



INCLUSION SUPPORT

Parent Partnership Service



PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PARENT SURVEY - COVID-19

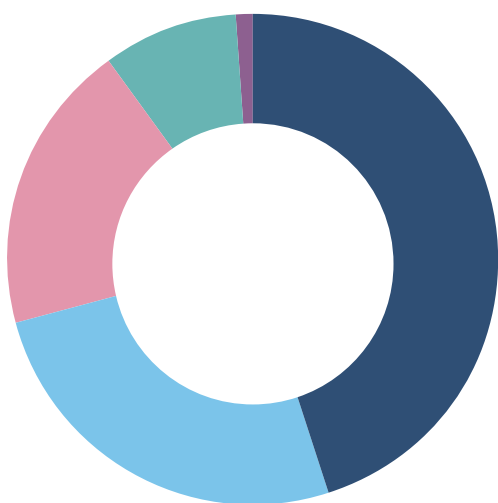
Children returning to schools- Pembrokeshire County Council would like your views

Parents and carers were asked for their views regarding the next steps for children to return to school buildings.

The survey was shared by schools, the local authority, on social media sites, and a press release was issued by the Director of Education.

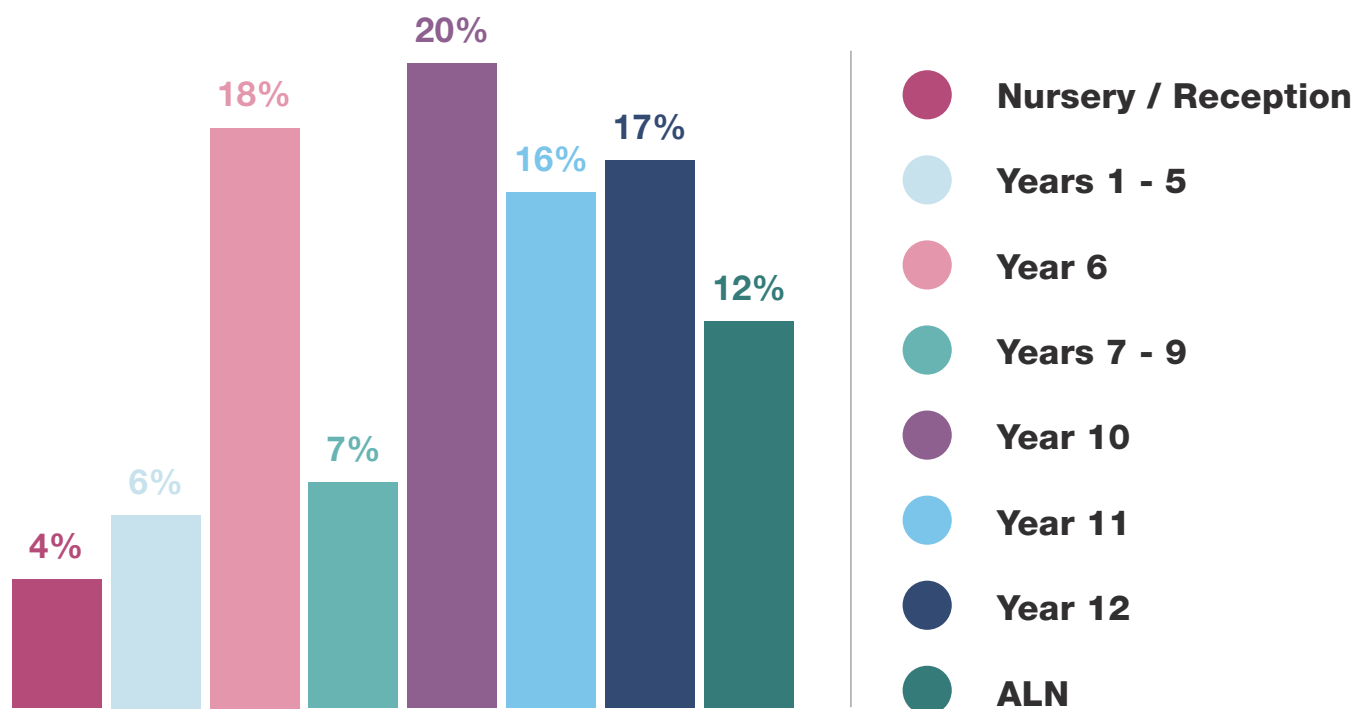
4352 responses were received by the time of closure on Monday 18th May 2020.

