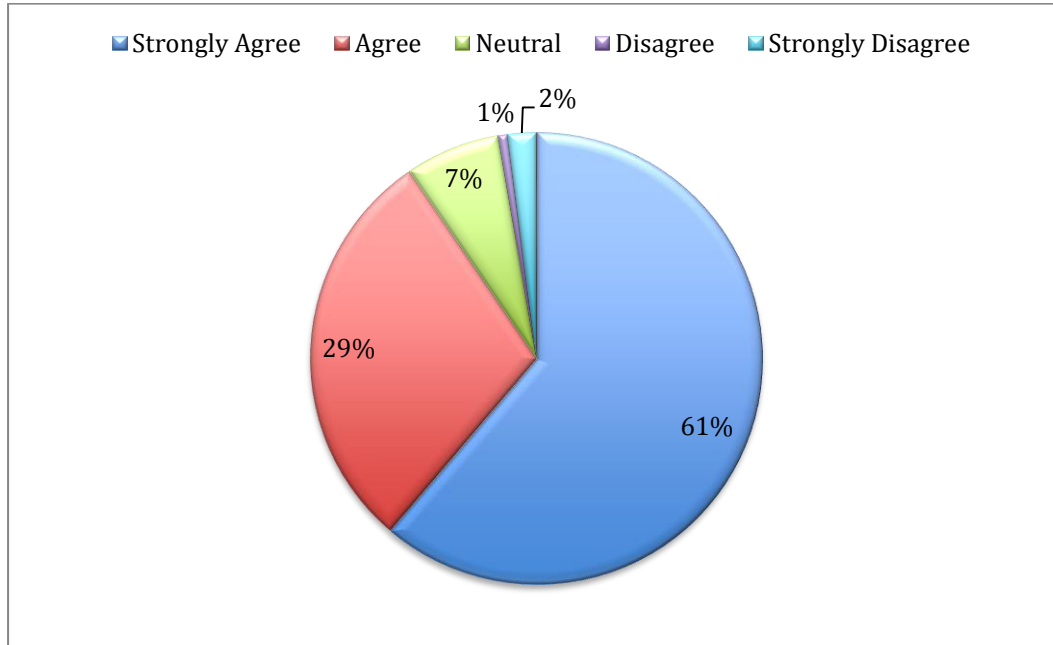


## North School Parent Survey Results

### Question 1 - My child is happy at North School



There was an overwhelmingly positive response from parents that their child is indeed happy at North with **90.5%** of you agreeing or strongly agreeing with the question. Some comments included:

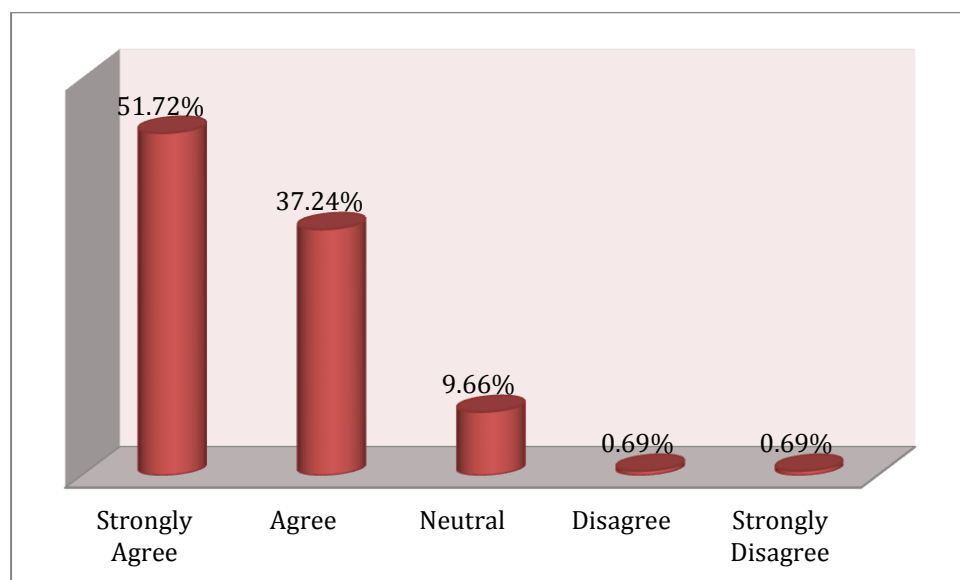
“My child really enjoys the School Day, and always has plenty to say about what's he's been doing. We really like and support the way that he and his fellow Pupils are rewarded too.”

