



St Mary's C of E Prospectus

"We believe, we achieve, we succeed in God's family"

With God, all things are possible. Mathew 19:26

THANKFULNESS ● COMMUNITY ● COMPASSION ● TRUTHFULNESS ● COURAGE ● FORGIVENESS

Welcome to St Mary's C of E Primary School

On behalf of the children, staff, and wider community, thank you for your interest in St. Mary's Church of England Primary School. We are a uniquely small, thriving, and friendly village school set in beautiful, leafy-green grounds at the heart of our rural community. Choosing a school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make, and we warmly welcome visits to see all that we have to offer.

At St. Mary's, we are proud to be an inclusive school where every child is given the opportunity to thrive. Our dedicated and passionate team is committed to providing the highest quality education, encouraging each pupil to flourish academically, socially, and spiritually.

Pupils love coming to our school. They are safe and supported, having built strong, trusted relationships with the adults who care for them. They truly embody our core Christian values of thankfulness, compassion, community, truthfulness, courage, and forgiveness. Our pupils are happy, enthusiastic learners who are motivated to succeed and take pride in their learning.

We place our community at the heart of all we do. We aim to nurture, support, and inspire every child in an atmosphere of high expectations—preparing them for the world and jobs of tomorrow. Our broad, balanced, and exciting curriculum is enriched with creative, hands-on experiences and essential core skills, ensuring every child becomes a confident, responsible, and well-rounded lifelong learner.

As a Church of England school, our caring Christian ethos is central to our identity. Our core values underpin everything we do, reminding us to strive for excellence, respect others, and develop a love of learning. We aim to create an environment where children feel safe to take risks, learn from mistakes, and rise to challenges—developing resilience and independence along the way. We believe that great schools are built by strong communities. We work in close partnership with families, staff, governors, and the wider community to continually improve and provide the very best education and opportunities for all our children.

I feel privileged to lead such a welcoming school, where the sense of family and community spirit is felt in every classroom, playground, and corridor. We hope you will come and experience the warmth and ambition of our school for yourself.



Ms Walker

Executive Headteacher

Berlesduna Academy Trust

We are proud to be part of the Berlesduna Academy Trust which first established in 2016 and now has over 3,000 pupils and over 500 staff. The vision of the Trust is to create and foster a culture of high aspiration, enjoyment for learning, academic success and lifelong skills amongst all pupils, regardless of their social, economic or cultural background. We are a strong, partnership of schools, collaborating and sharing each other's strengths to make a positive difference. The Trust's core values of "aspiration", "family" and "success" guide us on our journey of school improvement.



Merrylands Primary School
and Nursery



Whitmore Primary School
and Nursery



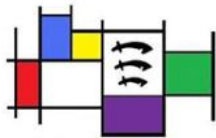
The Willows Primary School
and Nursery



Crays Hill Primary School



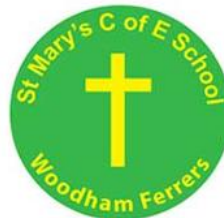
CANEUDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Felmore Primary School



Fairhouse Community
Primary School



St Mary's C of E Primary
School Woodham Ferrers



Cherry Tree Primary School
and Nursery



St NICHOLAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our School Organisation



Acorn Class: Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1



Chestnut Class: Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 & 4)



