



WALTON HIGH

Leading Learning

Walnut Tree Campus: Fyfield Barrow Milton Keynes MK7 7WH

Brooklands Campus: Fen Street Milton Keynes MK10 7HE

Tel: 01908 677954

www.waltonhigh.org.uk



Executive Principal: Michelle Currie
Principal: Sharon Alexander

Chair of Governors: Renu Elston
Business Manager: Sukh Singh

15 July 2020

Dear Parents

Covid-19: Update 17

Welcoming back all students survey

Many thanks to so many of you who have completed the online survey. Parents representing nearly 1,000 students have given their feedback, which is helping to shape the way we move forward together.

[Annex A](#) gives an overview of responses; answers to the general questions parents asked can be found in the Q & A document that accompanies this letter. This has been updated from the one sent to parents on 10 July - for ease of reference, the new questions are at the beginning and in green. If a parent raised a query or concern that was specific to their circumstances, and was not addressed in the Q&A document, the most appropriate person for dealing with this will be in contact to discuss.

The survey is open until 12:00 on Friday, 17 July, so there is still time to give your views if you have not already done so (<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/P2F2TMZ>).

Sometimes comments made in response to questions revealed a misunderstanding so I have tried to clarify things below.

Coming to and from school by public bus in September

Students may still travel by public bus but must follow all the protocols the travel company has in place. Parents need to be aware that, if the current social distancing measures are still in place in September, there will be fewer seats available on each bus. This may mean that students are unable to get on their usual bus so may have to wait longer for one to arrive with space. This needs to be taken into account, as students will still be expected to arrive in good time to be in their classroom for the start of the first lesson.

Minibus service

We have had an excellent response from parents interested in becoming minibus drivers and the Human Resources team will be in contact with everyone in due course about the next stage of the process.

Over 100 additional parents have indicated that they are interested in using the minibus service for their child(ren) and we are currently exploring ways of accommodating as students many as possible. Should demand outstrip the number of places available, we will have to prioritise those who can be accommodated on viable routes who may otherwise have to get more than one public bus to get to school.

Dropping students off early

In the morning, we can only supervise a limited number of Year 10 and Year 11 students who arrive with their younger siblings. Places will be allocated to those students who live too far away from the school to be able to walk or cycle to school. We will let parents know by the beginning of next term whether we can accommodate their request.

Parents may find the map of the Redways and footpaths map of Milton Keynes (https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/assets/attach/51668/MK_Redway_Poster_PRINT_NOcrops.pdf) useful in planning a safe route

to school. Walking or cycling to school rather than being dropped off by car would also benefit students' physical health.

Face coverings

Update 16 set out the protocol for wearing face coverings. Unless Government guidance changes between now and September, the wearing of face coverings in school will continue to be optional.

Other than requiring their use on the minibus, the protocol was not about whether students should or should not wear face coverings but sets out how these should be worn and the hygiene measures they **must** take should they choose to use them. This very helpful short video explains how to use properly a face covering <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/embed/p08g63wm/53381000>. Students not complying with the protocol are potentially putting others and themselves at risk and therefore may have permission to wear them revoked if, after further guidance, they continue not to use them properly.

Grouping students

As explained in Update-16, in grouping students we have tried to limit the number of close contacts any one student has whilst on campus. This is to avoid the need to send home a large number of students to self-isolate for 14 days should someone in the school test positive. In this way, we hope to limit the chance of further disruption to students' education. However, we will keep the composition of groups and the seating arrangements under review to ensure they are not counter-productive to students' education and/or wellbeing.

And finally . . .

During this pandemic, politicians have often used military metaphors, so to continue that theme, Dwight D Eisenhower once said *"In preparing for battle, I have always found that plans are useless but planning is indispensable."*

Whilst we are confident the plans we have put in place are robust and based on our experience of working in schools for many years, we would have liked the opportunity to welcome students back in gradually increasing numbers in the summer term so we could evaluate and make any adjustments needed before September. Unfortunately, due to Government restrictions, we have not been afforded this opportunity.

We therefore ask for parents' understanding in September as we all adjust to the new way of working. Undoubtedly, some things will work better in theory than in practice but we will continue to make adjustments in light of feedback from students, staff and parents as we continue to work together in the best interests of our children and young people.

