

Parent Survey January 2025: An Overview

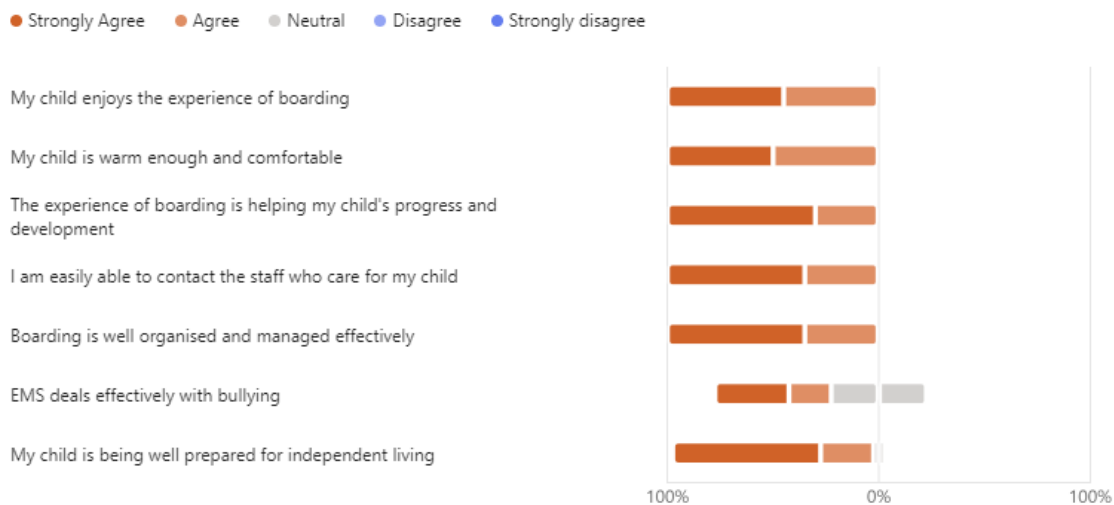
Thank you for taking the time to complete our annual parent survey. We had a total of 68 responses. We really do appreciate that so many of you took the time to participate and give detailed comments.

I have to say, I was delighted that there were very few concerns raised. I do welcome constructive feedback but it is even better when we find out that what we are doing is working well!

Below is a summary of your responses followed by a table outlining our response to the concerns you did raise. In many cases I have invited you to provide additional information to enable us to make well informed decisions.

Summary of Results

1. We asked the parents of students in boarding specific questions about their experience.



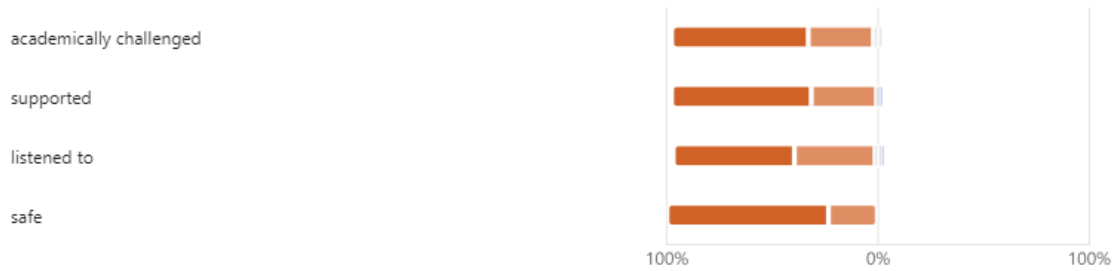
"My child has had no experience of bullying hence the "neutral" answer although I feel sure that EMS would deal with it effectively."

"Boarding has been an amazing experience for our child and has really been a big step in preparing them for going away to university next year."

"We are very grateful to the staff who have made real efforts to ensure [name] is coping and supported."