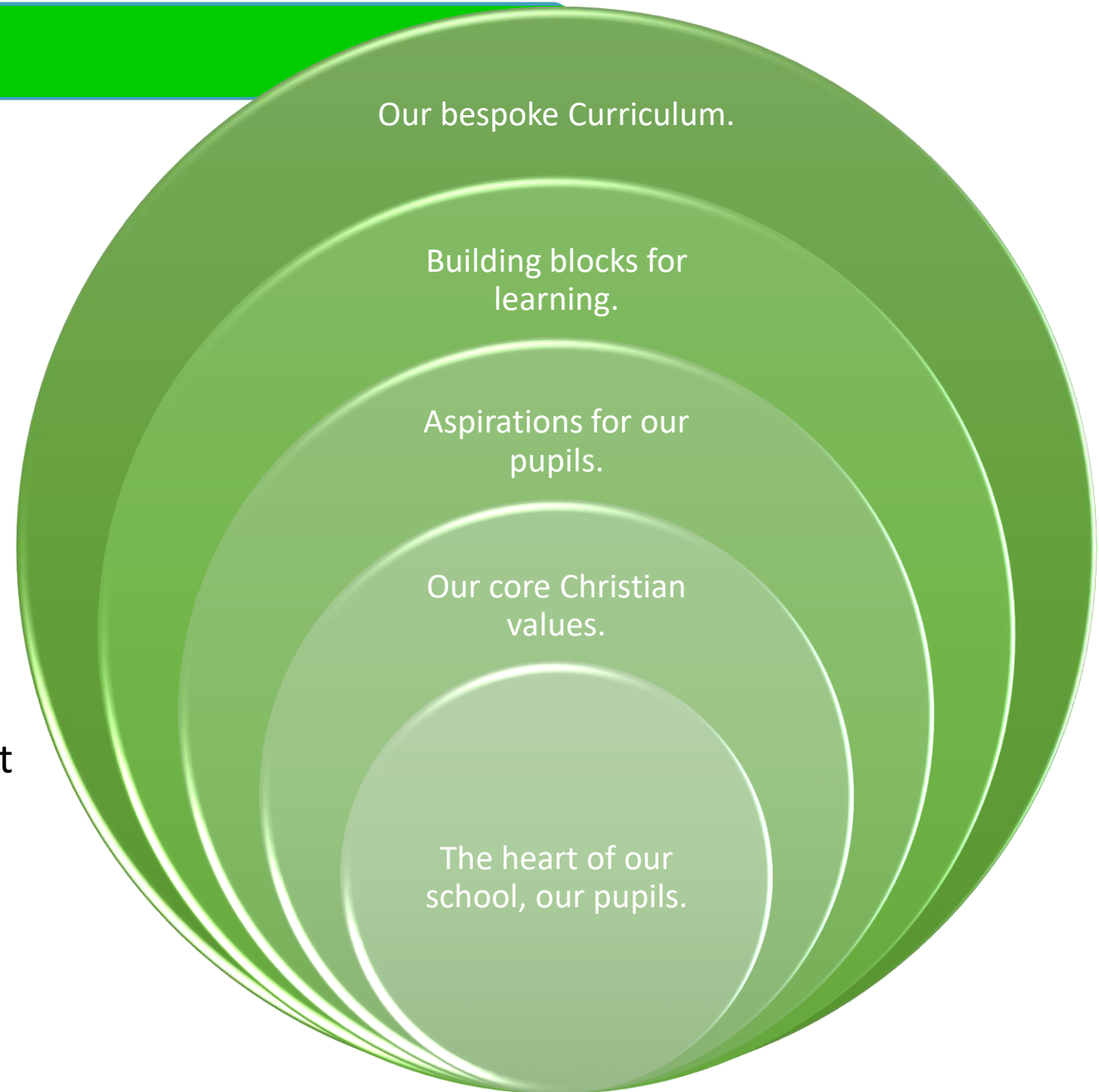
Oak Class: Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 & 6)

Our Core Vision and Values

'We believe, we achieve, we succeed in God's family.'



The pupils at St Mary's C of E Primary School are at the heart of the school. Our six core Christian values which were chosen by the school community underpin the foundations of our curriculum which is bespoke to the needs of our pupils, community and context.



