

# The Lodge Nursery School PARENT SURVEY December 2016 / January 2017

## Profile of parents who responded

How much experience have you had of The Lodge?

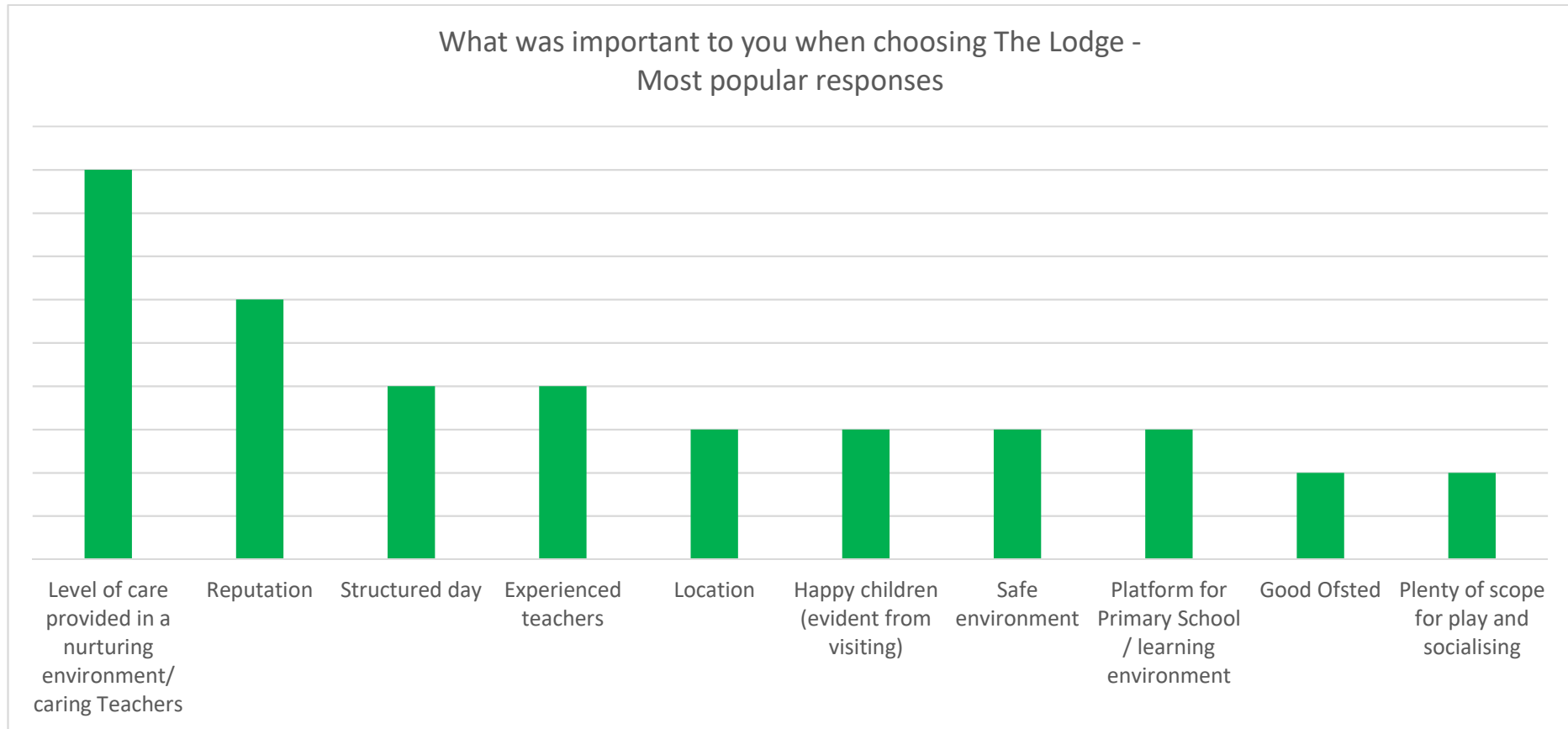


■ First child attending on blue tables

■ First child attending on yellow tables

■ Previous sibling/siblings attended

## When choosing our setting what was most important to you? (open question)

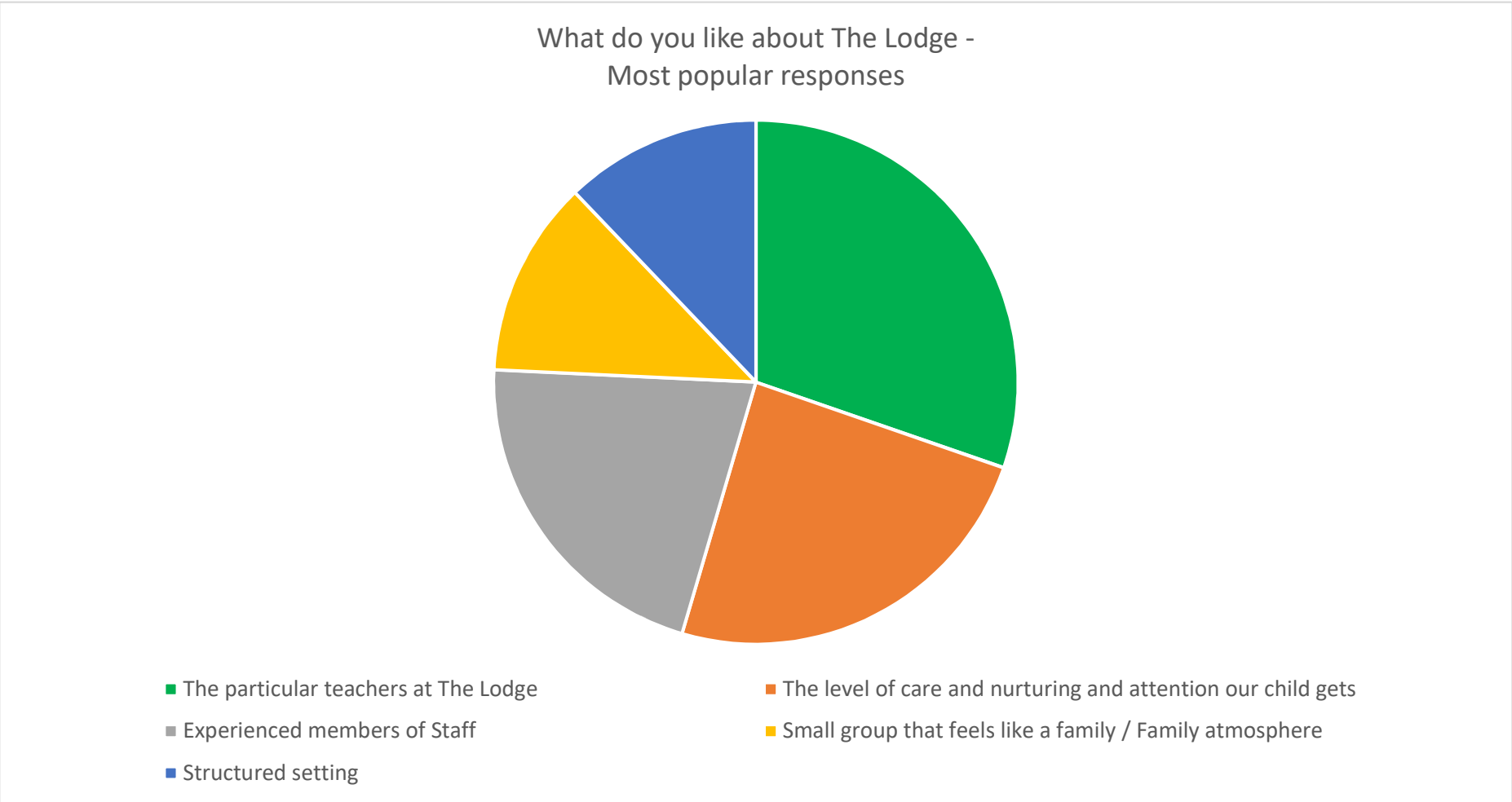


