



St. Joseph's RC High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Joseff Sant

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Headteacher/Pennaeth: Mrs J Jarrett BA(Hons) M.A NPQH

May 22nd 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you are safe and well as we enter the tenth week of 'lockdown'. Please accept my best wishes for your continued good health and my condolences to all those of you who have suffered through the illness and death of loved ones, or who have experienced hardship. This virus will leave very few of us unscathed.

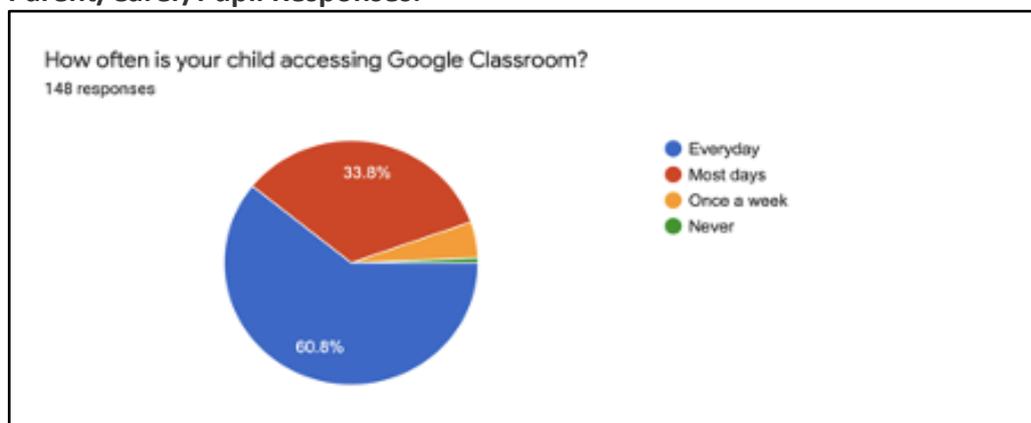
I would like to thank you for the lovely messages of support which you have been sending to either individual members of staff or general ones as we try to provide an effective distance learning programme, and to keep in touch with all our pupils. I miss them all very much, and look forward to the time when it is safe for us to be back learning together.

Distance learning

Thank you to all our families for the support they are providing as part of the delivery of the distance learning. This has proven successful and we know it could not be achieved without your help.

Feedback from parents and pupils to help us do as good a job as possible has always been important. However, because of the unprecedented nature of this situation, it is even more important to us now. Thank you for your emails and recent consultation feedback on how you think we are doing in providing an effective home learning programme for your child.

Parent/Carer/Pupil Responses:



'Serving God Through Learning Together'

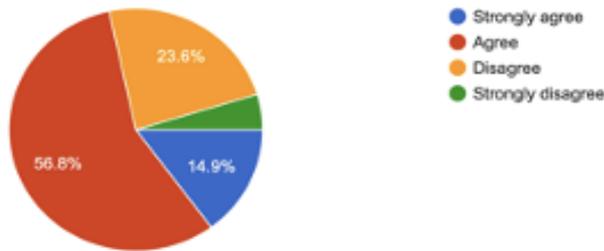
'Yn gwasanaethu Duw trwy ddysgu gyda'n gilydd'

St. Joseph's High School is a Registered Charity. Charity No: 242380

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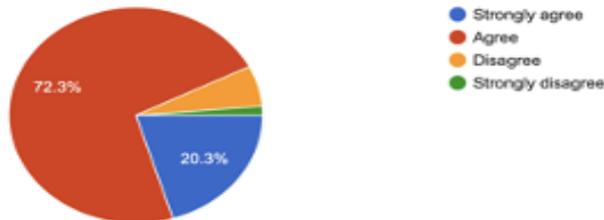
The amount of work being set is appropriate and manageable.

