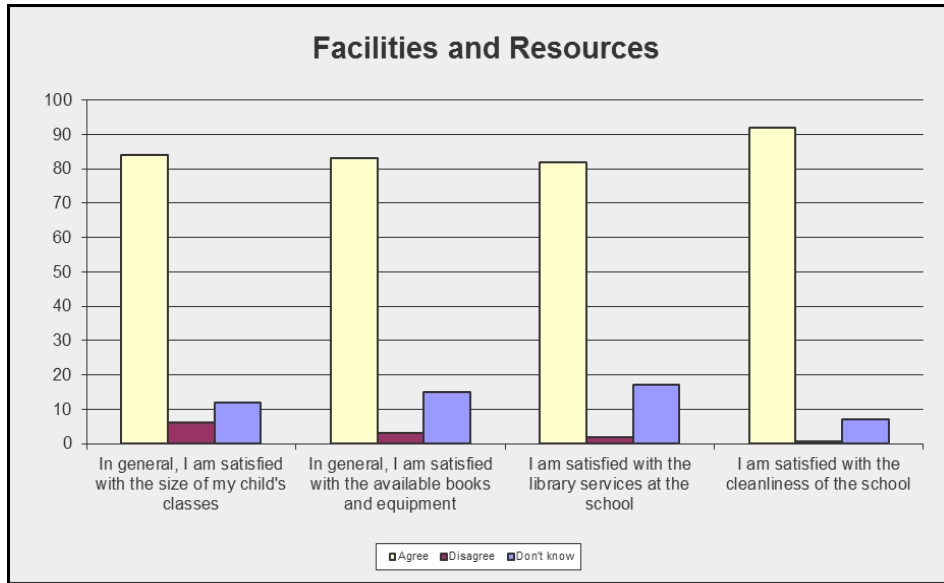
I hope you will take some time to review the outcomes in the tables below, as this feedback