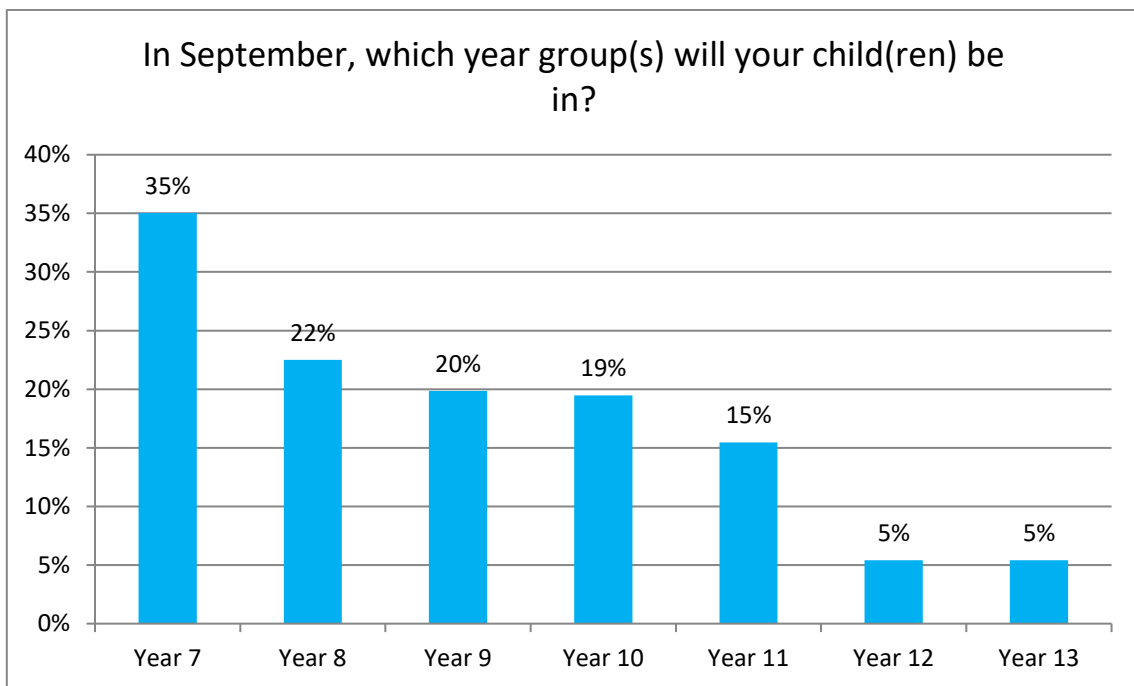
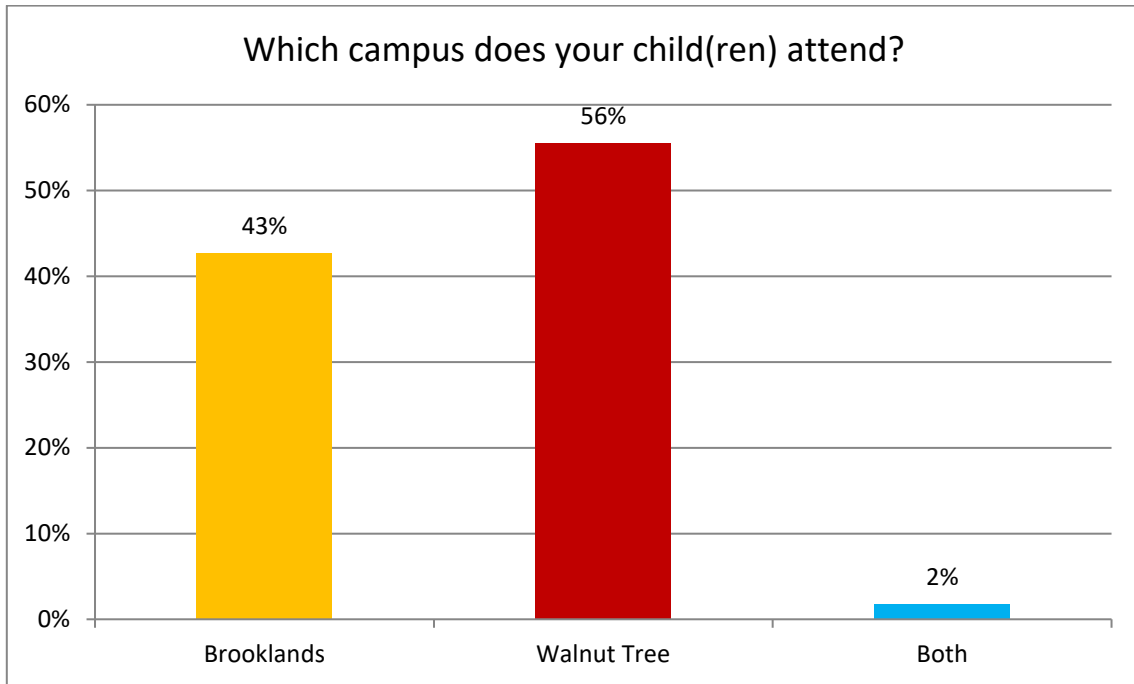
Thank you for your continued support and I wish everyone a healthy and enjoyable summer.