148 responses



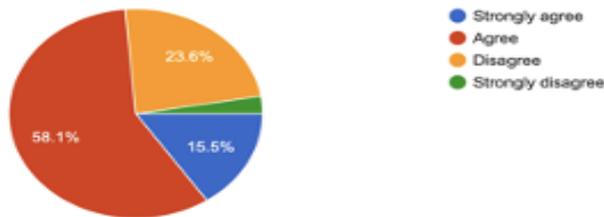
My child is receiving work which is appropriate to his/her needs.

148 responses



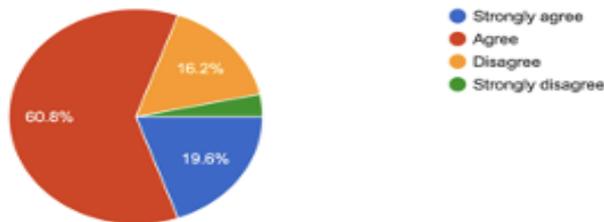
Explanations and instructions are clear and enable my child to complete tasks.

148 responses



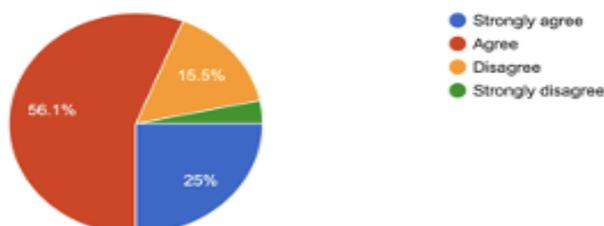
My child is given an appropriate amount of time to complete his/her work.

148 responses



Feedback provided helps my child to move forward with his/her learning.

148 responses

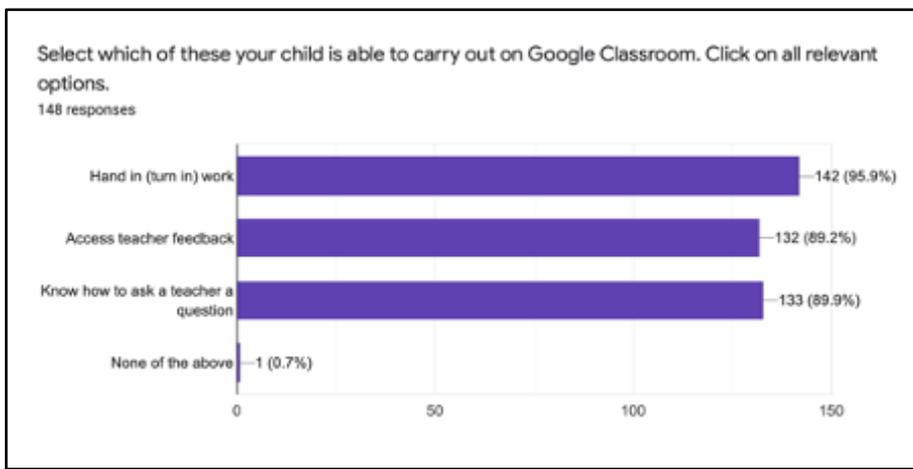


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Actions following your feedback have included:

- All feedback has been shared with staff
- Staff identified as showing good practice are now being given a weekly platform to share what they are doing. This week we focused on how the use of the app Loom can improve the quality of a teacher's explanation and instruction. After half term, we will be concentrating on how we can provide effective feedback and challenge from a distance.
- A [fortnightly learning plan](#) is being sent home and published on our website each Sunday to ensure families can prepare for the following week. We hope this will allow your child to organise their learning and provide greater flexibility.
- We are introducing 'Pupil of the Fortnight' in each subject and a 'Year Group Award' for each year group. On the last Friday of each fortnight, an email will be sent through the School [Gateway app](#) to the nominated pupils as recognition of their continued hard work and resilience.
- At the end of the fortnightly learning plan, we will notify you of your child's engagement with their learning and if necessary, contact you to discuss how we can provide further support and guidance for your child.

Continuing to respond to what you feel works best is very important to us. Therefore, next half term, we will send you and your child another short survey.

