

Parent Questionnaire Results – June 2026

Responses 69	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither A/D	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1. My child is/children are happy at this school	45	24				
2. My child feels/children feel safe at this school	44	23	1			1
3. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	30	31	7			1
4. Has your child/Have any of your children been bullied at this school?	Yes	2	Don't Know	21	No	46
5. If Yes - When the bullying took place, the school dealt with it quickly and effectively	Yes	5			No	1
I ticked don't know to question 4, and then was forced to answer Q5 with a yes or no... no was the only option that gave me a free text box to say that I can't answer Q5 as don't know if he's been bullied ever!						
6. The school gives my child the support they need to succeed	Yes	67	Don't Know	2	No	
7. The school communicates well with me about the things I need to know.	21	23	4	1		
8. When I have raised concerns with the school, they have been dealt with properly.	31	26	3	1		Have not raised 8
9. When the school makes decisions, it has the child's best interests at heart.	39	27	2	1		
10. The school gives my child/children the right support to enable them to learn well.	40	27	2			
11. Would you recommend this school to another parent?	49	17	2			1

Any explanations to explain answers:

- I actually don't recommend the school - just because it's bursting at the seams!! But in principle I strongly agree to Q11.
- One of a kind school. Go above and beyond for all children and their families.
- keep the good work
- This school goes above and beyond. Their teaching and resources are helping my child Excel in lots of subjects and could not be any prouder. I have recommended this school to others and the support is so good not just for my child but for us at home too.
- Would like to see better class allocations and more extra-curricular activities, trips, outside the classroom learning opportunities, life skills.
- A wonderful school, with amazing staff who always put the needs of the children at the centre of everything they do.
- At times I do not believe I have enough information about my child's progress particularly given the differences in behaviour between school and home.
- I love the support they give both parents and children

- Communication from the school on a daily basis is excellent. The support provided is proactive and never a chore.
- My son is thriving at school. He feels happy and safe and has been supported to develop. All staff we have met are kind and caring. There is strong leadership and senior staff are accessible to parents.
- Couldn't ask for better. Honestly has been such a difference in my child.
- Poor communication in general and inconsistencies depending on who you speak with.
- I have nothing but great things to say about this school. My son absolutely loves being there. And the sense of reassurance it gives me as a parent knowing my child is safe and enjoys it is amazing. I have seen great changes in him and they always offer so much support and guidance.
- It is an amazing school that cares for, nurture and has every child's best interests at heart
- Regarding bullying I wouldn't know as my child is non-verbal but do rely on teacher's transparent communication if I observe anything.
- I said neither agree nor disagree about the school making sure children are well behaved. The truth is you can't but also shouldn't. Most of our kids can't conform but you are all so brilliant at managing challenging behaviours. I'm envious of the capability that seems so natural and unforced.
- My son has only been at shepherds down a few months, but he seems very happy, and is reaching a lot of milestones
- Fantastic school- you can tell all the children are the heart of what they do!

Things the school does well – mentioned more than 5 times:

- Communication with parents/ open lines of communication/good relationships with parents
- Family focus/Supports/advises parents
- Recognising and supporting children's needs/treats child as an individual/ has my child's best interest at heart
- Varied activities/outdoor activities
- Support with behaviour
- Kindness and Understanding/ Patience/empathy
- Makes my child happy/keeps them safe – my child comes home regulated every day
- Fantastic staff – caring/have good understanding of children/patience – go above and beyond

Things the school could do better – mentioned more than 3 times:

- More detailed Communication
- More photos of children
- More trips/clubs/extracurricular activities/community events
- More parent activities/opportunities for parents to come into school
- Breakfast clubs/after school activities/ wrap around care/holiday club
- Car park/traffic flow
- Help with toilet training and ideas to how to help children/ replicate learning at home

What have you noticed improving over the year – mentioned more than 3 times:

- Individual improvements of child – “can talk now”, improvement in mobility
- Car park supervision and traffic flow/additional parking spaces
- Parent coffee mornings and training/making resources
- The expansion
- Communication – newsletter/EFL

Any other comments:

- You are all amazing. thank you all for everything to help me and my child
- I'm very happy with the school overall and particularly the class staff, nursing team and support staff that help care for my daughter. Every single person has genuine care for my daughter and her wellbeing and i love talking to the class team about things she has done as they talk with such happiness and pride at the things she does and her achievements. Thank you all for everything you do.
- Thank for the support and understanding on our child's needs.
- Keep smiling
- When my child goes to school i know she is well cared for and have no concerns, which is great for me and my child. The staff are all brilliant and my child is so happy there.
- Fab school
- Would like to see more opportunities for children and alternative learning.
- Thank you for supporting our children
- Thank you all for the amazing support you provide to our children - it's so reassuring to know they are being well cared for.
- My child loves Shepherds Down school and I am endlessly grateful for the fact that they are at this school.
- Staffing has been of concern this year with multiple changes of staff and lack of continuity of care on occasions. Excellent support from the Nursing Team
- I am very thankful of Shepherds Down school and to every teacher and staff that's made a huge impact on my child's learning and development
- An amazing school
- We would like to thank all the staff for their hard work, care and dedication. We know that supporting children with complex needs is not always easy, and we appreciate the effort that goes into helping every child reach their potential. Our son enjoys attending school, and we are grateful for the support he receives from the whole team.
- We are so grateful for this school and all staff. Knowing my son is safe and happy is the very most I can ask for and this is clear to us. Appreciate the partnership/ working with outside services (New Leaf for example)
- We recommend the school 100%.
- Would just like to thank his teachers for everything they have done to help teach and support my son. Thank you for making his school is a safe fun place he wants to be at
- Couldn't have asked for a better school for my son to attend and my son is blossoming every day for the help and regulation he is offered
- Shepherds Down is the best thing that happened to our family while we were blown up by my child's condition. However, the home school communication book could be improved by providing more details on the what kind of activities, soft play session etc are used to give parents better understanding of the goals.
- Many thanks to everyone in her class team for making my little lady feel safe and loved. You all feature in our bedtime stories and teeth-brushing songs. This is how my child shows her love.
- Incredible school with lovely and passionate teachers. My child loves coming here everyday and I feel like my child's is fully accepted, support and valued :)