Intent & Implementation - STM Curriculum drivers

C

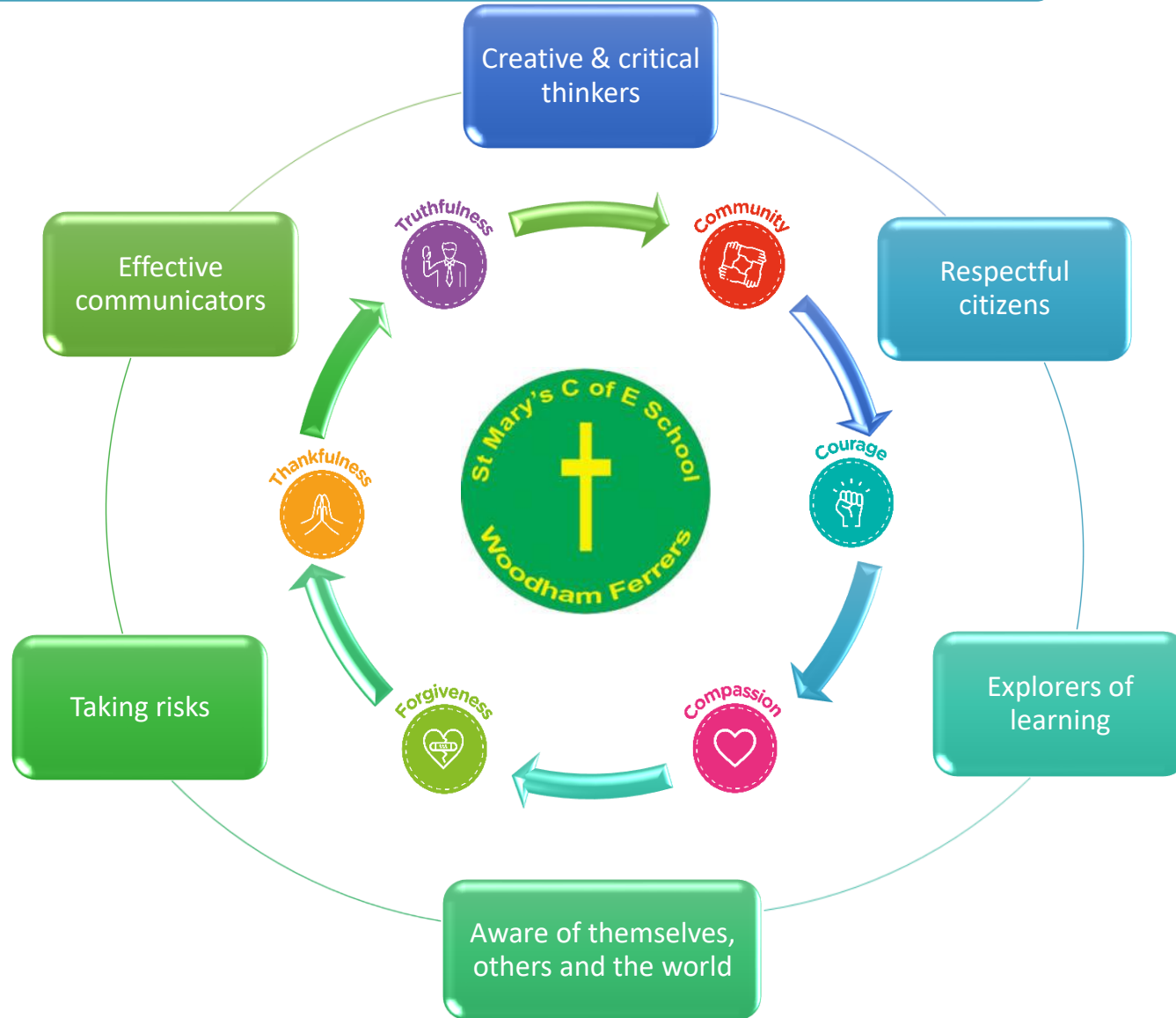
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E



Intent & Implementation - A brief overview of the STM Curriculum



C

At St Mary's C of E Primary School, we place great value on nurturing each child as a unique individual. We are committed to equipping our pupils with the knowledge, skills, and understanding they need to face the challenges of Key Stage Two and beyond with confidence.