“We have been so impressed by North, on both academic and pastoral sides. We feel that our two children have been understood in the individuality and with their particular strengths and weaknesses, and enabled to grow and flourish for who they are - in short, genuinely cared for. This has been one of the rare experiences in life in which an institution far exceeds one's expectations! “

### **Question 2 - Do you feel the teacher gives you information so that you can make judgments about your child's progress?**

For this question we asked you to use a sliding scale between 0 – 100 to indicate your satisfaction level. There were 145 responses to this question over all with an average score of **76 out of 100**.

### Question 3 - I feel sufficiently informed about school life



Again this was another very strong endorsement of the mechanisms in place to inform you about school life as well as the frequency of engagement. A total of **89%** of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing. This result is further evidenced in Question 4 below with many people finding Newsline and particularly ParentMail very useful. Tapestry was called out by many of you as a tool that gives you regular insights into your child's activities. Comments and suggestions included:

"I have a child in reception and find tapestry fantastic for informing me of school life. The class dojo app is great for the juniors although maybe not with the same detail as tapestry."

"The weekly "what we have been learning this week" sheets that the children bring home are invaluable. Outside of lessons i.e. the wider school community/NSA etc. I do not feel particularly included/informed - information seems sporadic and ad hoc."

"Communications are a real strength. Newsline is regular and an essential way to keep up to date with what's happening. The only gap I would flag is about school clubs and extra activities such as athletics competitions. We get very little notice about the latter and often only hear about clubs if the children specifically express an interest at school (which they might miss or not realise it's something they might want to try!). It would be better to have them all publicised on the website with regular updates about dates etc."

"However some things are 'assumed' that parents know of things such as what to do on bonnet parade and penny mile. Unless you have had a child go through the school system all you get is the name of the day and a date then left to decide what it is/We need to do! School life in general but not about my

child's school life- Tapestry was an amazing tool for communication and then it stops.”

#### **Question 4 - How useful do you find the methods the school currently uses to communicate?**

Of the 5 methods of communication North currently use it was clear from the results that you all value ParentMail (**70% very useful**) and Newslines (**56% very useful**). These are closely followed by the Teachers weekly newsletters (**51% very useful**) and Teacher conversations (**49% very useful**). We noted that only **21%** of respondents found that the website was a very useful method of communication. This is not as negative as it might sound, as all the other communication methods are pushing time critical information about your children where as the website is a great resource for you to get information about school term times, school policy and contact information.

#### **Question 5 - Do you understand how Visible Learning is helping your child learn?**

This has been an area that the Governors have been monitoring closely over the past 2 years and we were keen to know if parents understood what it was all about. Many of you attended the Visible Learning teaching session towards the end of 2018, and you may have noticed more information going out in Newslines too.

From your survey responses and comments to this question it seems that there is still some work for us to do in informing parents about what Visible Learning is and how it is helping to educate your child. **95 out of 145** either gets Visible Learning (**41%**) or even better has regular conversations with your child about visible learning (**25%**). However **27** respondents (**18%**) didn't feel that they knew what Visible Learning is and **23** people (**16%**) knew what it was but weren't too sure how it is helping their child. Your comments were particularly helpful in informing of where we can improve and do even more:

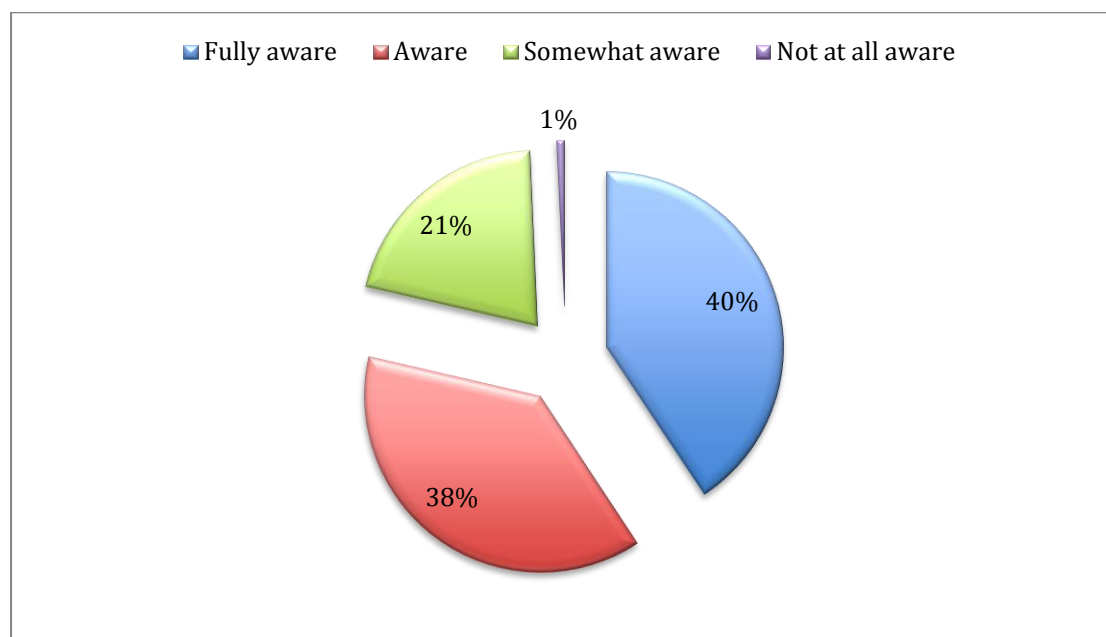
“My child hasn't actually told me much about visible learning however, I think that is because he doesn't relay information in general. I think it's brilliant that the school are looking to ways to help children get the most from school. It's also great that the visible learning meeting had been held to inform us parents.”

“My children has always used the language of visible learning "collaboration", "reflective" etc. however, it wasn't until I attended the visible learning seminar that I really understood the goals of visible learning. What a great investment the school have made here (although I have spoken to some parents who don't seem to think that this will have cost the school anything?) - I just wish that I had known this earlier and also that the information was more available to people who work who cannot make mid afternoon sessions at school.”

The governing body is keen to continue to push for more communication about the benefits of Visible Learning.

One thing we will do immediately in response to your comments will be to put the powerpoint presentation from Helen Blanchard's talk on Visible Learning. We'll put this on the parent page of the website - <http://northschool.org.uk/parents/>

