

# Education

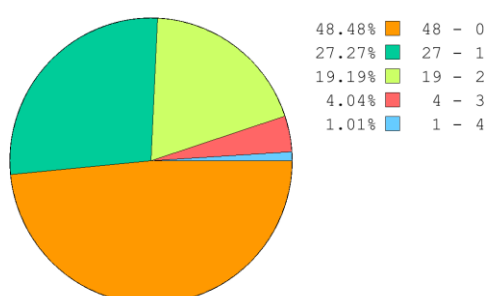
THE GREAT WAKERING  
PARISH PLAN 2015

This section considers schools and learning from the parents' perspective. 111 valid submissions were received.

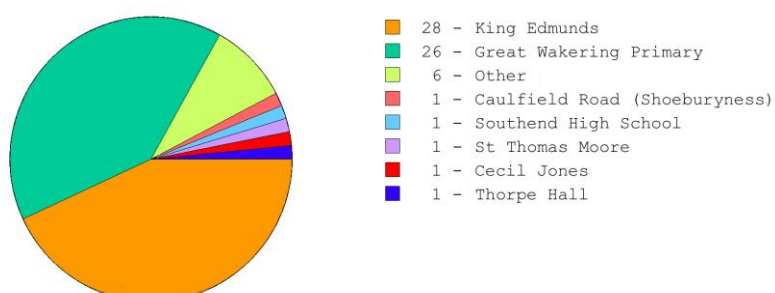
**Overview:** The children of the majority of those who responded attend King Edmunds School or Great Waking Primary. 50% of respondents think that their child's school is large enough with plenty of places available. While the majority of respondents feel that getting to school is easy, 60% think that the walking bus should be re-established.

Over half of respondents say that the range of subjects and the quality of teaching is good. 88% think that a school uniform should be mandatory. 58% would like to have a secondary school in the village while 74% would recommend their child's school to others.

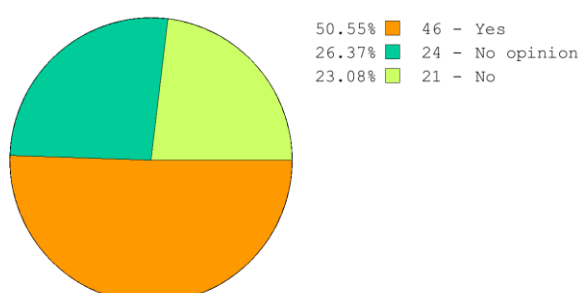
How many children in your household go to school?



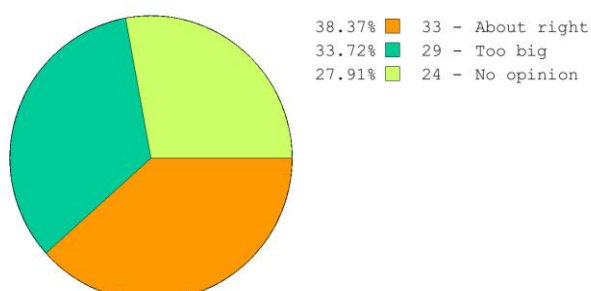
Which school(s) do they attend?



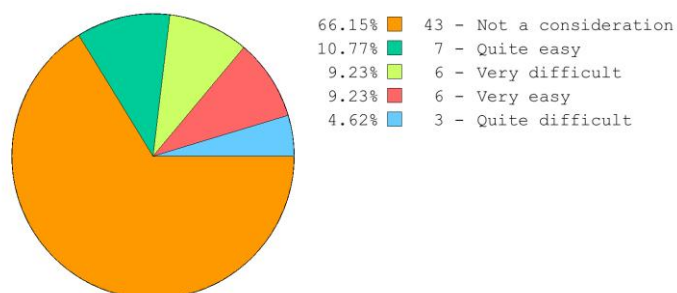
Do you think the school is big enough? (Are there plenty of places available?)



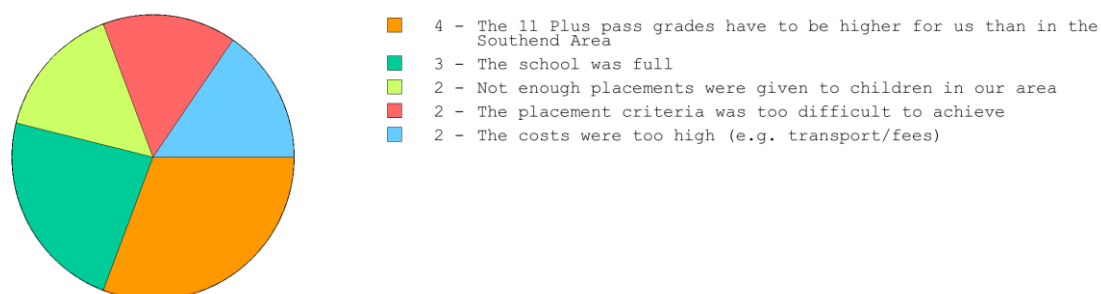
How do you feel about the class sizes?