R

E

Our aim is to develop children who have a strong sense of self, a clear place in their community and the wider world, and aspirational goals for the future. Our carefully crafted curriculum is designed to ensure that every child flourishes and achieves their full potential, starting from their individual strengths and needs. It offers increased cognitive challenge, enabling pupils to apply their learning independently across a range of contexts. Rather than rushing through content, we ensure children truly master each skill before moving on, promoting deep and meaningful learning.

A

T

Curriculum documents for each subject, outlining skill progression and national curriculum coverage, are available on our school website. You'll also find detailed information about our Personal Development curriculum and enrichment opportunities on our curriculum page.

E

A brief overview of the EYFS Curriculum

- Activities in reception are carefully planned and organised in order to provide a range of learning experiences.
- Planning for each (week/term) is carried out using a topic-based approach, following the children's interests and responding to specific events.

There are 7 Areas of Learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which activities are planned around:

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PRIME AREA)**
- **Physical Development (PRIME AREA)**
- **Communication and Language (PRIME AREA)**
- **Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Understanding the World**
- **Expressive Arts and Design**

Throughout the EYFS, children will be working towards the Early Learning Goals. These describe the level of attainment expected at the end of your child's Reception year in school.

Areas of Learning and Development

Prime Areas

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Making relationships
Self-confidence and self-awareness
Managing feelings and behaviour

Physical Development

Moving and handling
Health and self-care

Communication and Language

Listening and attention
Understanding
Speaking

Specific Areas

Literacy

Reading
Writing

Mathematics

Numbers
Shape, space and
measure

Understanding the World

People and communities
The world
Technology

Expressive Arts and Design

Exploring and using
materials and media
Being imaginative

Why is Continuous Provision Important in Early Years and Key Stage 1?



At St Mary's, we passionately believe that young children learn best through play and exploration. Our Early Years and Key Stage 1 environment is designed to spark curiosity, foster creativity, and support every child's development in a natural and engaging way.

Wherever possible, we offer real-life experiences that link meaningfully to our curriculum. Every day, our children have the opportunity to be artists, writers, mathematicians, scientists, designers, or storytellers—to name just a few! These rich, play-based experiences help children consolidate key skills and knowledge while nurturing independence and resilience.

Throughout our carefully planned indoor and outdoor environments, you'll find children actively engaged in a wide range of activities they have chosen themselves. This continuous provision encourages children to revisit their ideas, extend their learning, and build confidence in a way that suits their individual interests and pace.

Our classrooms are organised to promote child-initiated play and exploration, with minimal adult direction—allowing children to make meaningful choices and develop a lifelong love of learning.

The Power and Impact of Collective Worship

At St Mary's C of E Primary School, Collective Worship is the unique heartbeat of our Church school, offering all members of our community the opportunity to pause, reflect, and grow together. It is far more than a daily routine — it is a meaningful, spiritual experience that shapes who we are, how we treat one another, and how we view the world.

Worship provides a dedicated space for both pupils and adults to encounter faith through stillness, storytelling, prayer, music, and discussion. It enables us to explore big questions about life and belief, both as individuals and as a community. It also strengthens our understanding of the Christian faith while building respect and curiosity about other world religions and cultures.

Each class has a Pupil Prayer Lead, a valued and sought-after role that empowers children to take ownership of worship. These pupils help plan, lead and reflect on our times of worship, ensuring that pupil voice is central to shaping the experience. The Pupil Prayer Leads meet with the Collective Worship Leader each half term during our 'Pupil Voice Afternoon', where they review past worship and share ideas for future gatherings. This includes suggesting stories, themes, and songs from Christianity and other faiths, all aligned with our Christian values, British Values, the seasons of the Church calendar, and global festivals.

At the heart of our worship is the goal to develop each child's spirituality, giving them time and space to reflect on their own lives and the lives of others. We believe that inspirational collective worship contributes deeply to the emotional and spiritual wellbeing of both pupils and staff. It encourages a deeper understanding of concepts such as compassion, justice, forgiveness, and gratitude, while helping children to see themselves as part of a wider, connected community.