Q1. Please tell us about you by selecting one or more of the options below



45%	Parent / Carer; A keyworker
26%	Working Parent / Carer; Not a keyworker
19%	Stay-at-home Parent / Carer
9%	Self employed Parent / Carer
1%	Not a Parent / Carer
1%	Not a Parent / Carer

Q2. Which of these ages or groups of children do you think should be a priority for going back into schools first?



Q3 & Q4. Views on safe distancing in schools, examples of this 'children's desks each being 2 meters apart, one child seated per desk, and having smaller numbers of pupils in each class'.

Do you agree with safe distancing rules in schools?



Yes No

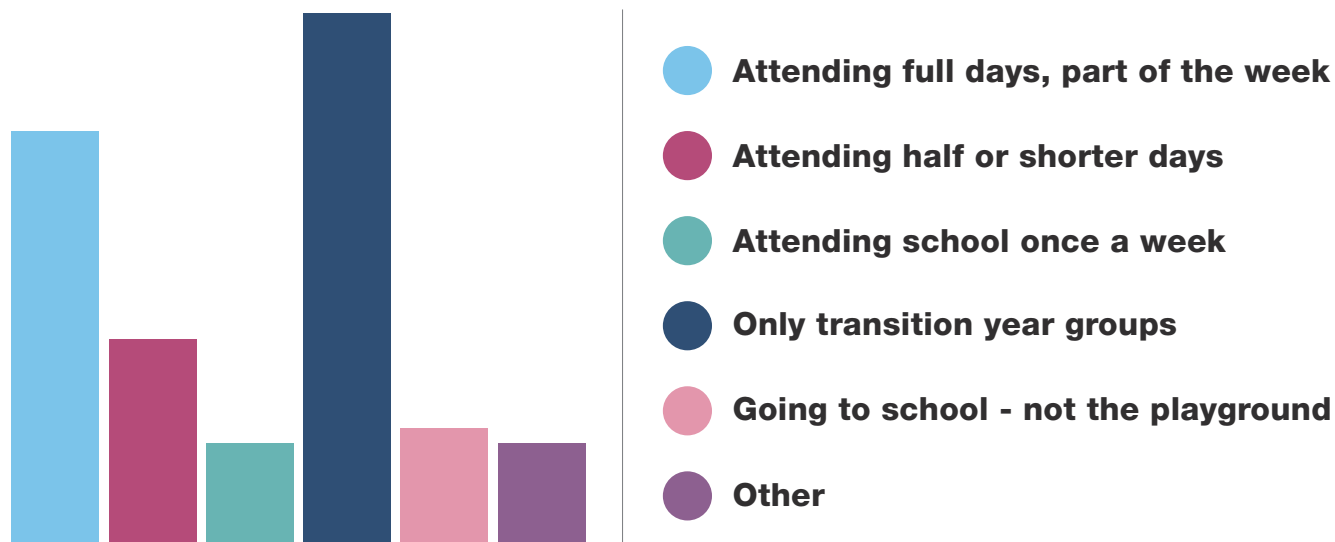
Around half of families (**2232**) left further comments to this question; **20%** raised concerns about how practical or possible safe distancing might be.

'I also think it will be hard for my child with additional needs to keep a safe distance because he doesn't understand.'

'I agree that children should social distance in school but I think it will be almost impossible to stick to.'

'Social distancing will not be possible in schools. The corridors are too narrow for pupils to pass each other safely, classrooms too small and of course young children will not understand and therefore not adhere to the 2 metre rule. I think it is vital that pupils still have time to play outside.'

Q5. A 'phased' or partial return to school. Children may not attend school full time initially. Which of the options below might you/ your child(ren) cope with best?