Kind regards

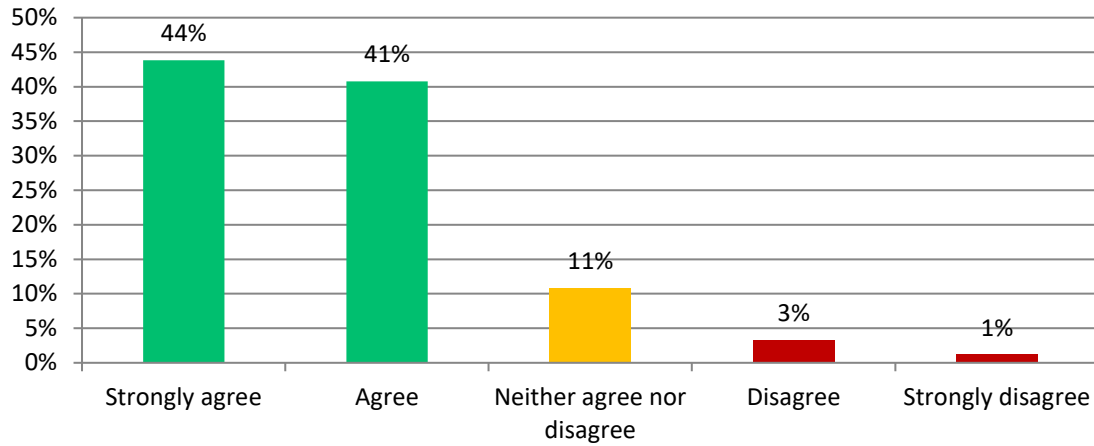


Michelle Currie
Executive Principal

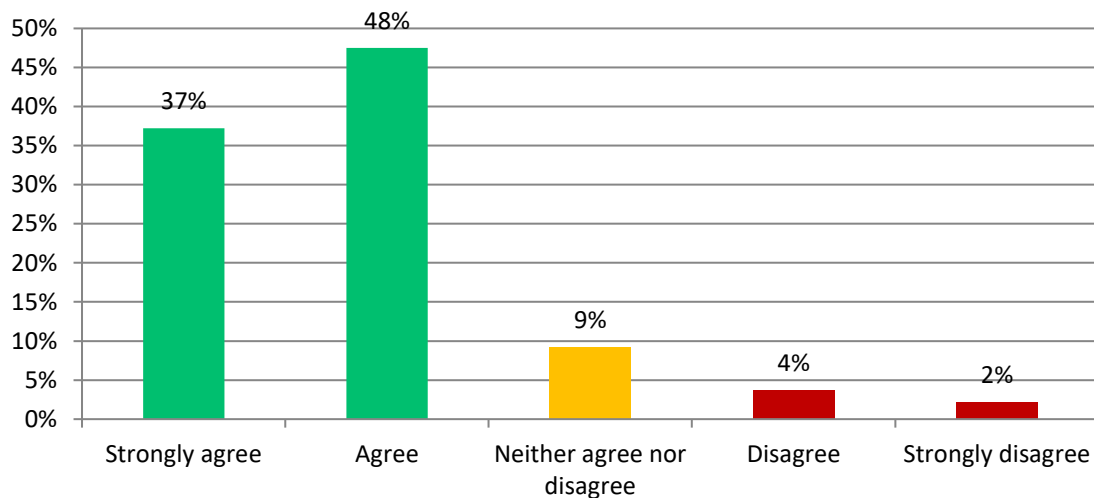
Annex A



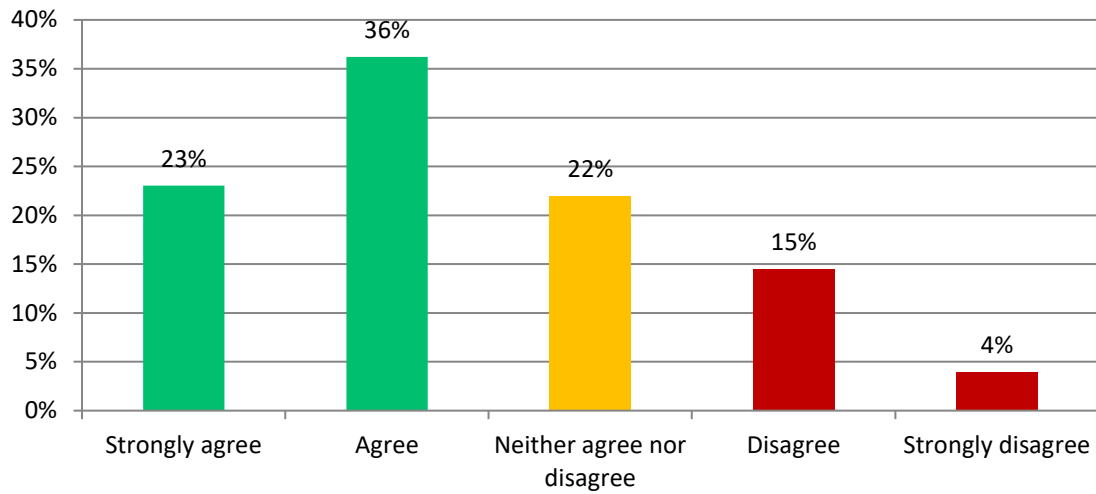
To what extent do you agree or disagree with only having one year group in at a time at the beginning