is an important part of the school self-evaluation process. I wish to thank everybody who took the time to participate.



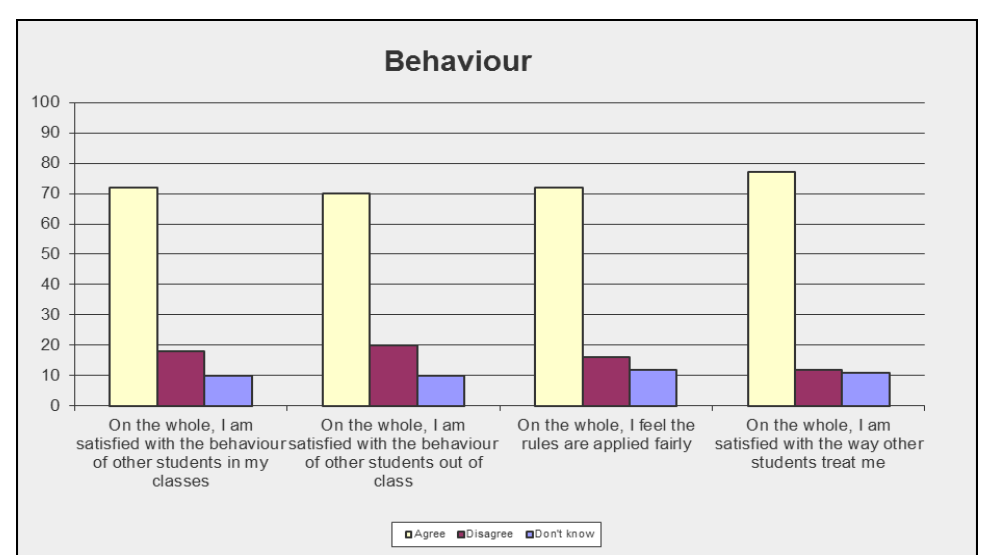
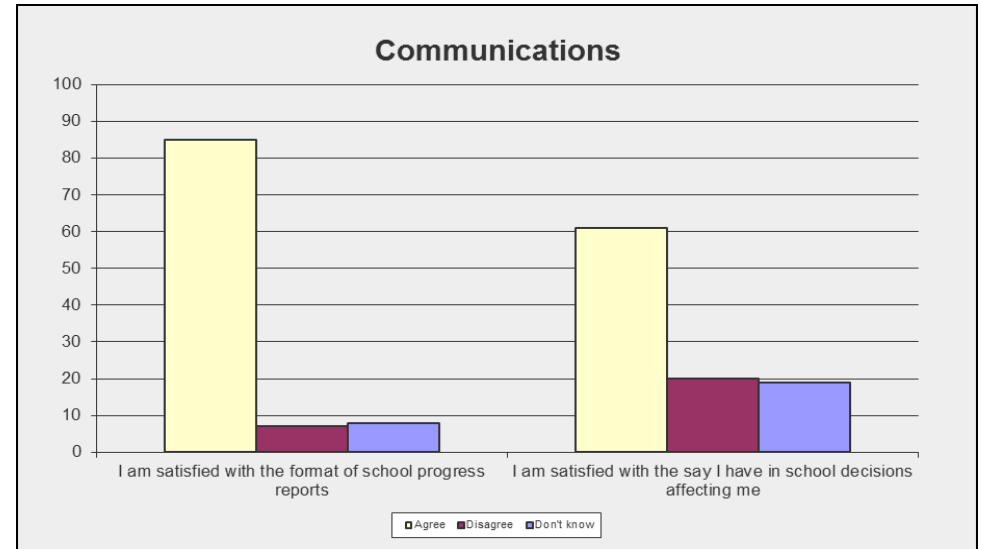
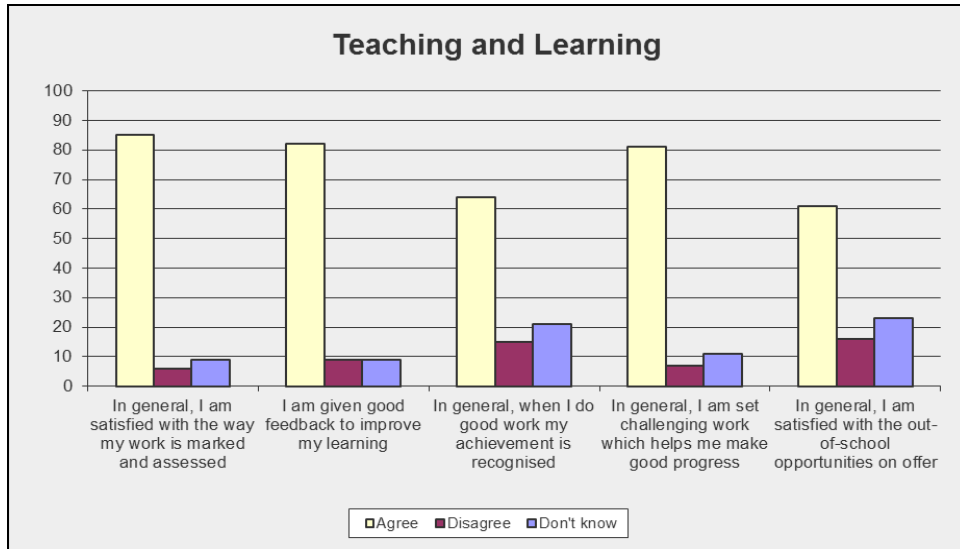
Tim Carroll