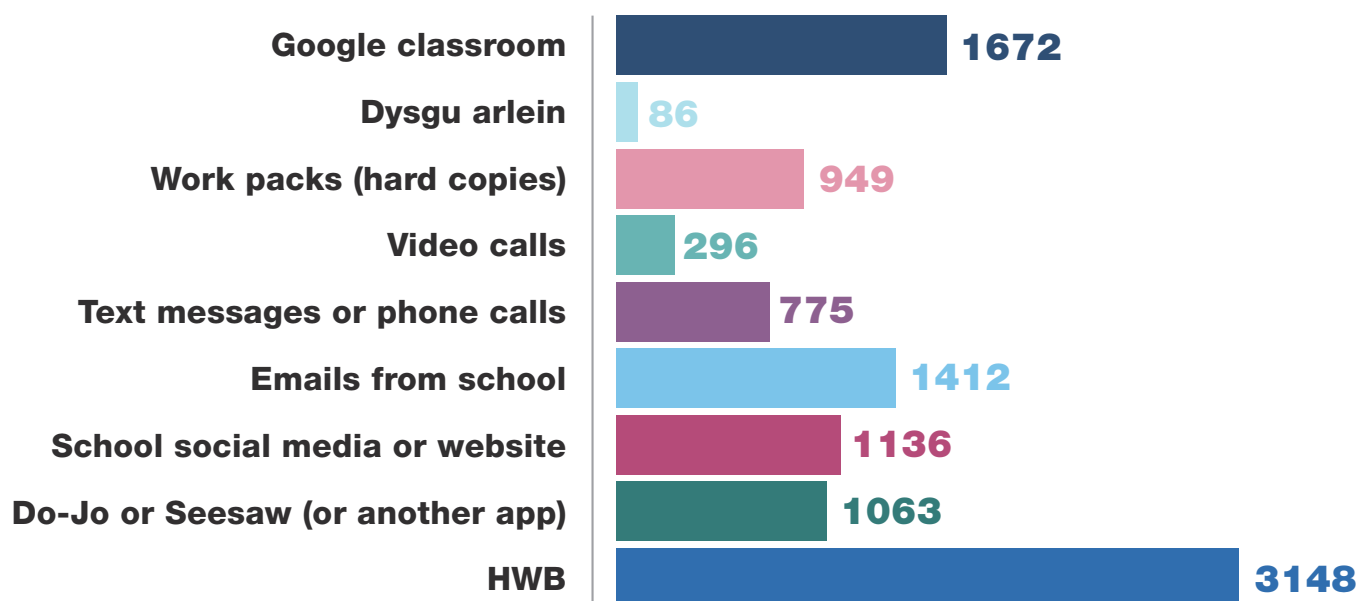


Comments:

- 'Full days - not half days for continuity and both parents working is very difficult on half days.'
- 'I am a single parent who is working full time in nhs so the children are working independently, my difficulty will be transporting them to and from school.'
- 'Good clear and early communication to parents from the school. Simple guidelines.'
- 'I am a teacher and my husband is a health care worker so it will be difficult for us to be working and managing child care. This is something we will have to discuss with our employers and hope to be given some flexibility.'
- 'I think just knowing what the phased return will entail, who they will be worth, what contact they can expect within school etc. Plus knowing how lessons will continue to be delivered remotely alongside children being taught in school.'
- 'I am a cancer patient and am shielding so am not happy for my children to return to school until there is no risk of catching the virus.'
- 'If children return before the end of term we need to know if they are expected to wear uniform. Secondary schools wear polo shirts as summer uniform. Parents can't be expected to buy uniform for a few weeks and children can't wear uniform that is too small.'
- 'Please bring back school! The children really are missing out!!!'
- 'Continue with home learning until completely safe.'

Q6. Home learning is likely to continue to be an important part of the way children learn if there is a phased return.

Which of these ways of home learning are your family using already?