### Other responses:

The level of genuine interest Teachers take in children  
Teacher led-activities  
Ratio of teachers to children  
Well-run

Low turnover of Staff  
Good communication  
Positive feedback from other parents

# What do you like about The Lodge? (open question)

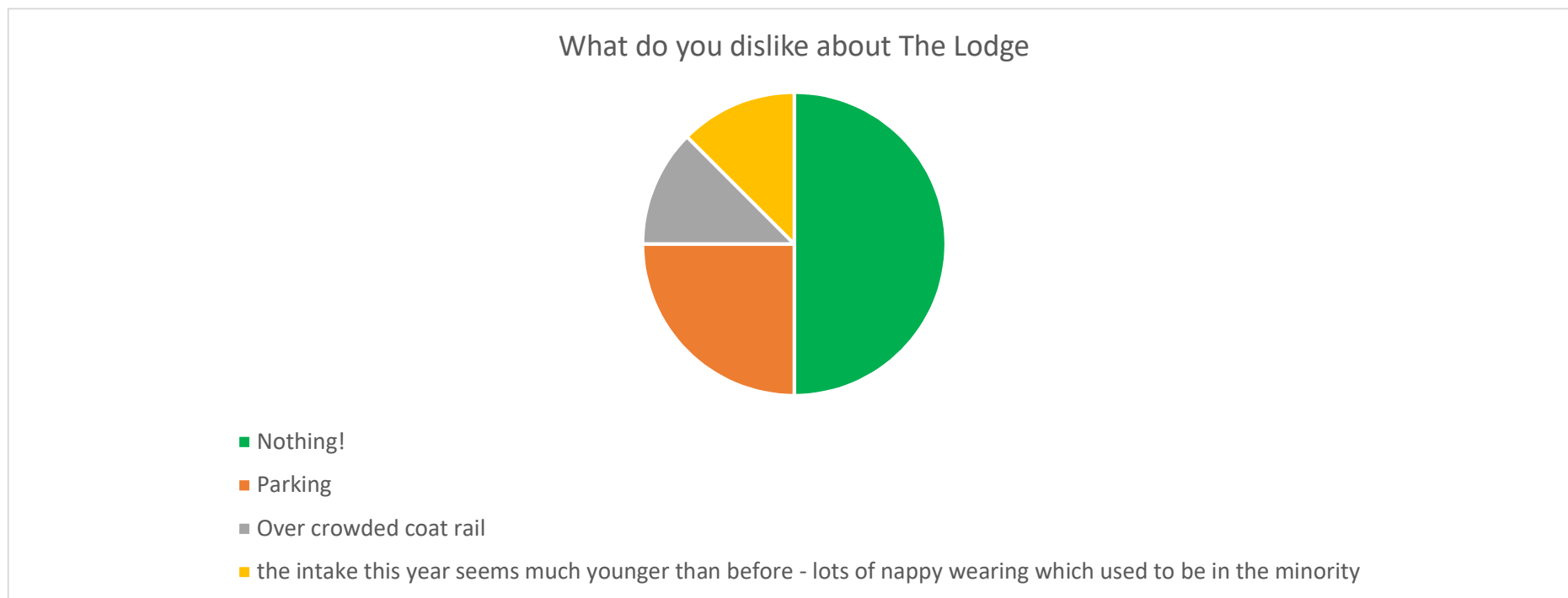


**Other responses:**

All teachers seem to know each child  
Very personal relationship children get with their Key Person  
Traditional preschool with traditional values