of next year to allow students to be properly inducted into the changes?



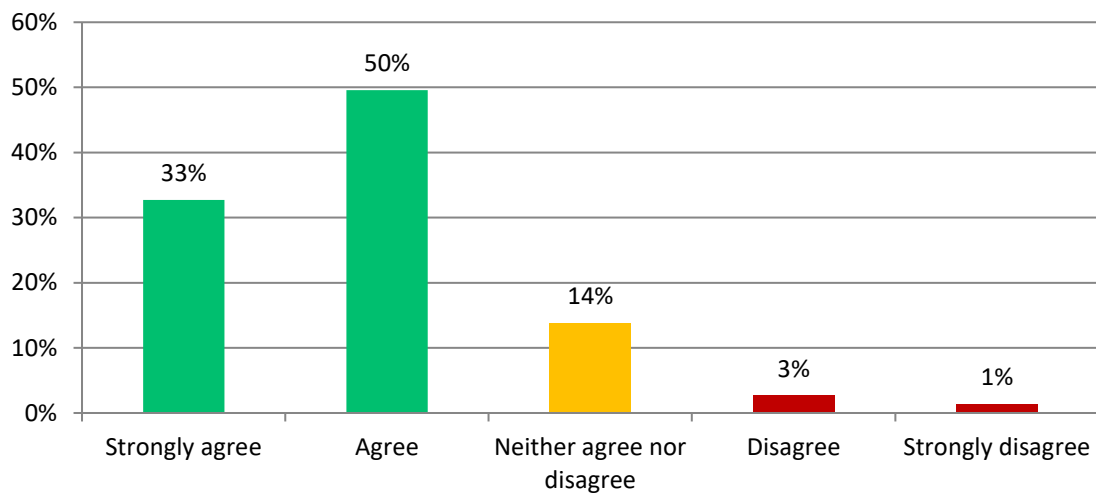
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the restructuring of the day to allow for staggered start and finish times and staggered break and lunchtimes?