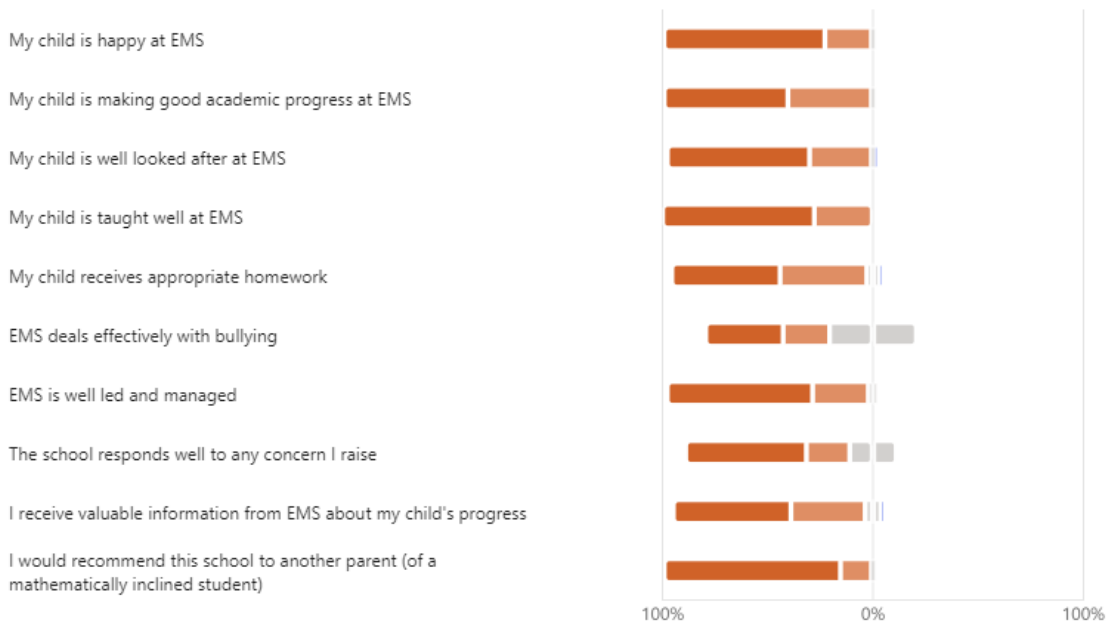
2. We asked you to indicate whether you agreed with the following comments regarding your son's/daughter's experience. They are...

● Strongly Agree ● Agree ● Neutral ● Disagree ● Strongly disagree

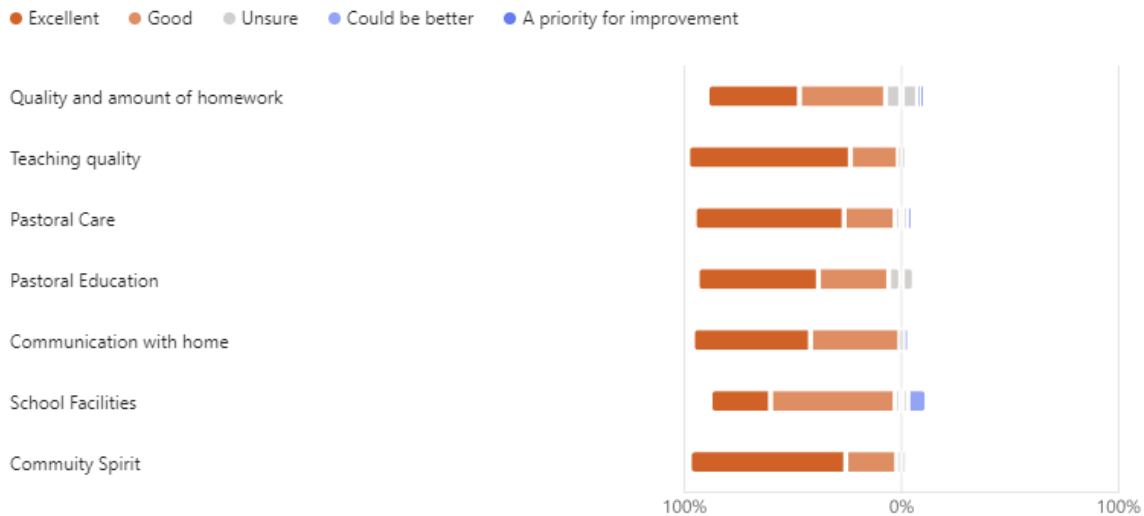


3. We asked you to rate some statements.

● Strongly Agree ● Agree ● Neutral ● Disagree ● Strongly disagree



4. We asked you to rate EMS for the following categories:



We asked you to add a statement to clarify reasons for your ratings – there were lots of positive comments (thank you) but also some areas for us to look into. There were a few comments about homework: both Physics and Chemistry were mentioned. There was also a concern raised by one parent about the Computer Science lessons in year 13, in particular the focus on NEA. One or two parents would like more frequent updates on academic progress and homework completion.

The only other area for improvement was regarding facilities (I agree – I just need the politicians to recognise this too!).

