



17 September 2021

Guiding Statement Impact Review – Parent Responses

In August 2021, the school conducted a survey with parents on the impact that the Guiding Statements have on school life.

A summary of results from the survey can be found in the following link:

<https://www.acsinternational.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Community-Survey-Results-2021-Parents.pdf>

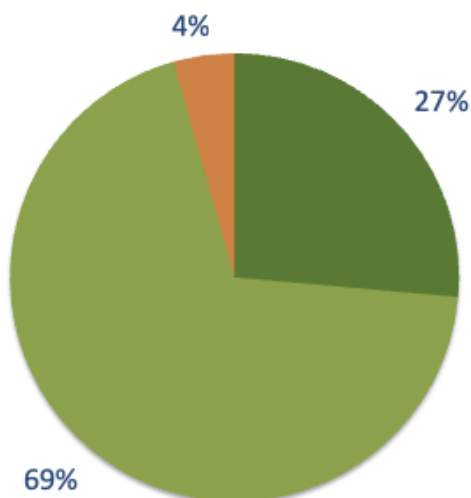
Response Context

The survey was completed by 266 parents, which represents about 30% of families. 89% of the parents who responded had one child in the school and 75% of the respondents' children have been enrolled in ACS (International) for more than one year. There were 111 responses from Junior Division, 118 from Middle Division and 69 from Senior Division (some parents have children in multiple year levels). 71% of respondents were Singaporeans/PRs and 29% were international families. Within the school, 48% of students are Singaporeans and 52% are international students.

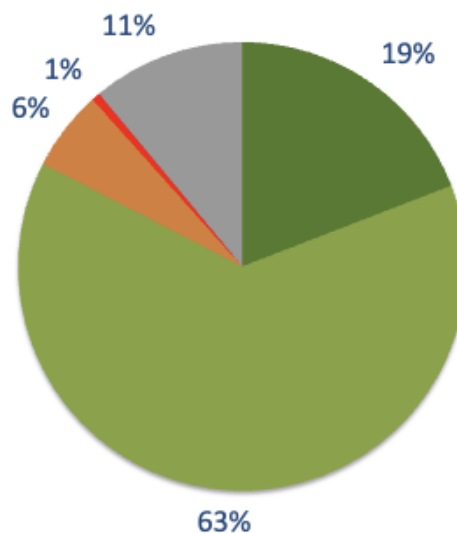
Overall Theme

Overall, the results were very pleasing with Agree and Strongly Agree being the majority responses across the survey. The graphs below show the outcomes for "Overall, how satisfied are you with ACS (International)" and the average responses across all Guiding Statements.

Overall, how satisfied are you with ACS (International)?