Well-run  
Ratio of teachers to children  
Safe

## What do you dislike about The Lodge?



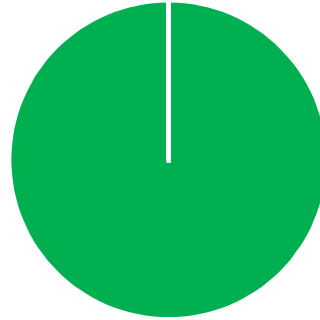
**One parent said** - Occasionally we open the doors late

**One parent said** - The facilities are not purpose built and the outdoor area is a little small

- We are investigating a larger coat rail but this is subject to agreement by the Church Committee as to whether they will allow us a larger one
- noted re the doors and we are making a conscious effort to open them on time
- although the number of children overall is consistent, due to some children giving up their places last minute on the yellow tables, it is my understanding that this necessitated a larger "blue" intake in 2016 than previously, to keep consistent numbers overall and maintain the sustainability of the setting. We aim for a balance between yellow and blue tables year-on-year.
- we consider the outdoor space actually an appropriate size for the number and age of children but we are looking at the way it is

**Based on your experience, would you recommend The Lodge to other parents? (open question)**

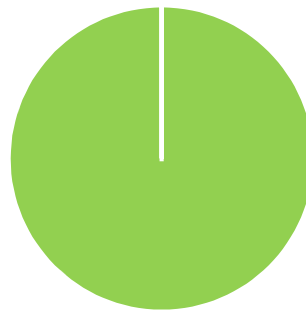
Would you recommend The Lodge to other parents?



■ Yes = 100% ■ No

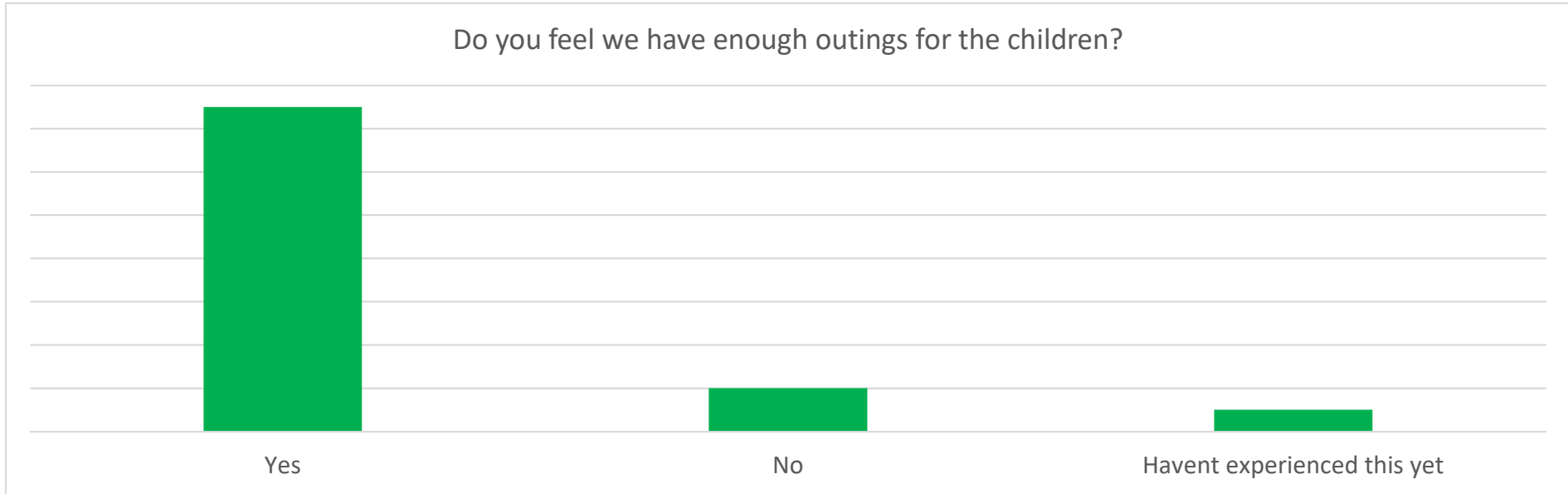
**Do you have any concerns about the way in which we care for your child? (open question)**

Do you have any concerns about the way in which we care for your child?