"I think the school facilities could be improved more with more room. I would love to see a bigger library! But I think they do very well with what space they have.."

"EMS is doing a great job and my child is flourishing in the environment."

"I don't know what homework my son gets and I wouldn't understand it anyway, so don't feel able to comment on it's suitability. Ditto the quality of teaching. I know he's happy at EMS."

"My son has found his happy place after being lonely and misunderstood in education for years. Thank you x"

"Have not experienced any bullying but so hard to say how it is dealt with. In a perfect world EMS would have a bespoke building where the school facilities would be even better."

"We can see that the teachers are passionate about their subjects, care about the students and offer a much broader education than just A-Levels."

"[My daughter] is thriving in every way, you're all doing an amazing job"

"I couldn't ask for more from a school."

"More tutor communication would be helpful."

5. We asked if there was any other feedback you would like to give us.

Again, the limitations of the building were mentioned. One parent also questioned the timing of year 12 assessments given they clash with many university open days. For the most part, you're delighted, which of course, makes us delighted too!

"No concerns or complaints at all - very happy with everything."

"As you're aware the building is restrictive in terms of large spaces for presentations, assemblies etc. would larger Science labs be an improvement too?"

"EMS has been amazing both in terms of academic opportunities and pastoral support."

"Fabulous, daughter loves it"

"Great levels of information to parents."

"We are delighted and grateful that [name] has the opportunity to be part of your fun, maths community."

"School could obviously offer more places if there were funding for larger premises, but the current building is rather endearing!"

"From what I understand, it has a great atmosphere."

"The staff all seem to be committed and welcoming. Thank you for creating a community like this."

Issue raised	Issues / Suggestions	School's response / Action
Homework	<p>Too much Chemistry homework.</p> <p>Physics homework does not always align with the content taught and sometimes is boring.</p>	<p>We will pick this up with the College. We were aware of issues last year that we believed had been addressed. We'll follow this up in more detail.</p> <p>Oh no! The Physic team worked so hard to improve the homework and get it in sync last year – we'll take another look and make some more tweaks where it does not marry up. I'll feedback the "boring" issue – if your child can pinpoint a particular set that are boring, I'm sure the team would like to know.</p>
Computer Science	<p>Two teachers not in sync and too much time for NEA (worth 20% of exam)</p>	<p>I'm am very well aware that this time of year is high pressure for NEA and that there is significant focus on this in year 13. Our experience tells us that we have the balance about right (based on past experience and exam results) but if your child has a particular concern, or feels they are not on top of the core work due to NEA, I'd encourage them (or you) to raise it with us directly so we can support them.</p> <p>We'll also pick up on the point about being out of sync – again, if you are able to give anymore information about how this manifests itself, the team will find it easier to take action.</p> <p>Please don't hesitate to email me kburnham@exeterms.ac.uk or a lead Computer Science teacher: melaniedennig@exeterms.ac.uk</p>

Issue raised	Issues / Suggestions	School's response / Action
Facilities	No enough space	I'll keep campaigning for a larger building. In the meantime, we expect to have access to some additional rooms when our new boarding building opens in 2026 (no help your children, I know) and we are thinking carefully about how best to use this space.
Communication	<p>More information about homework completion.</p> <p>More contact from the form tutor</p>	<p>We deliberately do not report to parents on homework completion unless there is a significant issue. This is because we want to support students to take responsibility for the learning, just as they will need to do when they leave us.</p> <p>Our system is that when there are 3 instances of homework being missed, your child's form tutor will speak with them. After that meeting takes place, if there are another 3 instances, the tutor will inform you and speak with them again. No news is therefore good news.</p> <p>We'd be interested to know what you feel is currently missing and what level of detail and frequency of contact you would like. If you have some thoughts on this, please email liamcantle@exeterms.ac.uk.</p>
Yr 12 Assessments	Move them to earlier or later to avoid clashes with university visits	<p>We'll take another look at this. The timing is partly due to not having the space for them earlier due to year 13 exams but also because we want to cover as much content as possible before they sit them and build in time for revision. The final reason for their timing is that often schools find that during the last couple of weeks of the year, after assessments have taken place, students lack motivation (the post-assessment energy drop) and the time is not used as productively. We are aiming to avoid that slump by pushing the assessments back as late as possible.</p> <p>All that said, we can take another look at this and start by asking students how much this timing impacted them before deciding whether the gains of changing the timing outweigh the costs.</p>