**Question 6 - Are you aware of how current financial pressures might affect our school?**

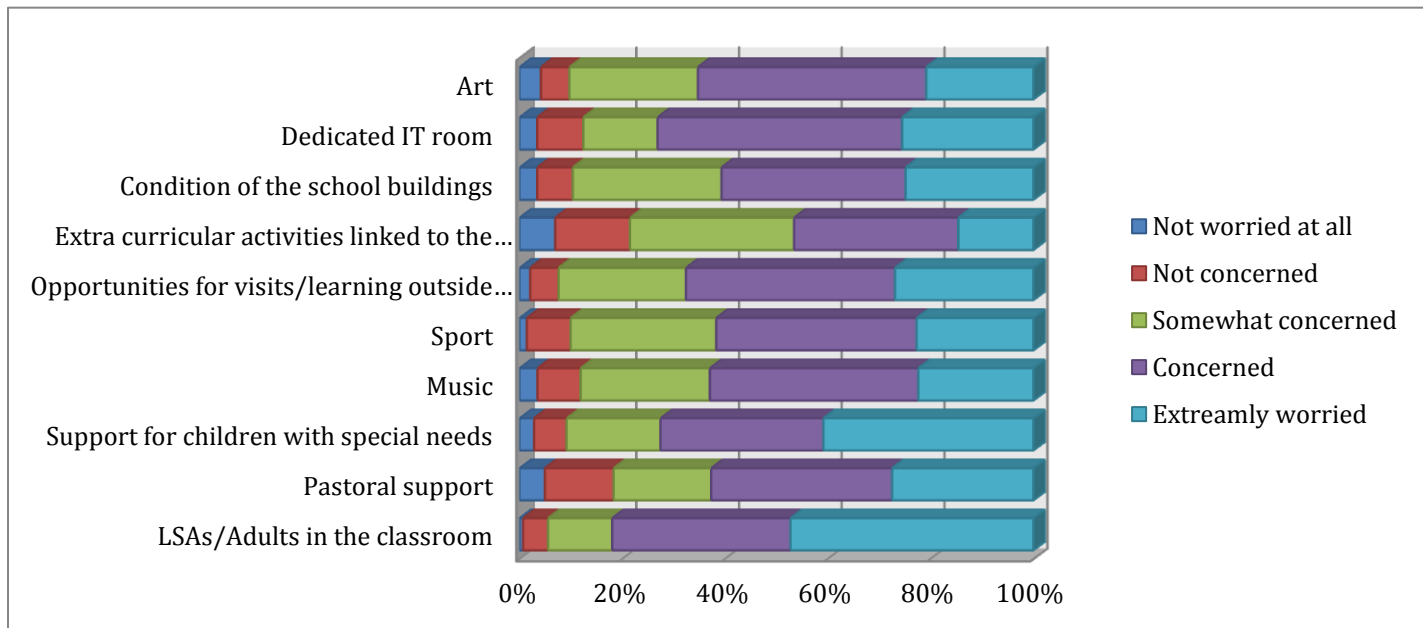


The majority of you are aware of the funding cuts from Newsline and Mr. Garnett's letter last September. For the **21%** who were either 'somewhat aware' or 'not at all aware', please find a link to a copy of the letter here on the website:

<http://northschool.org.uk/news/school-budgets-letter-to-parents-september-2018/>

Looking through the comments to this question, many of you are asking for more regular updates and encouragingly, what you can do to help. A few immediate ideas by way of a response could include: Adding the school's charity (Free For All) as your chosen charity on Amazon should only take a minute and every little helps; Attending all the NSA fundraising events and buying toys, raffle tickets; tables for bingo/quiz nights, etc. All of these initiatives generate money that goes directly back into the school to help the pupils.

**Question 7 - What are you most worried about losing under any future financial cuts?**



The results above show a general high level of concern about any cut to school resources or activities. By far though, the things that worry you all the most are cuts to our amazing LSA support and other adults in the classroom directly assisting with your child's education followed by support for children with special needs.

### Question 8 - Is the school ethos/philosophy (how we do things at North) an important factor in your child's education?

We were so happy to read that so many of you (74%) understand and appreciate the ethos of the school. However, around 26% of you weren't quite sure what it was all about... in short North Primary is a town-centre school with a strong community ethos. Please read more about the schools vision and values on the website - <http://northschool.org.uk/about/>

We received some great comments to this question, one of which read:

*"I really like North's school ethos and the whole school has a lovely community feel to it. I do worry about the cuts affecting this and feel they will especially if the LSAs and adults are cut back. Maybe parents do need to contribute more to activities and not rely on free for all always. I appreciate there are some parents who would struggle with this though. Pastoral support, after school activities, the before and after school clubs are all so important to the ethos of the school and would hate for these to be affected."*

### Question 9 - How do you judge the behaviour of pupils at North school?

This question asked you to provide a judgement on behaviour on a sliding scale between 0 – 100. 145 of responded and nearly all of you with a very positive score , 11,280 was the total score delivered. When you divide that score by the number of respondents the average score came out at 78. This

chimes with similar questions posed by Ofsted with most of you judging the behaviour of our children at North as exceptional. This is not surprising, rather it reinforces something we all see everyday.

This is a fantastic score; in part because if behaviour does fall below the expected standard, staff deal with the incident very quickly and with appropriate sanctions. This is only possible through staff vigilance and children seeking help as soon as they need it. If you do feel incidents of poor behaviour have not been dealt with we are happy to listen to your concerns. Look on our website to refer to the Behaviour Policy and the Complaints Policy -<http://northschool.org.uk/policies/>

### **Question 10 - Does your child have a cooked school meal?**

Regarding your views on school dinners, the majority (**84%**) of you 'always' (**49%**) or 'sometimes' (**35%**) arrange for your children to have school dinners, compared with rarely (**8.2%**) and never (**7.6%**). Taking school dinners is a great way to support the school. Interestingly this question generated 19 comments, nearly all regarding fussy eaters and the types of food on the menu as well as choice, which we will share with the kitchen staff to see if there can be some improvements.

### **So what are we going to do next?**

There are a number of action and learning points from this parent survey and we will be monitoring what we do and reporting back to you in 6 months time so you can see what difference your voice really makes. Below are three key areas we have identified and as a school, intend to work on.

You said, we've heard:

1. Increased communication regarding visible learning and how you can be involved.
2. Increased communication on school funding cuts
3. More advice and guidance regarding how you can help the school to ease financial pressures.