13 February 2018

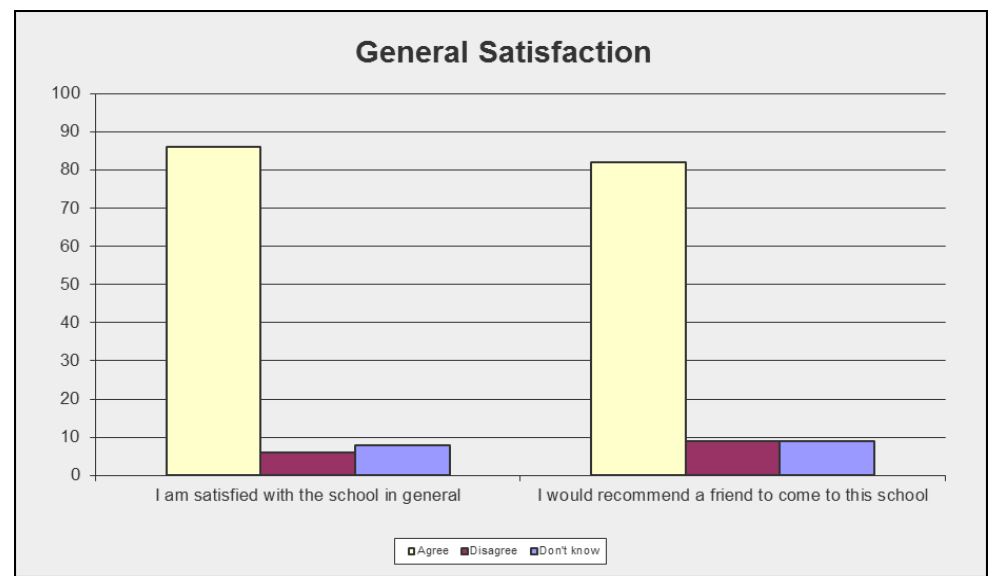
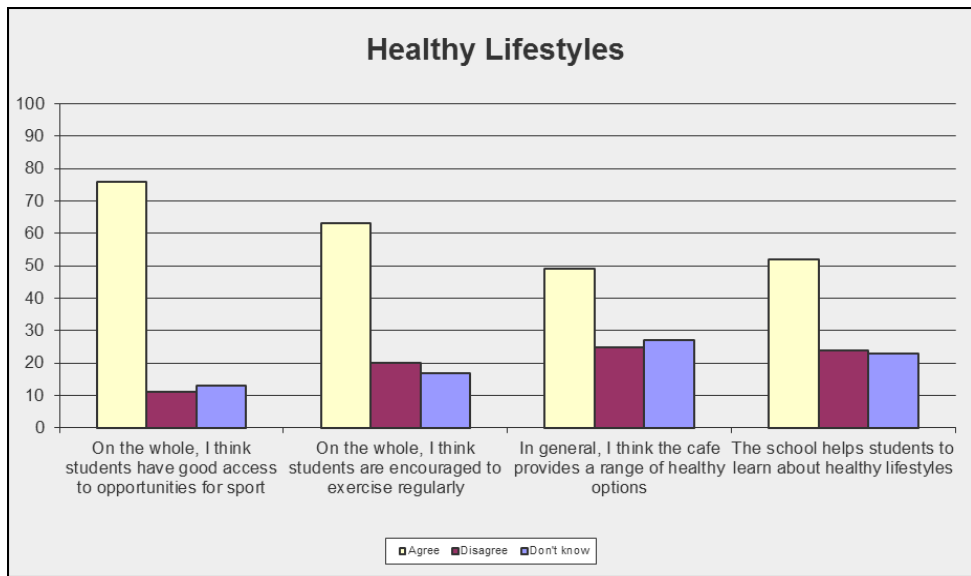
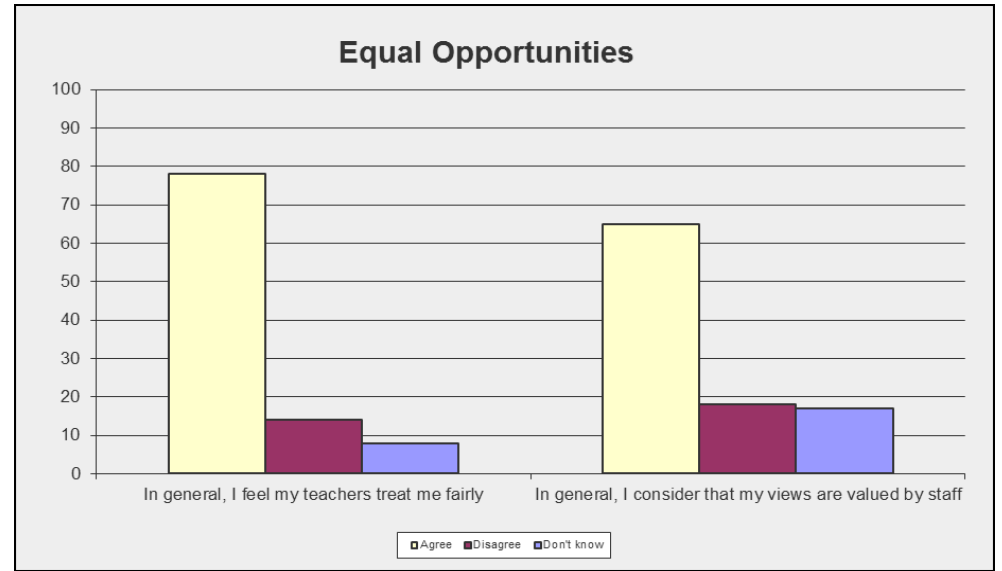