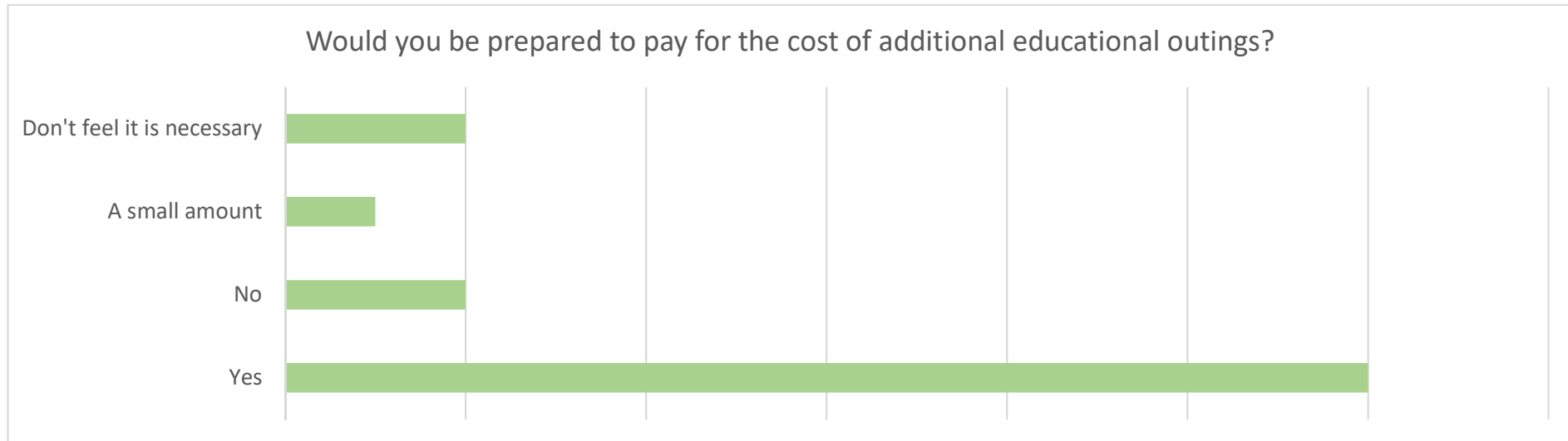


■ Yes ■ No = 100%

### Do you feel we have enough outings for the children?

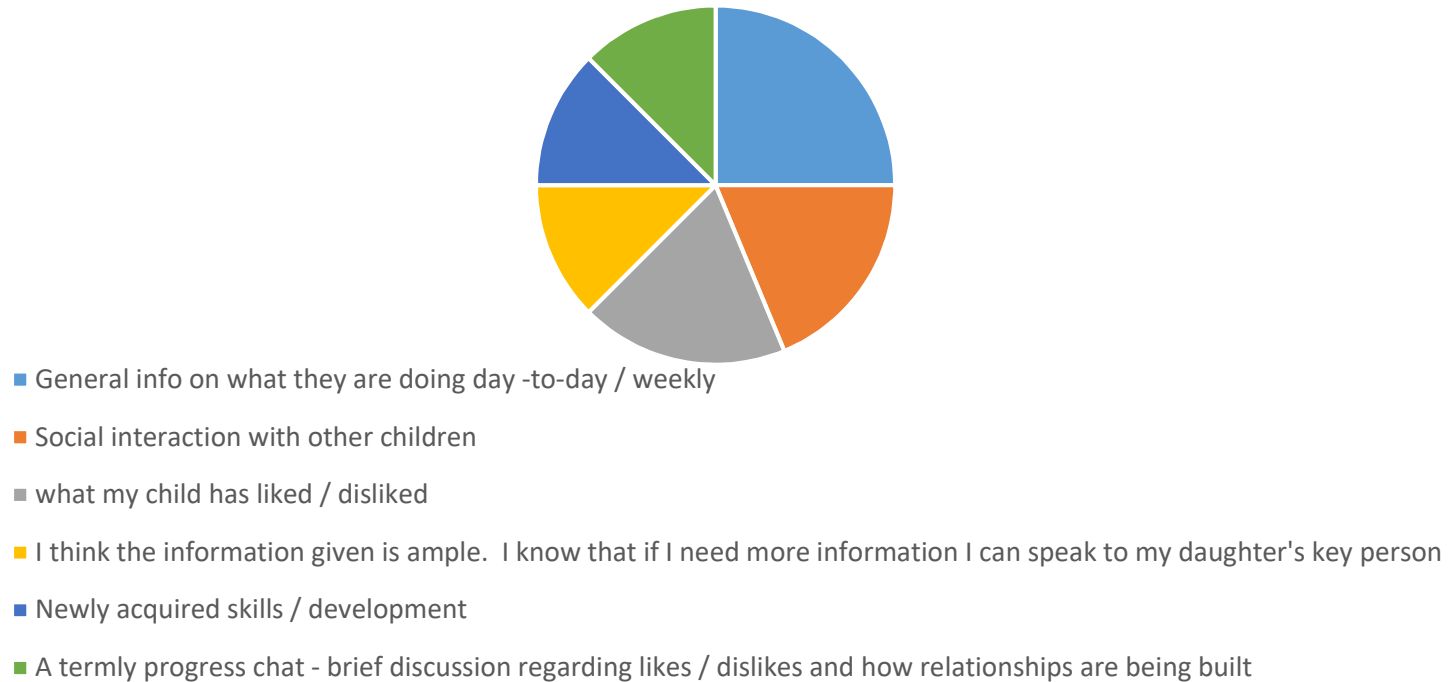


### Would you be prepared to pay for the cost of additional educational outings?



## What information would you like about what your child does at pre-school (open question)?

What information would you like to receive -  
Most popular answers



### Other answers

A rough timetable

All about me book is great - would be nice to see this more often

About behaviour

Level of participation

Annotate children's work with what children say as they are doing them, what is observed etc.

Any changes to usual behaviours

What my child struggles with

More photos

Confidence during different activities

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### What information would you like about what your child does at pre-school - RESPONSE TO FINDINGS:

There is a timetable of our daily routines available on our website and available on request. If this is updated all parents will be notified. We will put a copy on the noticeboard in the foyer as well.

In terms of what children are doing day-to-day, term-to-term, the theme and curriculum for each term is displayed on the Curriculum Board, just inside the hall next to the register table, everyday. This is now also available on our website in the "Parents" section. Each week displayed on the new parents magnetic board is a sheet for the yellow tables and a sheet for the blue tables. This informs parents what the topic of the week is, what letters, numbers and colours we will be focussing on and other topical information. This will now be posted to the Facebook page on every Monday for parents who do not get the opportunity to check the board. We will also post the songs of the week, including words, on our website, so they can be practised at home. **Please all parents ensure you have chosen to "Follow" our page if you want to receive notifications when we post information.** More effort is being made to post photographs of activities on the website and Facebook page. This isn't always possible due to our child protection policies.

It has previously been The Lodge policy to retain children's work and send this home once a term at the end of the term. In response to this survey, we will send children's work home more regularly so it is topical when it is received by parents, gives more insight into the day's activities, and can be discussed with children at home.

We are currently consulting with several providers of e-learning journals. If we decide to move from paper-based observation and assessment methods to a live system, parents would receive more frequent electronic communications regarding their child's progress and activities.