In this way, Collective Worship has a significant impact on the culture of our school. It supports character development, strengthens relationships, and inspires thoughtful actions rooted in our core values. It plays a vital role in helping every child grow into a compassionate, reflective and responsible individual who is well-prepared for life in a diverse and ever-changing world.

Forest Schools

The world is changing, and it starts with our children. Or put more aptly, it starts with us teaching our children to value, understand and protect the natural world. At St Mary's, Forest School plays a vital role in connecting children to nature, fostering a deep respect for the environment and supporting our vision for a more sustainable future for all. We are incredibly fortunate to have extensive, leafy-green school grounds and we have used this purposefully to create a beautiful Forest School space. Our Forest School programme provides rich, hands-on learning experiences that encourage curiosity, resilience, independent and teamwork.

Through Forest School, our children learn to problem-solve, take responsible risks and build emotional strength – all while developing a lasting connection to the outdoors. It is space where learning feels real, purposeful and rooted in the values of care, responsibility and sustainability.





Curriculum Enrichment & Personal Development

"We believe, we achieve, we succeed in God's family"

With God, all things are possible. Matthew 19:26

THANKFULNESS ● COMMUNITY ● COMPASSION ● TRUTHFULNESS ● COURAGE ● FORGIVENESS

Personal Development

At St Mary's, we are proud to provide an enriching educational experience that nurtures every child's personal growth alongside academic success. Ofsted commended our *outstanding personal development*, recognising the diverse range of opportunities that empower pupils to make a real difference in the lives of others.

Our pupils take pride in leadership roles such as class ambassadors, eco-warriors, and librarians. They actively support younger children and lead initiatives that extend beyond the school, including charitable work in Ghana — a testament to their compassion and global awareness. These meaningful experiences foster a strong sense of responsibility, empathy, and confidence, helping our pupils grow into well-rounded, socially conscious individuals. Our curriculum is rooted in the needs of our community and wider society, going beyond the academic to nurture tolerance, environmental awareness, and effective communication in an ever-changing world.

We place a strong emphasis on developing pupils' moral, spiritual, social, and cultural understanding, ensuring they are well-prepared for life in modern Britain. Carefully planned knowledge and experiences introduce them to the best of human thought and creativity, broadening their horizons and inspiring future aspirations.

We also believe in the power of real-world experiences. Throughout the year, we welcome inspirational visitors and explore festivals, cultures, and local landmarks. These moments bring learning to life, celebrating diversity and deepening pupils' understanding of the world around them. The following pages provide a glimpse into the rich enrichment and personal development offer that makes St Mary's a special place to grow and learn.

“We have far more in common with each other than that which divides us.” Jo Cox MP

“We have far more in common with each other than that which divides us.” Jo Cox (MP)



The quote from Jo Cox MP introduces this theme which is about the question: are we one human race, despite our differences and divisions? We are all different, and all religions are different – but are we all the same too? Can we all be united? What holds humanity together? Is it faith? Hope? Love? Music? What threatens to tear us apart? How can we overcome the divisions that affect us?

As a school, we have created artwork which unites us, brings us together, joins humans as one people and expresses our harmony. We have used the disciplines of theology, but also of psychology and sociology to explore the questions and create our responses.







ART EXHIBITION



Our pupils have regular opportunities to showcase their work across the curriculum to their families.

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up."

Pablo Picasso





As part of UK Parliament Week, pupils had a visit from Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP who is our local MP. They have been learning about Parliament, what it does and how you can get involved. They asked excellent, thought provoking questions about climate change, the war in the Ukraine, the cost of living crisis and the energy crisis.