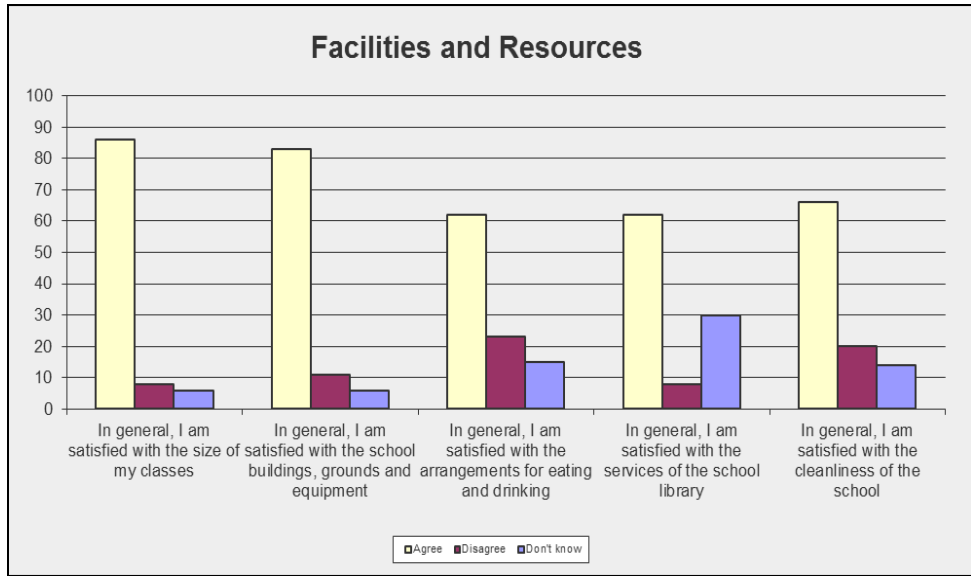
PARENTS



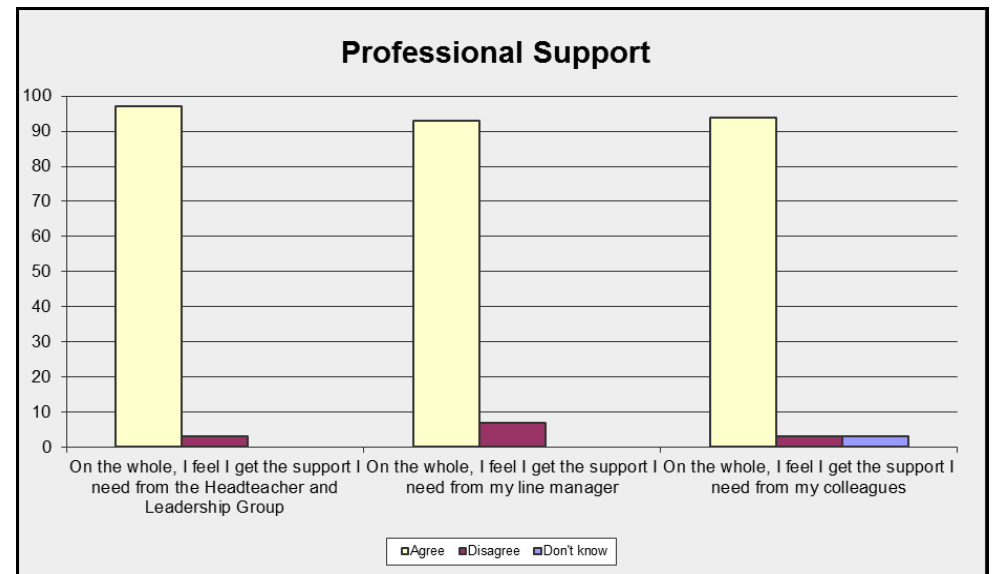
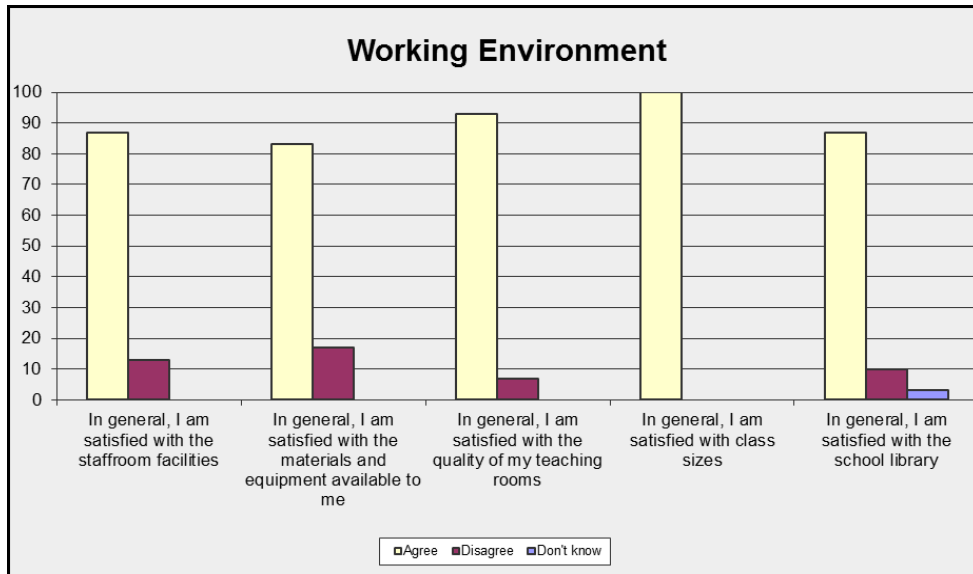