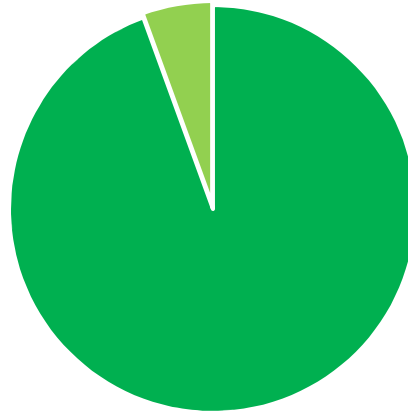
We remind parents that you can make an appointment to discuss your child with their key person at anytime, whether in person or on the phone. We do ask you to make an appointment or ask to see your key person at the end of the session. Your child's key person will always be happy to meet you and discuss your child.

Our key person system and policy on settling children in ensures an appropriately strong bond between key person and child, and that key person's know the children in their care well. This ensures a comprehensive assessment of children's progress, and also enables us to identify any changes in behaviour or development delays. We would also like to take this opportunity to remind all parents that teachers at The Lodge would always discuss with you if we had any concerns at all regarding your child's wellbeing, progress or socialisation.



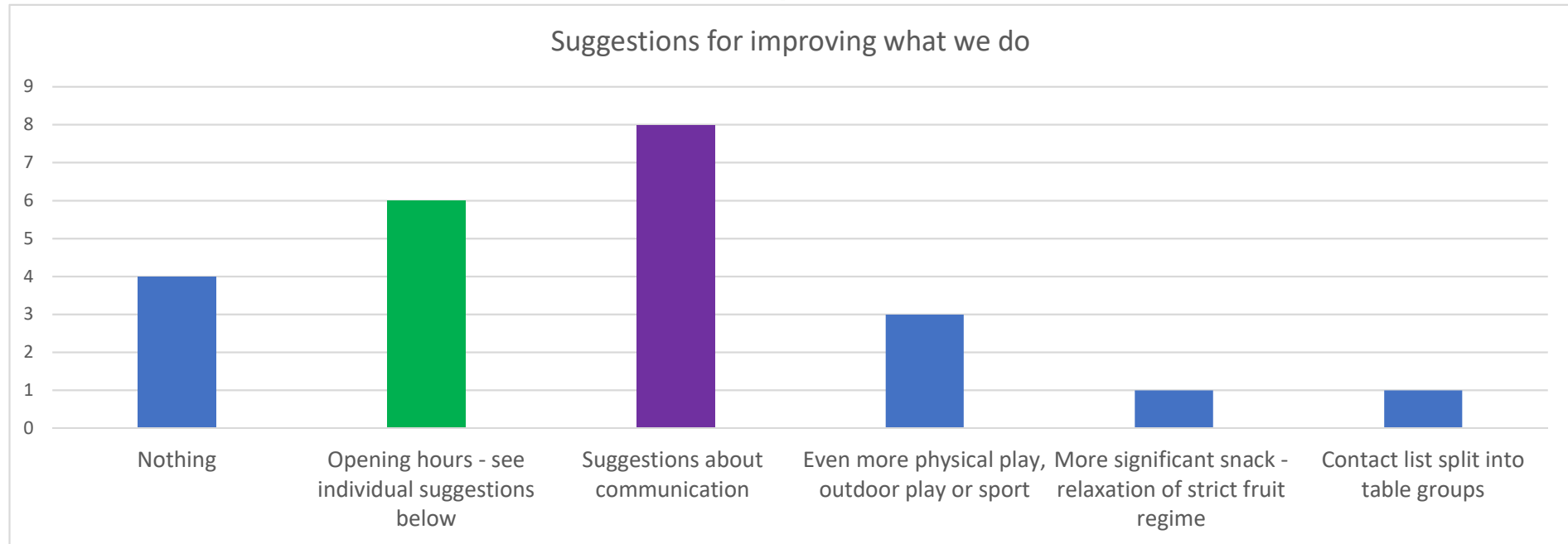
## Are you happy with the routines your child follows and our hours of opening?

Are you happy with the routines our hours of opening?



■ Yes ■ No - hours of opening too short

## How could we improve what we do?



### Specific comments about opening hours:

I would like one or days of the week to be a long day (9am - 3pm). This could be mainly for the Yellow

Two days of lunch club for yellow table children

Lunch club extended until 2pm

### Suggestions about communication:

A half termly newsletter / information about what children have been doing. done. Perhaps a contact book until he is speaking.

Lots of advance notice for trips and special occasions for working parents.

Facebook to keep me in the loop.

Little more engagement with parents at drop-off time.

A folder of numeracy and literacy of the yellow children.

Little more regular feedback on child's progress and what they are up to.

More scheduled chances to speak about child's progress throughout the year.