29% of families have communication with school via HWB

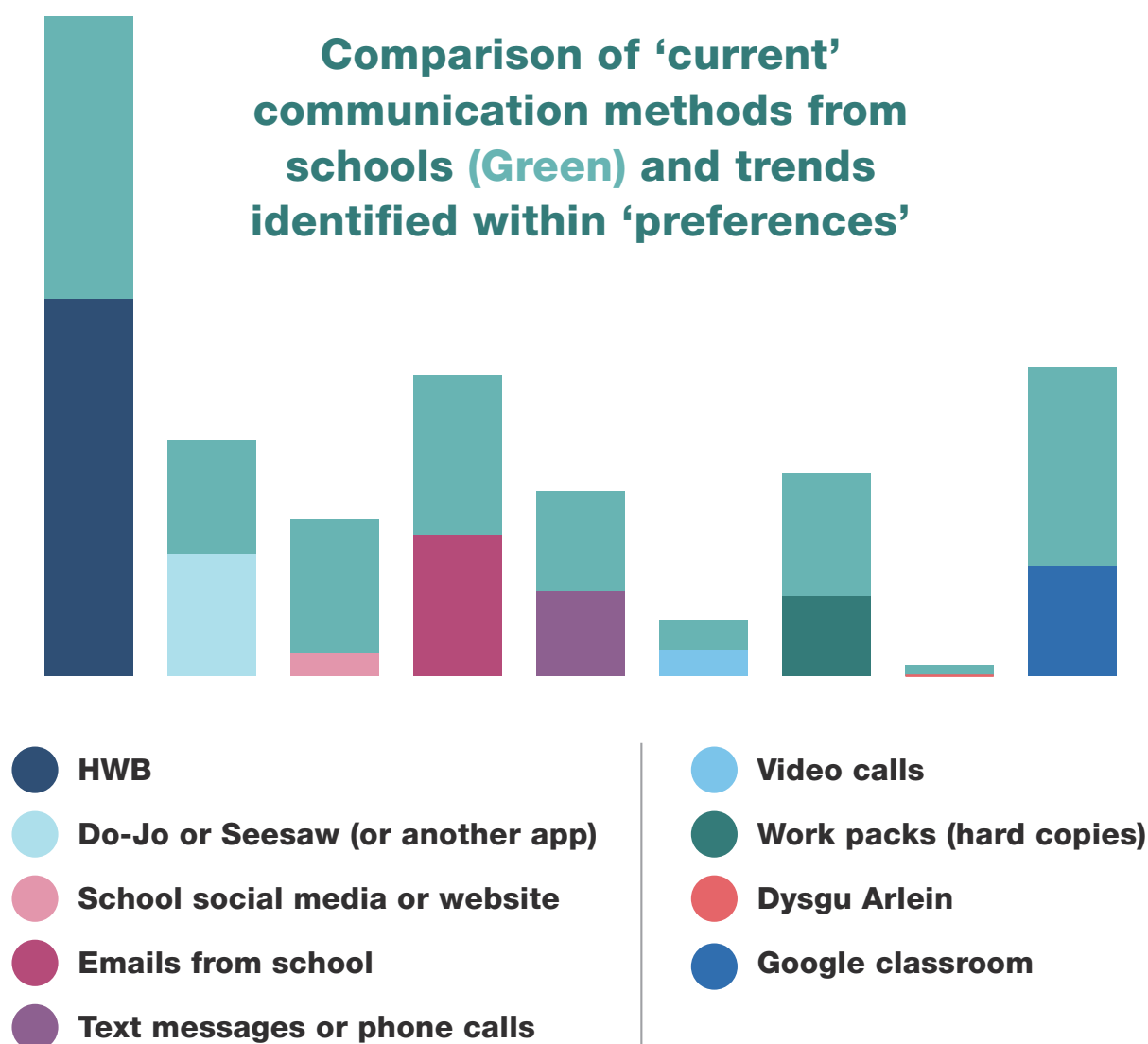
15% of families have communication with school via Google Classroom

13% of families have communication with their school via email

10% of families communicate with school via Social media and websites

10% of families are using Apps to communicate with school

Q7. What is your preferred way of communication with schools to have school work for your child(ren)?