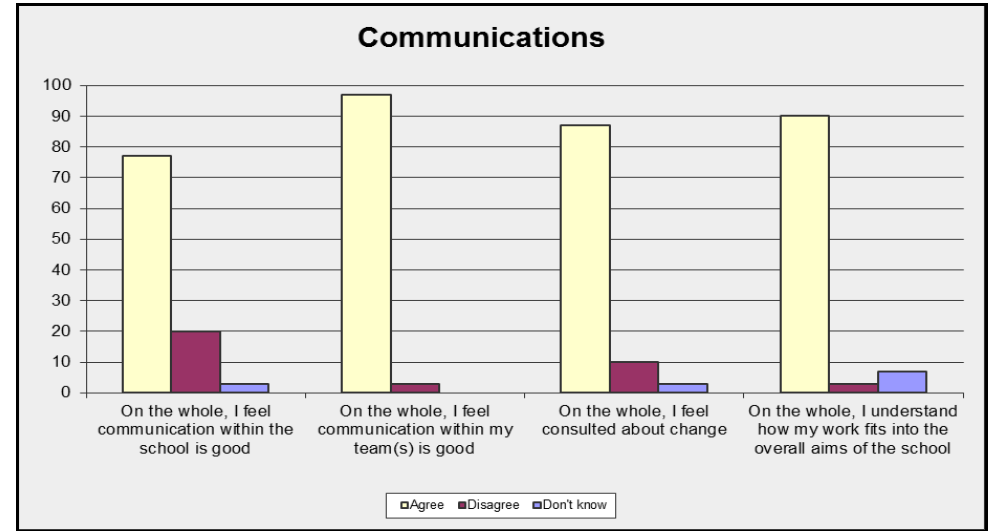
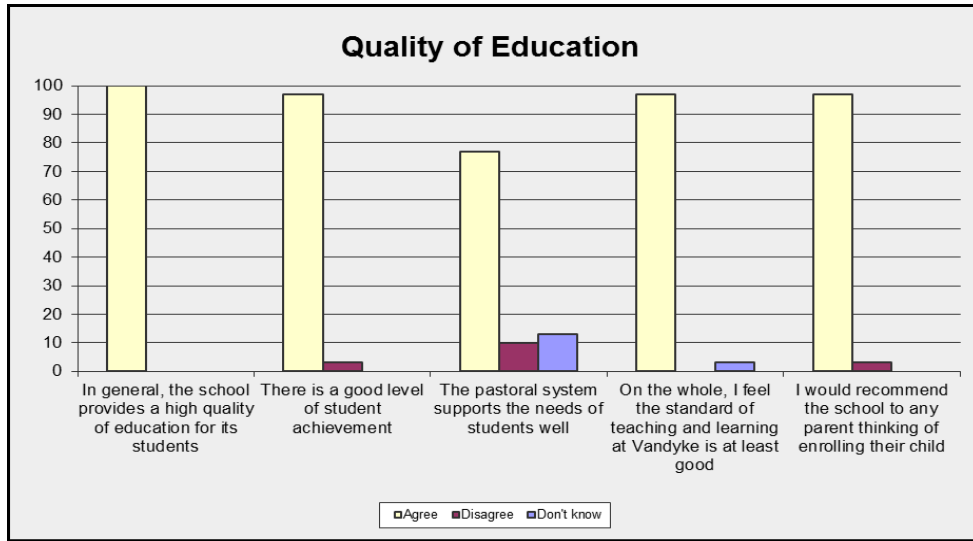


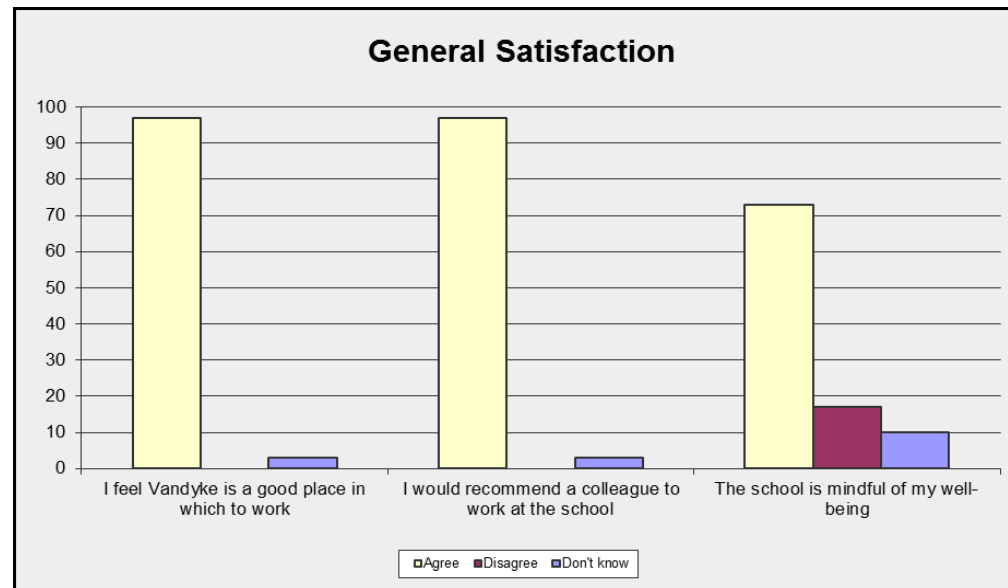