Reports

Before the end of the Summer term, we will provide a pupil report for all pupils.

Student Wellbeing

Staff are continuing to maintain regular contact with pupils and parents. Please ensure that if you miss a call or receive an email, that you make every effort to respond. I want to ensure the school has an open and frequent line of communication with all families. If your child needs to talk to someone at school about a serious matter, please contact either Mr Humpage, Assistant Headteacher in charge of wellbeing and safeguarding, ihumpage@sjhs.newport.sch.uk or your child's Head of Year:

Mrs Webster swebster@sjhs.newport.sch.uk

Miss Leyshon eleyshon@sjhs.newport.sch.uk

Mr Carter icarter@sjhs.newport.sch.uk

Mrs Richards yrichards@sjhs.newport.sch.uk

Mr James ojames@sjhs.newport.sch.uk

Mr Ryan jryan@sjhs.newport.sch.uk

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We are increasingly mindful about the impact of these uncertain times on the physical and mental wellbeing of everyone. For many, the lockdown will be incredibly difficult and we already know that some children and their families feel anxious or isolated, for lots of reasons. On the [Health and Wellbeing](#) page of our website, you will find a wide range of links to websites, YouTube channels, apps and twitter feeds to support your child's mental and physical health and wellbeing. This page also has a link to [Talkzone](#) which is a counselling service to support children and young people. At the moment, this service has been extended and hours available are also listed on the Health and Wellbeing page. You can also follow our [SJHSwellbeing](#) Twitter feed for links and information to help keep your mind and body healthy during the lockdown.

Pathways

Thank you for the way you and your child have engaged with the pathways processes this year. Google Classroom has been a very important tool to support pupils with making decisions about their future studies. Pupils in Years 9 and 11, in particular, have been encouraged to use the Pathways Classrooms to find out about the subjects on offer next year and begin to make decisions about what they would like to study.

Year 9

By Wednesday 20th May, Year 9 pupils should have completed and submitted a Google Form with their choices for Key Stage 4 studies. Mr Carter and Mrs Morgan will be reviewing choices and will continue to work with pupils and their families to ensure that the choices made will benefit the pupils' future learning and pathways.

Year 11

Year 11 pupils have completed a Google Form detailing their intended pathways for next year. Last week, all Year 11 pupils should have received a list of useful links to help them explore their future pathways and each fortnight, an updated list will be shared. A Google Classroom devoted to Year 11 Pathways information includes taster lessons for many of the Level 3 courses available in our sixth form. The Classroom also includes information about other learning and employment opportunities which pupils can explore.

Admissions and Transition

We are working closely with the Archdiocese of Cardiff to ensure that our admission appeal hearings are conducted over the next few weeks. We contacted the families affected recently and we will do our utmost to ensure the process is conducted in a transparent and fair manner.

We understand that transition arrangements generally will need to be different this year. To support pupils and families, Mr James, Head of Year 7, is working with a range of staff to create videos to help pupils with this change of phase in their learning. Please see our [website](#) for more details.

Communication

Your main points of contact are:

- Email - **during term time**, please do feel that you can email any member of the school staff. They are working from home and will respond between the hours of 9.00am - 3.20pm. Alternatively, contact us on sjhs@newport.gov.uk
- The school [website](#) - this is constantly updated, and we endeavour to replace any information that is out of date as quickly as possible.
- We have also decided to make a series of short vlogs to answer questions you have raised during our conversations with you and offer some guidance to support you through this new way of living and learning. We will be sharing these with you after half term.

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The week commencing 25th May is our half-term break. It is important that pupils use this time to recharge and to relax. Distance learning will resume 1st June.

I would like to take this opportunity once again to thank you all for your courage and support over the past ten weeks. The community of St Joseph's RC High School has always been unique in its strength and unity, however, in recent times, this is even more evident. It is a privilege to be a part of such an amazing community. If we continue to work together as one school family, supporting each other where necessary, we will get through this period of uncertainty and grow together.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Jarrett
Headteacher

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