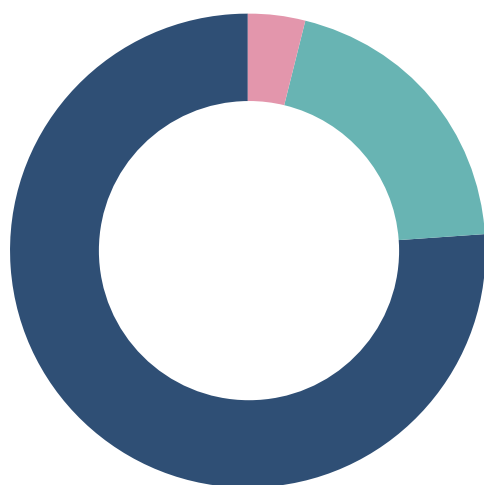


An analysis of the responses indicated families' preferred ways of communication point to similar trends in the current modes of communication from schools.

The graph compares the responses selected to indicate the trends.

- 'I have been quite surprised at how well the schools and children have adapted to home school work. Hwb has been particularly beneficial and I'm very glad my son's school actively used this before the pandemic, as it has made the transition to home school life far easier.'

Q8. So far, are you happy with the communication your family has had with your child's school?



4% No, none of the time

20% Yes, some of the time

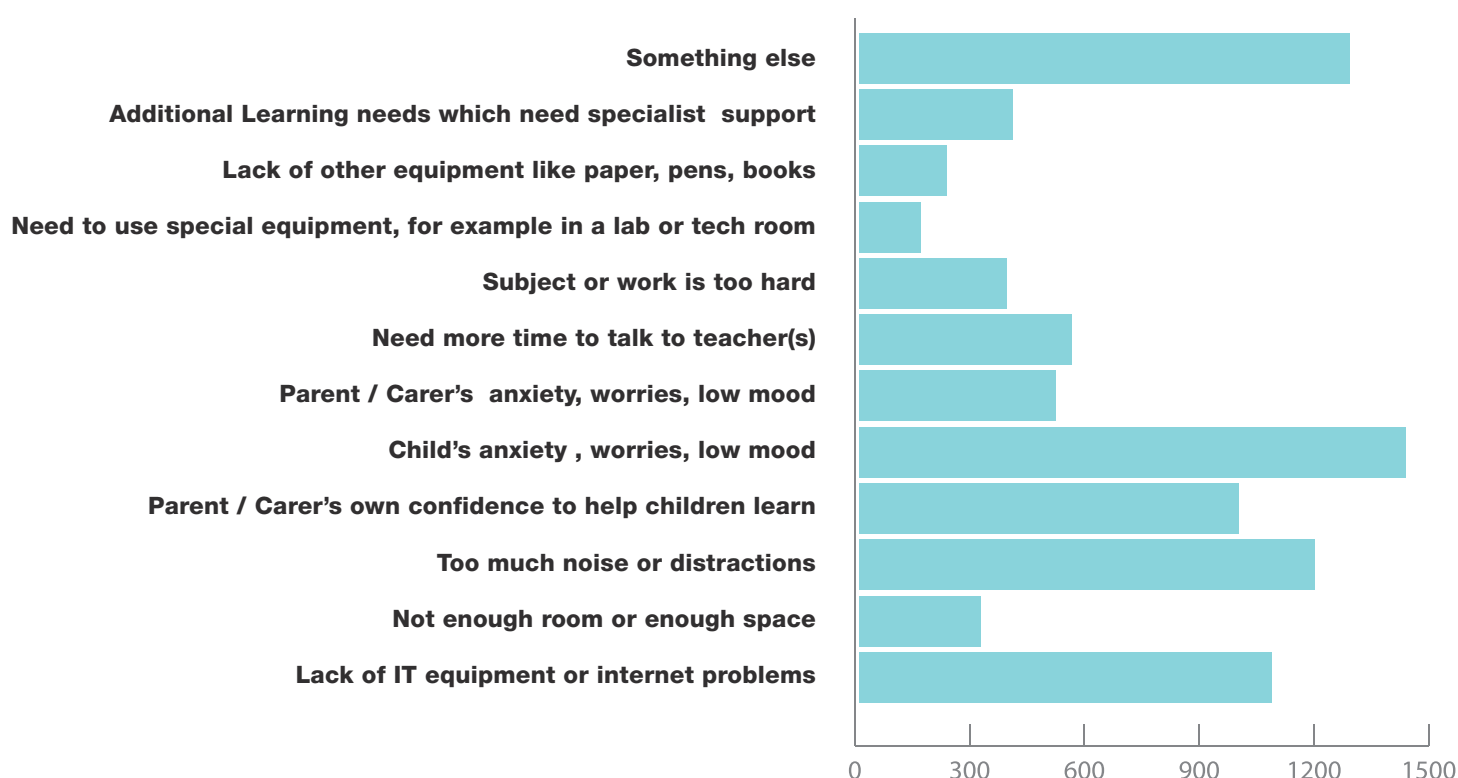
76% Yes, most / all of the time

96% of respondents selected an option stating they were happy all or some of the time.

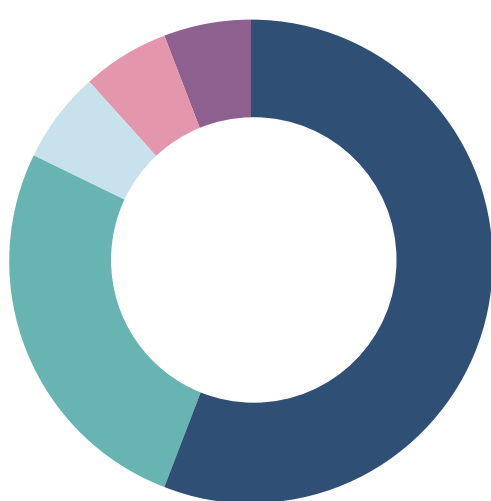
4% said they were not happy.






Q9. Barriers to learning

Children's anxieties are the highest occurring response at 17%. 'Noise and distractions' and 'lack of IT equipment' were both selected frequently (14% and 13%)



Q10. Roles of Parent / Carers