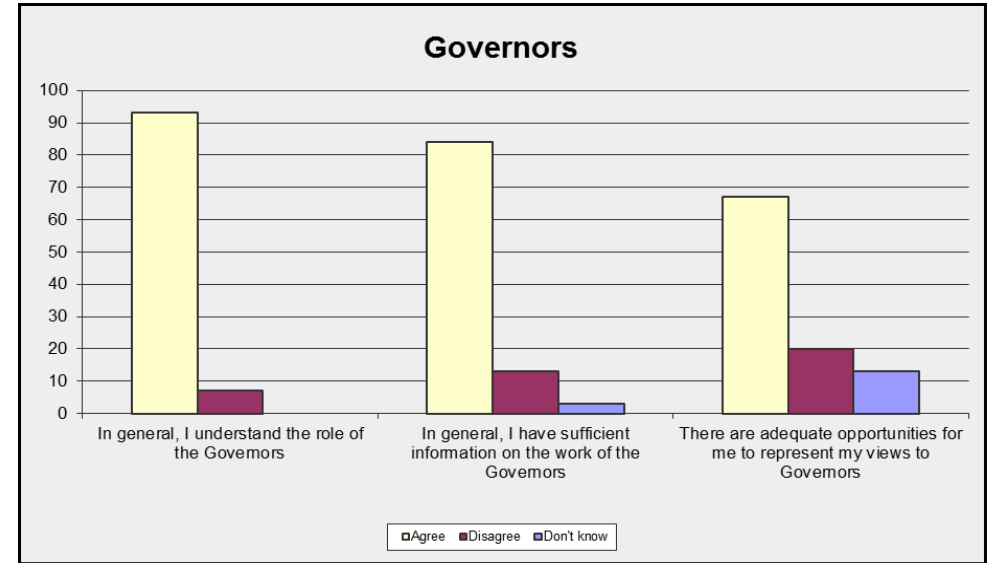
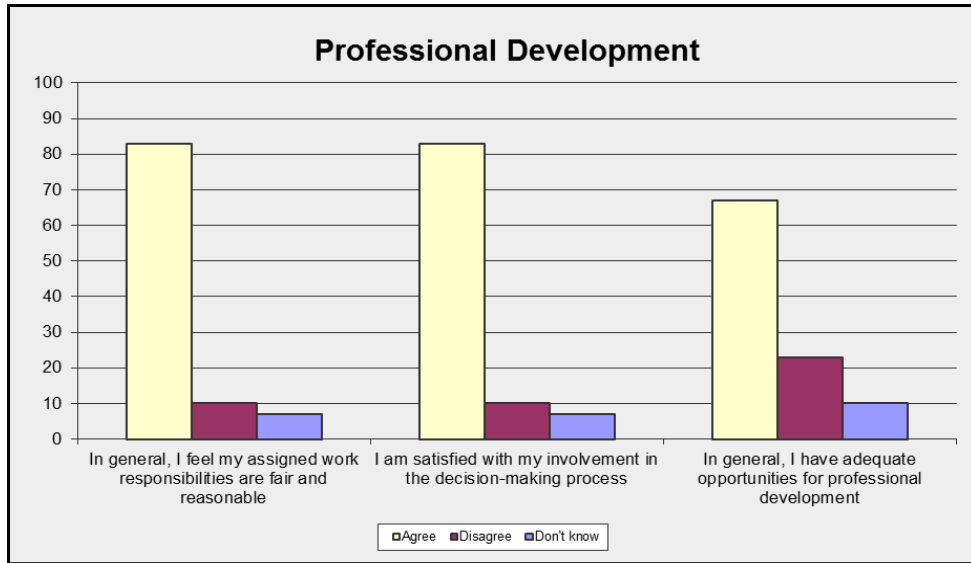
STUDENTS





TEACHING STAFF





SUPPORT STAFF