Total Responses To All Questions

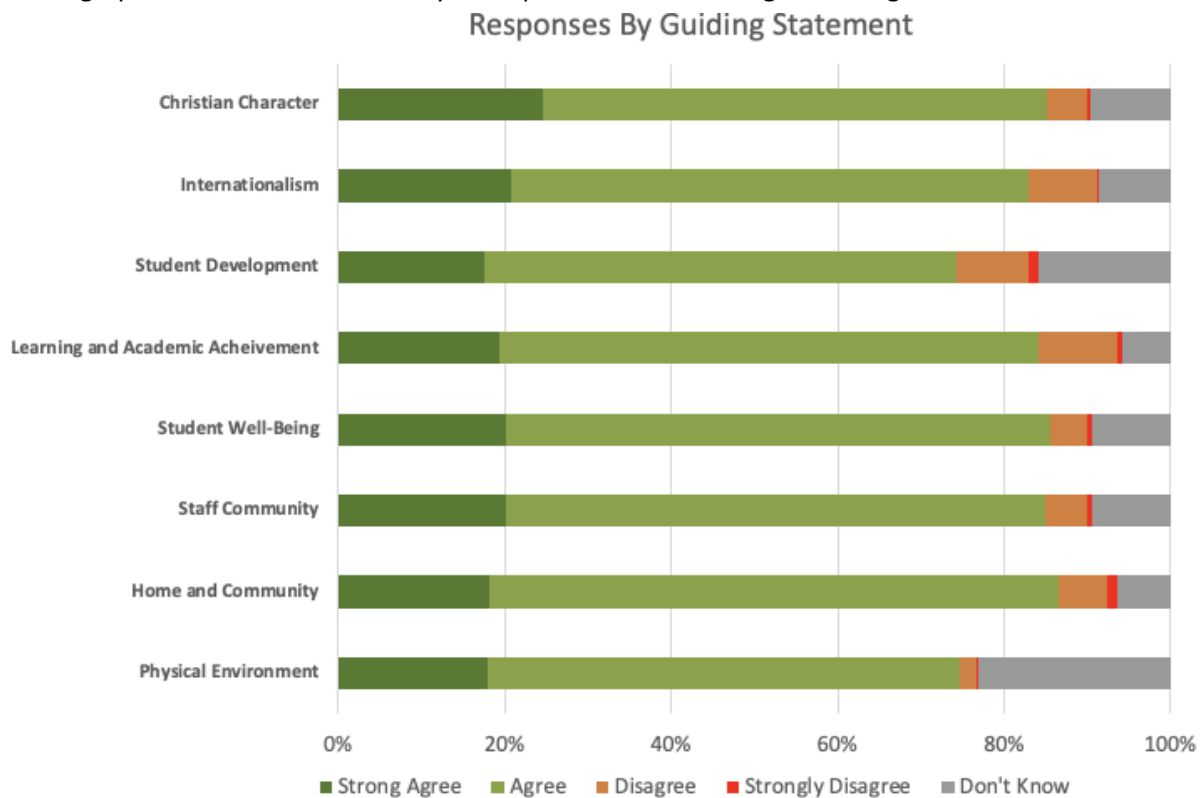


■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree ■ Don't Know

The results show strong parent satisfaction with the school and with the outcomes of the Guiding Statements.

Guiding Statement Summary

The graph below shows a summary of responses across the eight Guiding Statements.



A brief summary for each Guiding Statement based upon the responses and comments made is provided below.

Christian Character

Respondents were supportive and appreciative of the Christian character of the school. They responded that this is most evident through Chapel, school devotions, school communications, respect between community members and care shown towards students and families. Comments included promoting the IGNITE values and increasing the visibility of the Christian faith throughout the school.

Internationalism

Parents responded that the diversity of both the student and staff population was an important way to experience internationalism in the school. Many parents mentioned the disappointment about international trips and activities being suspended during the pandemic. This has been a challenge for the school as international trips were a big part of the experience that the school had offered. In addition to this, many large school events which involved celebrating internationalism were not able to be run due to Safe Management Measures for schools.

Student Development

In relation to the IB Learner Profile, parents saw the following traits most prominently in their children: Thinker, Communicator, Open-Minded, Inquirer and Knowledgeable. Interestingly, the Risk-Taker trait was noticeably lower than the other traits. In relation to the IGNITE values, Integrity was the value seen most by parents in their children. There was a mistake in the IGNITE question with the value of Tenacity left out of the answer set. Apologies for this; it will be added for the 2022 survey. Parents commented on providing more opportunities for leadership within school activities.

Learning and Academic Achievement

Responses and comments indicate that parents were satisfied with the learning academic support given throughout the school. In terms of thinking, 42% of parents believed that their child's strongest way of thinking was Creative Thinking, followed by Critical Thinking (34%) and then Reflective Thinking (25%). There were several comments about the reduction in frequency of Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs) across the year and the desire for interview times to be greater.

Student Well-Being

Parents were very positive in their response to the school being a safe, welcoming, and affirming place for their child. 19% of parents stated that they did not know about the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. The school believes that it is important that parents know and understand these important policies. The Policy on this can be found [here](#). There were many positive comments about the support and programmes offered to students. Some parents commented about more support for children who might not outwardly show that they needed additional help. Throughout the survey, there were concerns raised about the influence that digital technologies and communication had on young people.

Staff Community

Parents were satisfied that staff have the skills to teach the curriculum and are approachable. Comments included teachers to be more contactable and instances where a teacher was replaced mid-way through the course. The latter is undesired by all, but often it cannot be helped when teachers resign to pursue other opportunities.

Home and Community

Parents responded very positively that they receive important information from the school as necessary (97%), with a slight dip in relation to being informed about the life of the school (84%). Activities that parents were involved in were reading the newsletter (83%) and attending PTMs (75%). In this Guiding Statement and in others, parents commented that it was difficult to find the contact details of their child's teachers. Teacher contact details can be found on page 56 of the Parent Handbook which is located [here](#).

Physical Environment

There was a noticeable increase in the number of "Don't Know" responses for this Guiding Statement, 23% compared to an average of 9% for the other seven Guiding Statements. 49% of parents responded "Don't Know" to "Ongoing investment is made to develop facilities", which was by far the highest "Don't Know" response to any question. There were several parent comments about adding larger play spaces, and also a swimming pool. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the campus, adding those facilities is challenging.

Strategic Plan Actions

The Strategic Plan will be updated to include school priorities, IB and CIS recommendations and feedback from the Community Surveys (Parent, Students and Staff). As a result of the Parent Community Survey, the school has identified the following areas that it will address:

1. Greater emphasis on Christian aspects of the school. (*Christian Character*).
2. A desire for more inter-cultural events and wider school events. (*Internationalism*)
3. Evaluating leadership opportunities across the school for students. (*Student Development*)
4. Increase Reflective Thinking strategies in the curriculum (*Learning & Academic Achievement*)
5. Increase parent awareness of Child Protection. (*Student Well-being*)
6. Increase in healthy relationships and online behaviour initiatives. (*Student Well-Being*)
7. Increase parent awareness of how to contact their child's teachers. (*Home and Community*)
8. Better communication about school facilities and upgrade works. (*Physical Environment*)

As a Christian school, we must seek God's will for the school before all else. We pray for God's guidance, wisdom and discernment as we update the Strategic Plan. We pray that ACS (International) will continue to serve His purpose and be faithful to the founding mission and principles of the school both now and into the future.

Yours sincerely,



Gavin Kinch
Principal