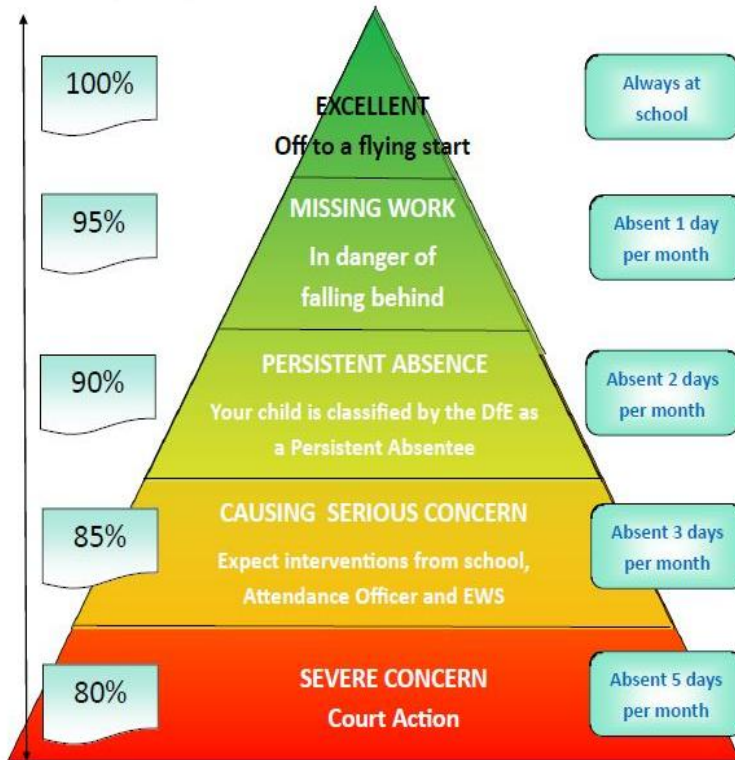


Forest Schools Sessions

"We believe, we achieve, we succeed in God's family"



Attendance Matters



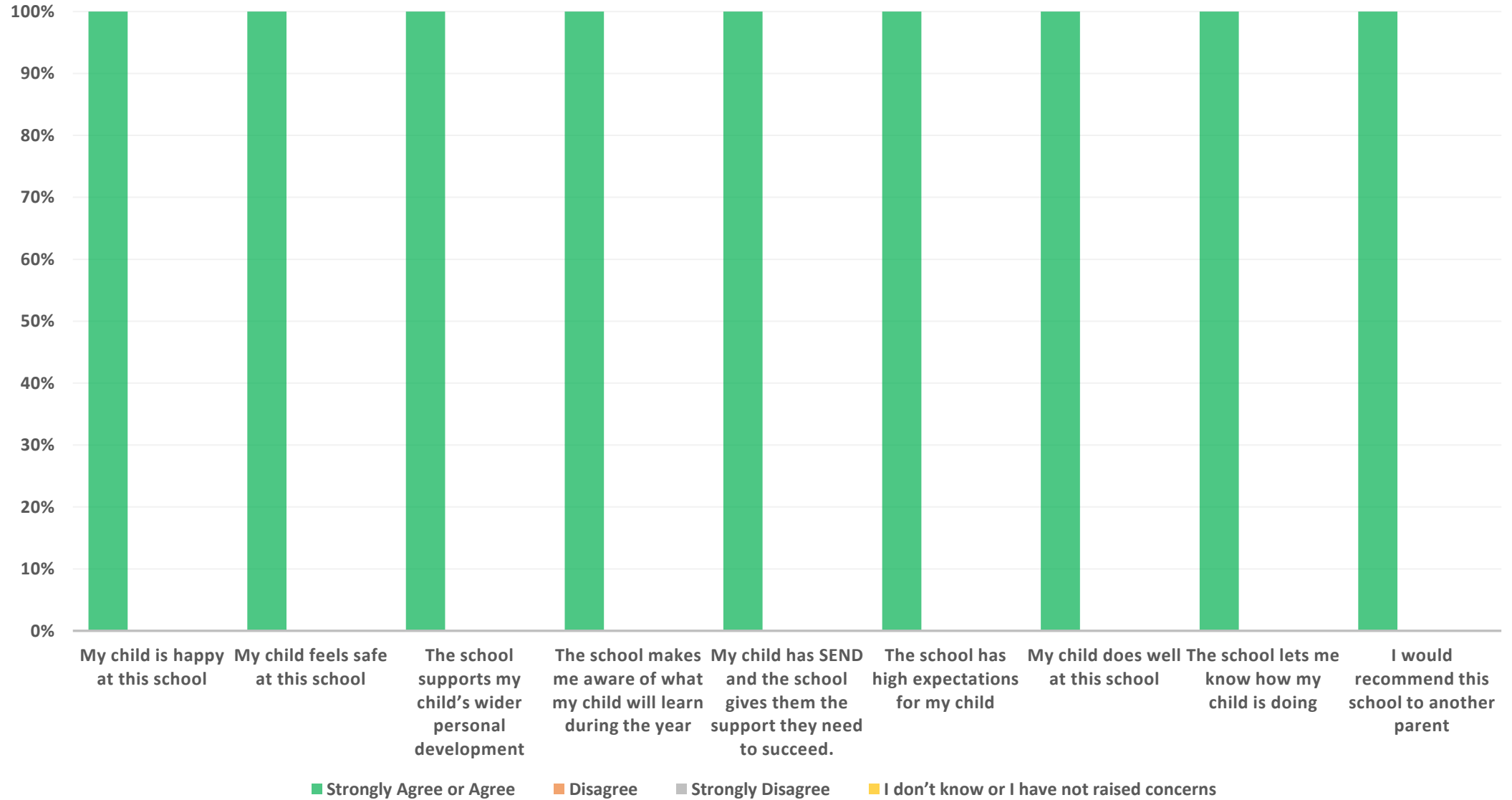
All parents and carers want the best for their children and for them to get on well in life. Having a good education is important to ensure that they have the best opportunities in their adult life. They only get one chance at school, and your child's future may be affected by not attending school or alternative provision regularly.