### How could we improve what we do? - RESPONSE TO FINDINGS:

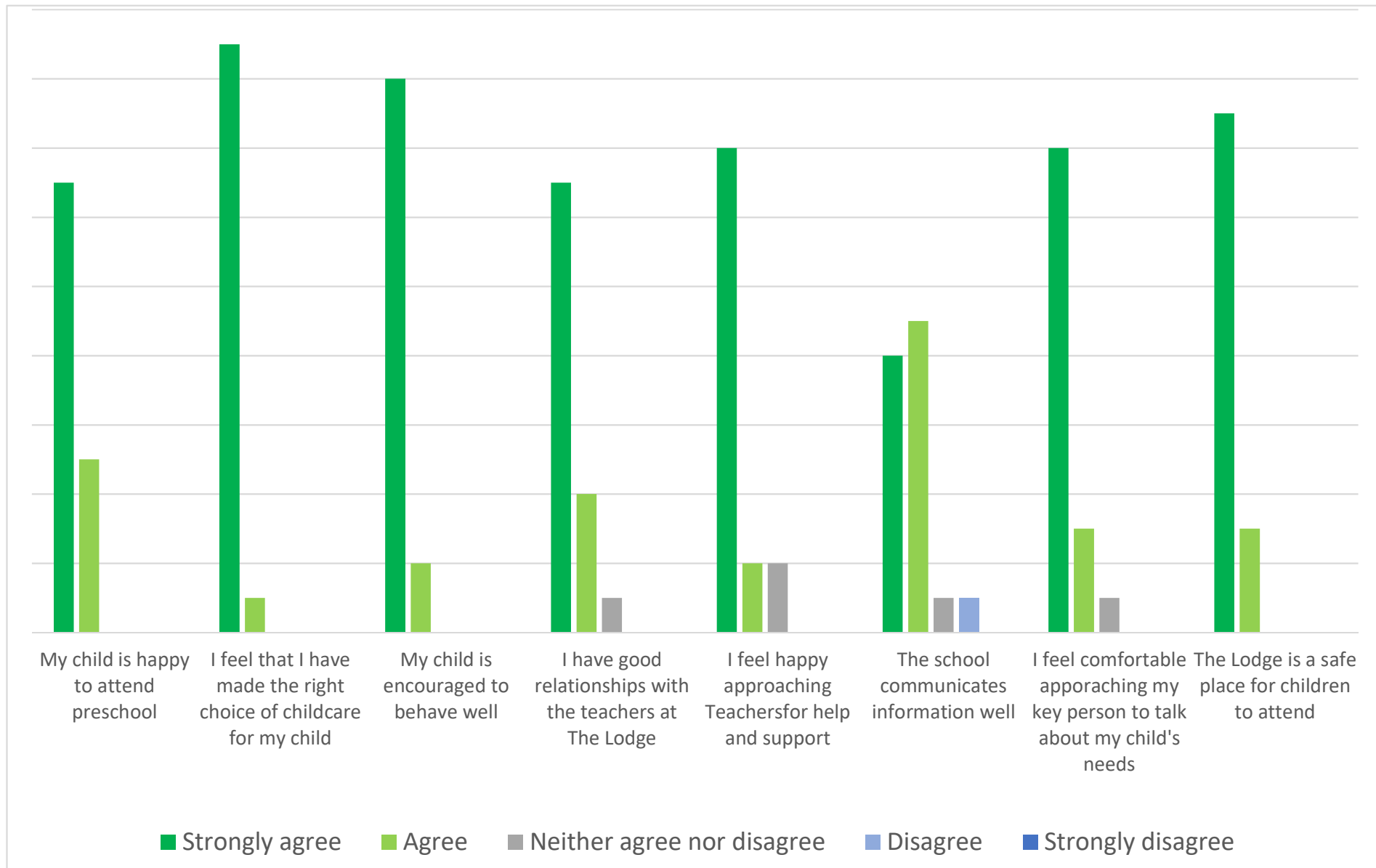
Due to our responsibilities to keep children safe, we have to adhere to a strict drop-off and departure policy. This is why children are released one-at-a-time to parents / carers at the door. This necessitates an efficient hand over as parents are waiting in line to collect their children. However, parents can ask the person on the register if they can step in and speak to their child's key person on any day at collection time.

See our response to communication about children in the previous question, which addresses points raised here. We have noted that the use of the parents notice board isn't meeting the needs of parents who work and are not collecting / dropping off children. As above, we will be making more use of Facebook and the Website to share the same information and telephone conversation with key person can be arranged at any time.

In terms of opening hours, with imminent changes to funding arrangements from the government (for up to 30 hours per week of childcare / education), we are not in a position to make decisions about changing our hours of operation until the impact of these changes is certain.