-  I am supporting a combination of life skills and work set by school
-  I am teaching work set by school and life skills
-  I am not involved: Doing their school work independently
-  I want to but don't know how / haven't been able to
-  I am supporting life skills, not the formal work set by school

56% are 'supporting a combination of work and life skills'

26% are teaching their children

6% said they wanted to, but were unable to, teach or support their child's learning.

Comments:

- As a key worker I find it incredibly difficult to manage the task of teaching 3 children all at different ages. The lack of structure and routine is having a major impact on the children. The pressure is huge as I don't want to fail my children and I don't want them to feel like they are falling behind.
- As we are farming, 2 kids, I'm working from home, husband works elsewhere - it's very hard to get through everything. I would much prefer to see them back a day or two a week to assist working parents.

Q11. What would help you to prepare for a return to school?

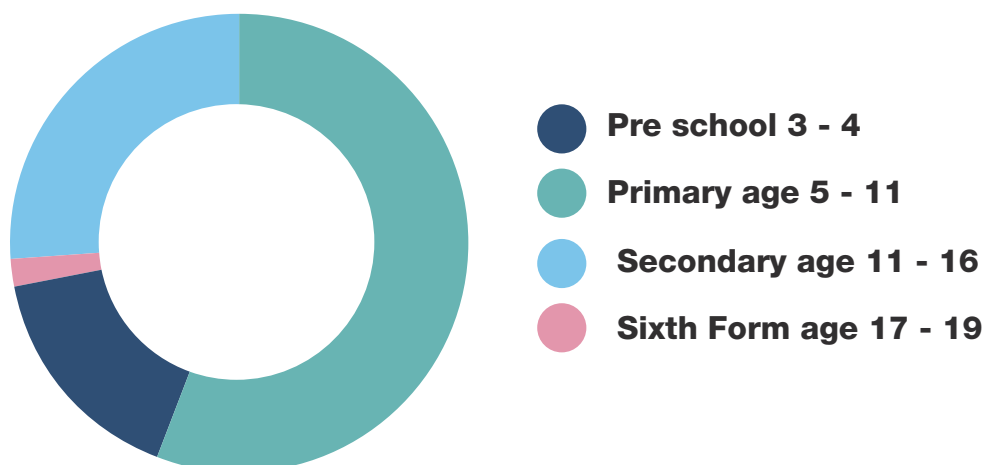
An open question and a requirement to complete the survey.