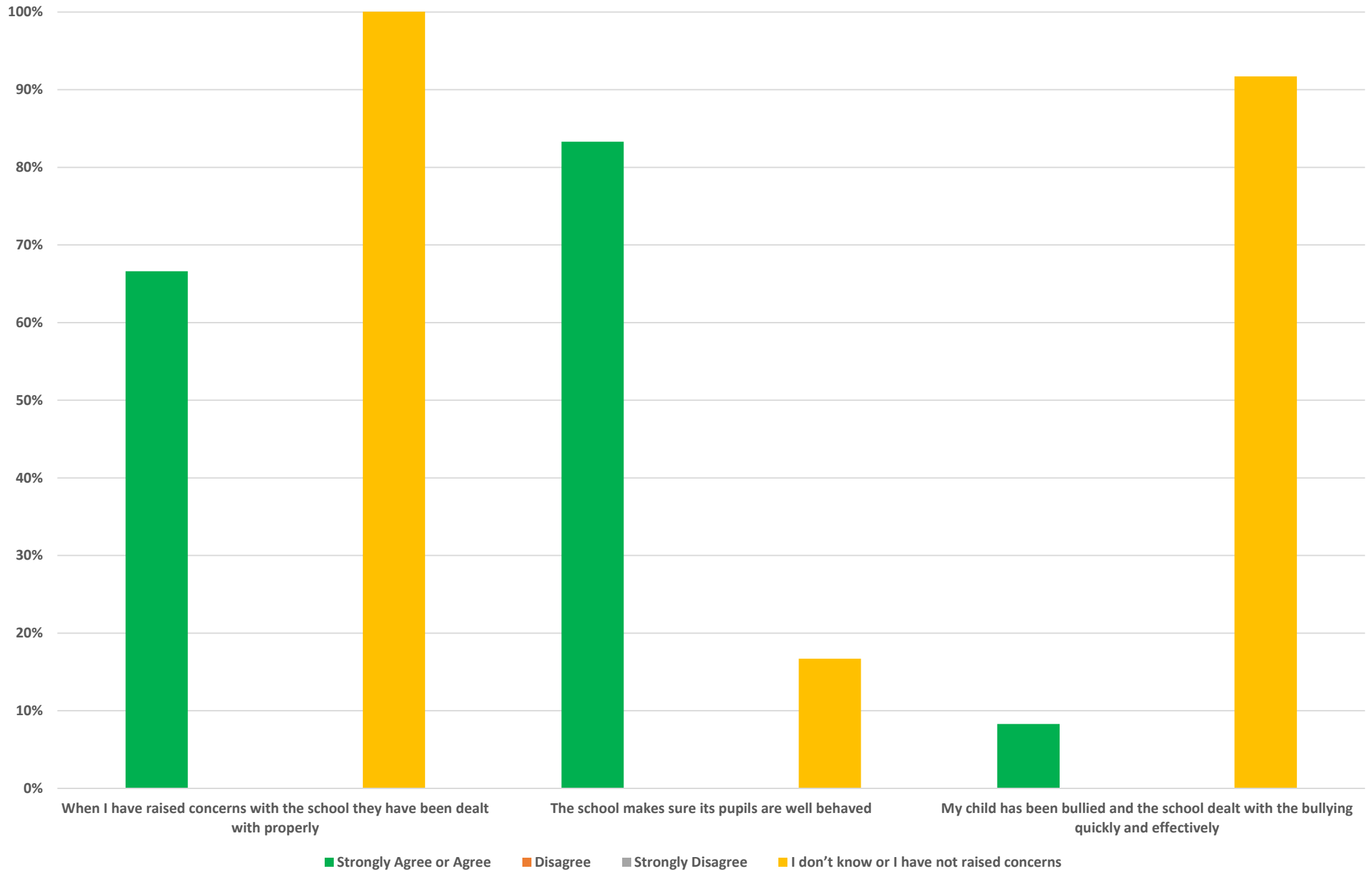
If children do not attend school regularly they may:

- Struggle to keep up with school work. In a busy school day it is difficult for schools to find the extra time to help a child catch up.
- Miss out on the social side of school life. Poor attendance can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships; a vital part of growing up.

Setting good attendance patterns from an early age, from nursery through primary school will also help your child later on in their life. Children who have a poor school attendance record may have less chance of securing a job when they are adults. Being on time is also vital. Arriving late at school can be very disruptive for your child, their teacher and the other children in the class.

Parent View





- Amazing school – we are so lucky!
- We would like to thank the staff for all that they do.
- The school is fantastic, so pleased I moved them here.
- My daughter is very happy at school; she has had lots of opportunities to do activities within the Trust.
- St Mary's is an amazing school where all staff go above and beyond for the kids.
- I could not be happier at St Mary's. The children have thrived since you welcomed them back in September. You have created an absolute gem of a school that nurtures and encourages each individual child to be the best version of themselves.
- I'm the most grateful parent in the world to have you come along and turn it around for us.
- St Mary's is the epitome of the phrase 'the best things come in small packages.' The school may be small, but the level of care, support and encouragement given to children is huge. My children are thriving at St Mary's.

*Thank you for reading
our prospectus!*



Ms Walker

Executive Headteacher

Thank you for taking the time to read our school prospectus. We hope that it has given you a valuable insight into the vibrant life of St Mary's C of E Primary School – our vision, our values and the many ways we support children to thrive both personally and academically.

We are proud of our welcoming atmosphere, our dedicated staff and the high-quality learning experiences we offer all pupils. Our school is a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment where every child is valued and encouraged to achieve their full potential.

This continued success is a reflection of our strong school community and our shared commitment to providing the very best for our pupils.

If you have any questions or you would like to experience our school in action, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We would be delighted to welcome you for a tour.



Contact Details

"We believe, we achieve, we succeed in God's family"

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Thankfulness



Compassion



Truthfulness



Community



Courage



Forgiveness