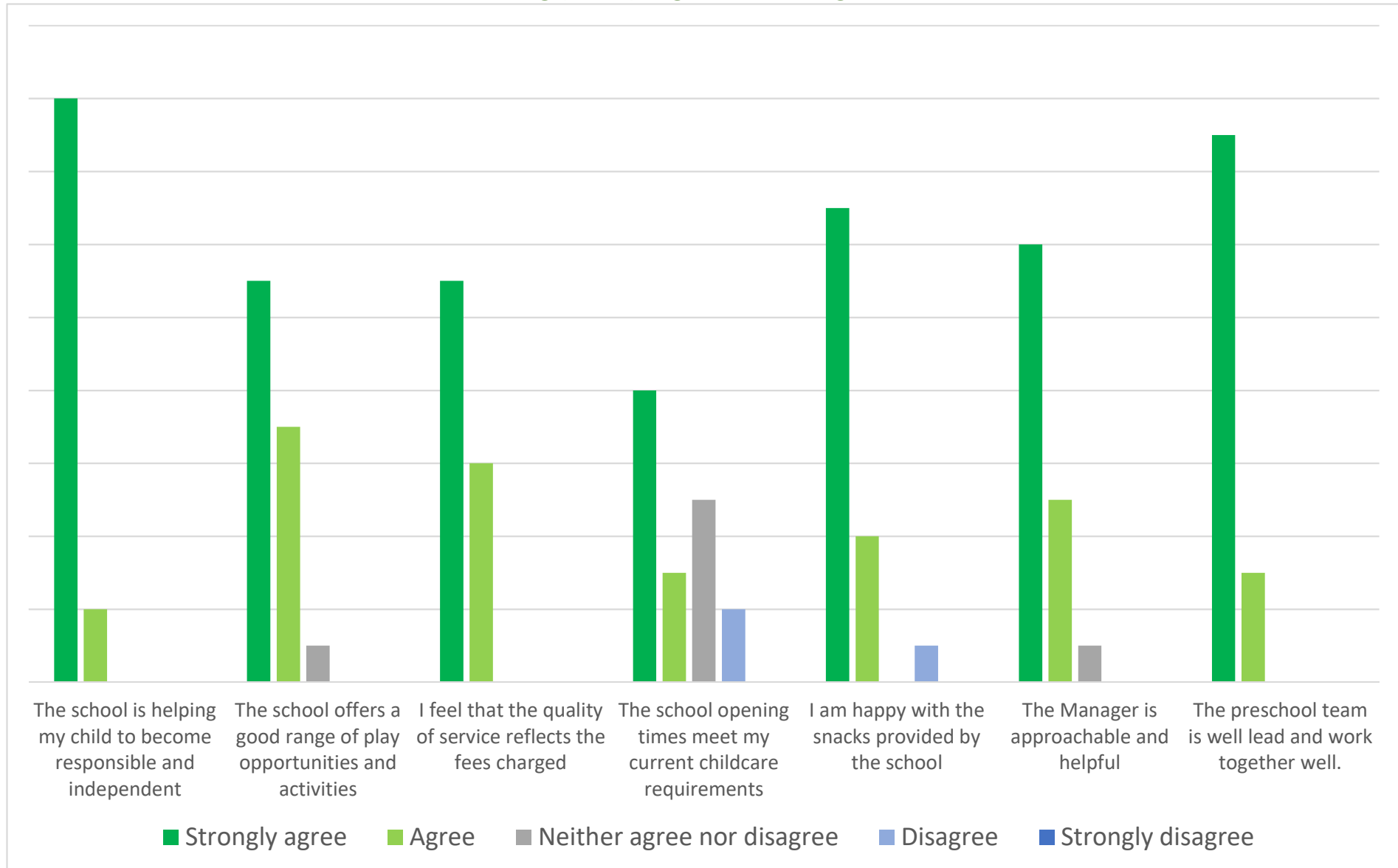
## FEEDBACK RESULTS - Questions 1 - 8

Parents chose how strongly they agreed / disagreed with each statement



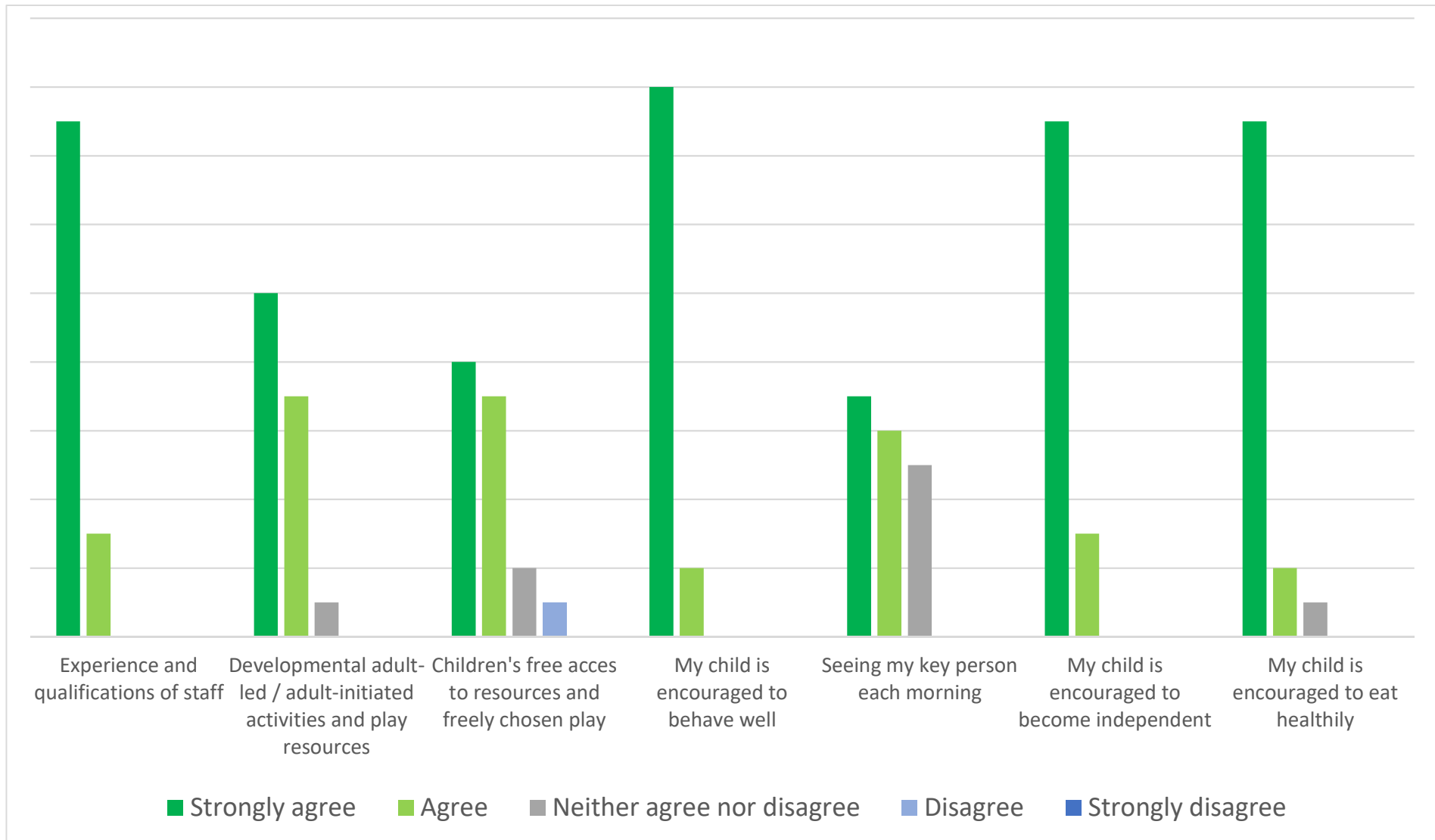
## FEEDBACK RESULTS - Questions 9 - 15

Parents chose how strongly they agreed / disagreed with each statement



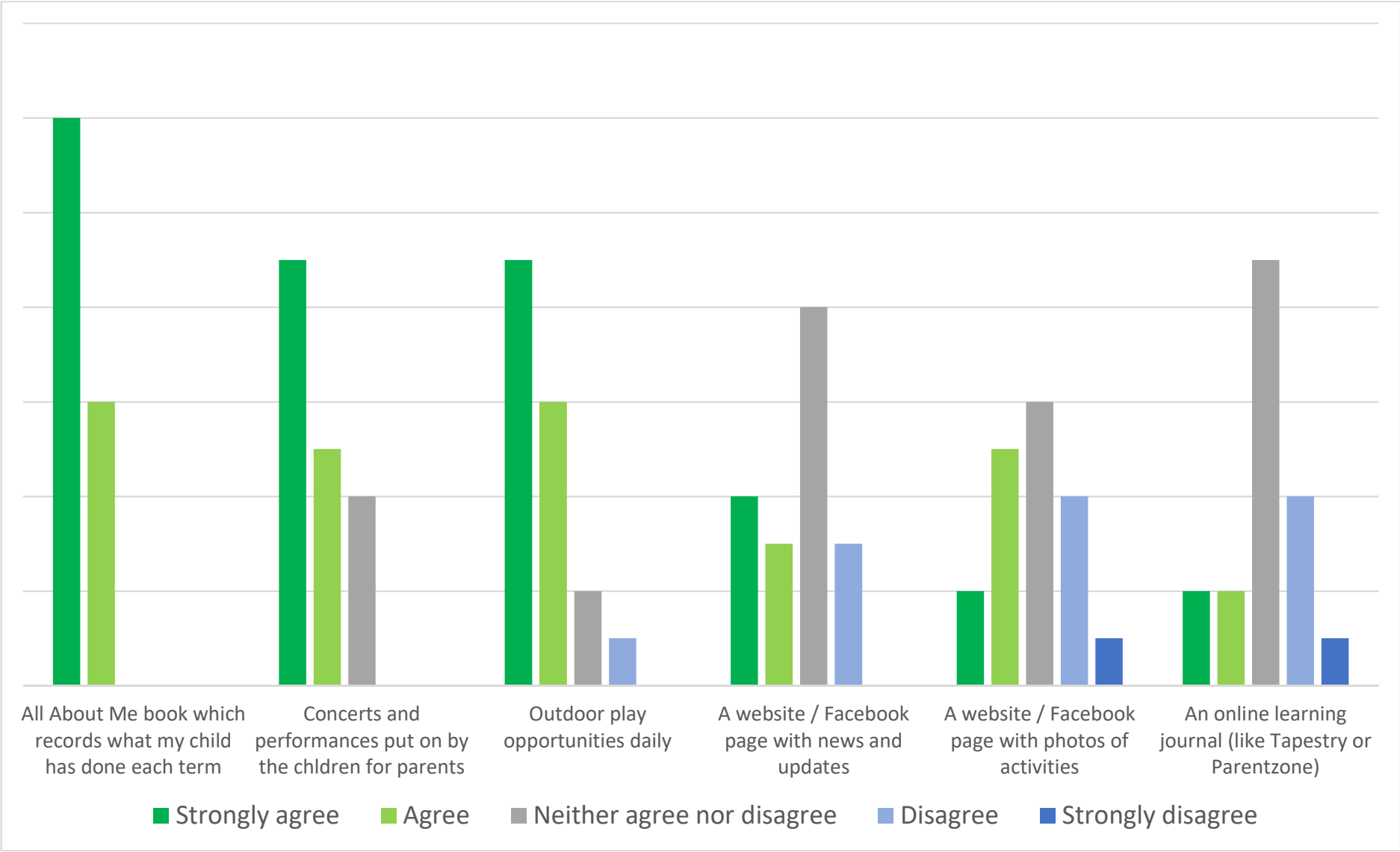
## What was important about the Preschool Setting I choose for my child - Questions 1 - 7

Parents chose how strongly they agreed / disagreed with each statement



# What was important about the Preschool Setting I choose for my child - Questions 8 - 13

Parents chose how strongly they agreed / disagreed with each statement



## Other comments provided

The staff are really lovely and caring. This is very much in contrast to most other settings I have seen / heard about (where staff are often very young, not genuinely very interested in the children, demotivated and don't feel as part of a team, and fluctuation is therefore very high).

The staff at The Lodge are the greatest asset. They are caring, friendly, motivated and extremely good at what they do. I think The Lodge is well run / managed and achieves the desired outcomes

The staff set The Lodge apart from other Nursery Schools I considered. In particular, I like the fact that all staff are Mums and have first hand experience of their own children first and foremost.

I like the 'structured' mornings at The Lodge. When I last looked at preschools this definitely set The Lodge apart from others (that prided themselves on being a very relaxed structure). I am a great believer in routine and think this helps bring out the best in children. Knowing 'what comes next' can never be a bad thing.

I, and my child, like the very personal relationship children get with their keyworker.

We love the loving and nurturing atmosphere of The Lodge.

You're doing a great job! Handover from Mrs Smith was well-managed and things seem to be going very smoothly with the same high standards and friendly atmosphere.

I think the information given is ample. I know that if I need more information I can speak to my daughter's key person.

Makaton has been a great help and increased my child's confidence

We would prefer the hours to be extended.

Term broke up very early for Christmas so long term time would be good.

Half term / holiday childcare option would be good in Sevenoaks.

We love The Lodge the Lodge and my childs love it too!

Personally I see no need for pre-school children to practice writing or learning letters but I know other parents disagree. I would rather see them play imaginatively and do lots of arts and crafts while they still can. Of course, any activities to promote pen control are useful but I guess that can also be achieved through drawing activities.

I would like to see more coffee mornings arranged for parents

I've seen many parents struggle with the front door - it is heavy and quite narrow for push chairs. It can be hard to work out how to open from the inside and some parents really struggle to get it open!