We received a wide range of responses, an analysis of this data shows some common themes.

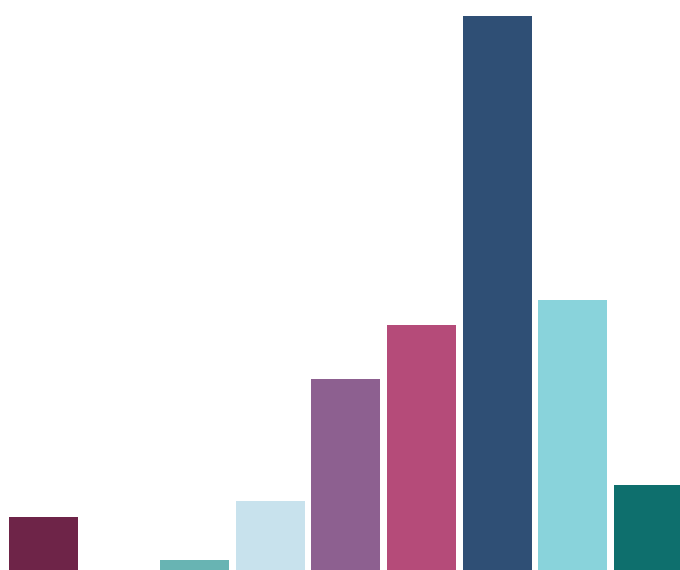
These have been placed approximately in order of frequency of occurrence here

- Concerns about managing childcare and work
- Respondents needing to have clear information, clear guidance and effective planning for a return to school
- Concerns around implementing social distancing with children and staff
- Concerns especially for children with ALN and anxiety
- Questions raised about how to implement a phased return, capacity in schools and practicalities.
- Concerns around Corona Virus; suggesting a vaccine or cure, or to be 'rid of the virus' before any return to school
- Issues around school transport in a rural area

Q12. What ages are your children?



Q13. What do you think may currently be having the BIGGEST impact on your child(ren)'s wellbeing and mental health?



37% said the biggest concern is 'missing friends or peers'

18% said it is 'worries about Corona virus'

16% said it is missing family members

13% said it is a lack of structure or routine to the day

- Anxiety about the pandemic
- Financial worries
- Thinking about uni or college
- Concerns about school work or exams
- Lack of routine or structure

- Missing family members
- Missing friends and peers
- Worries about themselves or family getting the virus
- None of these

Thank You

The survey offered an opportunity for any further comments, this was not a compulsory element for respondents, and thanked those who had participated.

Nearly **35%**, of respondents left comments, from which the following key themes were identified.

- Messages of thanks or appreciation to school, education and health care staff, and the local authority
- Reinforcing national advice such as 'keep safe, keep home'
- Concerns from respondents for their views to be considered
- Views on the survey itself

Grateful for the survey and the Council taking parents concerns into consideration. Well Done

Be clear, honest & upfront as most of the problems and issues at the moment are coming from local authorities or governments not being clear

Hoping our views do get recognised

I am very happy with the current arrangements. School have a fantastic timetable of structured work. On returning to school I would be very happy for a phased return beginning with the older children first. Once this whole situation has calmed down and we return to a 'new normal' situation, I would champion a 4 day week with Fridays off as this would allow a greater opportunity for emphasis on health and wellbeing.

Whilst this situation is ongoing equally we would be very interested in a part time schooling and home schooling flexible approach where appropriate. The current situation saves 2 hours a day of bus travel to and from school. So we are very happy with the educational provision we are taking part in.