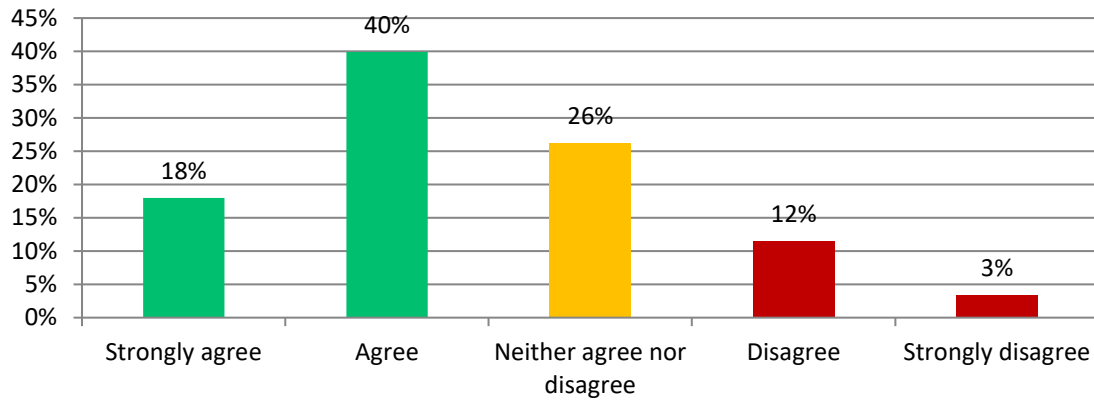
To what extent do you agree or disagree with not having any after school activities to limit students from different classes/key stages mixing at the end of the day?



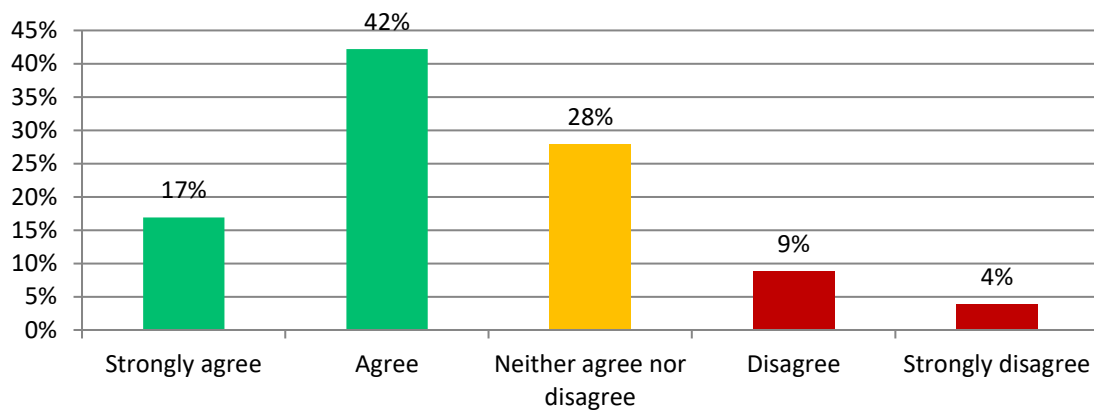
To what extent do you agree or disagree with students in different year groups being allocated separate social space at break and lunchtime?



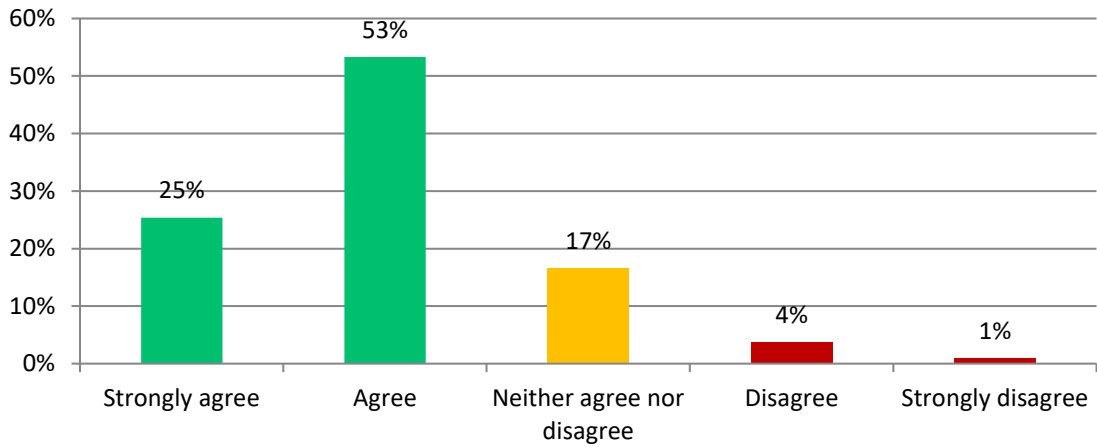
To limit the number of students who come into contact with each other, students in Y7 and Y8 will be in the same class and sit next to the same student for all subjects. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this arrangement?



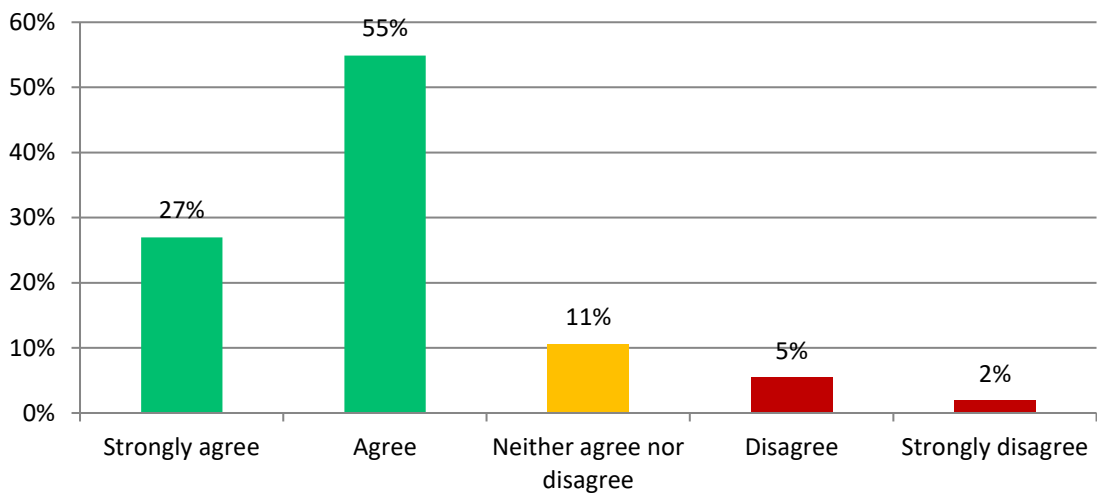
To limit the number of students who come into contact with each other, students in Y9, 10 and 11 will, as far as possible, be in the same classes and sit next to the same student. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this arrangement?



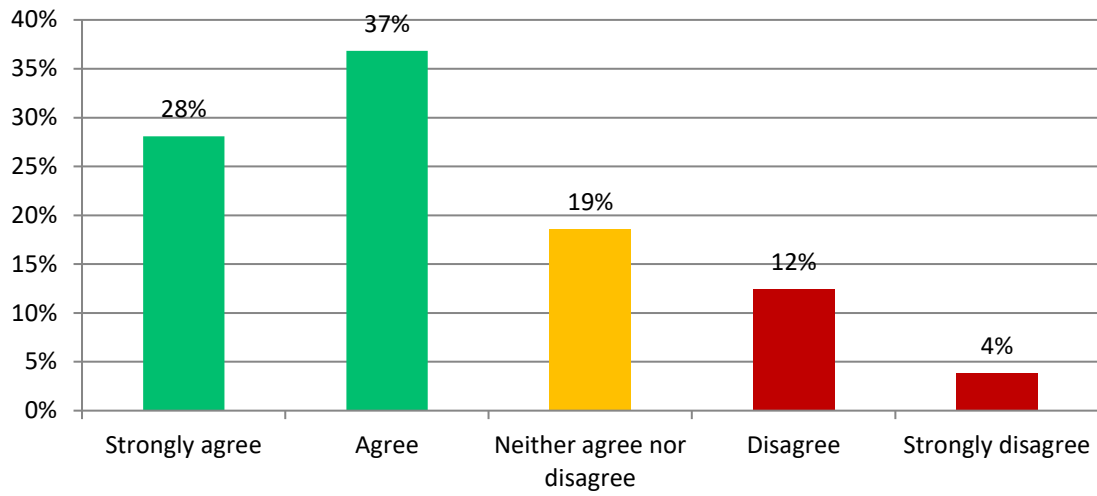
To what extent do you agree or disagree with learning and behaviour support assistants mainly working with students individually or in small groups away from their class?



To what extent do you agree or disagree with retaining the one way system in corridors but reducing the distance students should keep from each other to 1m?



To what extent do you agree or disagree with parent consultation meetings being held remotely in the future even if social distancing is no longer required?



To what extent do you agree or disagree with the protocol for wearing face coverings?