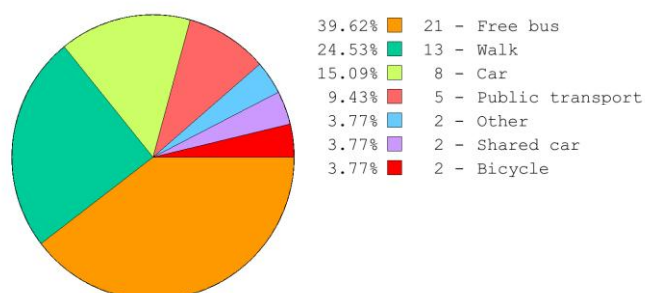
In the last 5 years, if your child was seeking education in a school other than Great Woking Primary or King Edmunds, how easily were you able to find the placement you required?



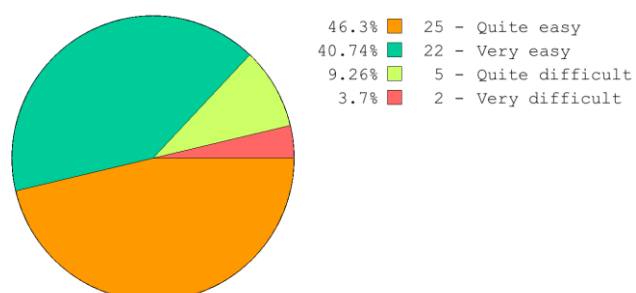
If you had difficulty in finding a suitable placement, why was that?



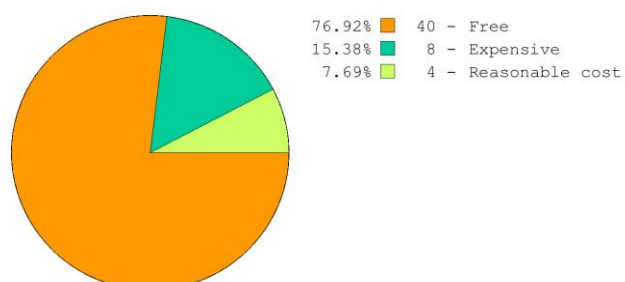
How does your child get to school?



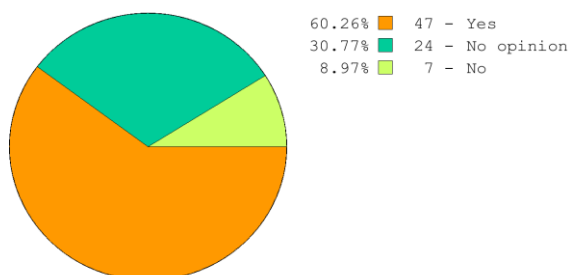
How easy is it to get to school?



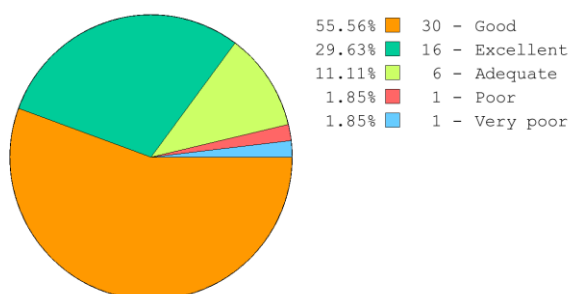
How costly is it to get to school?



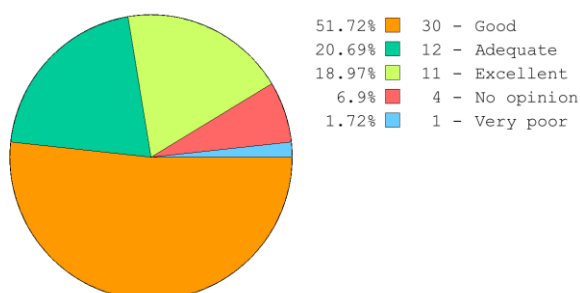
Do you think the "walking" bus should be re-established?



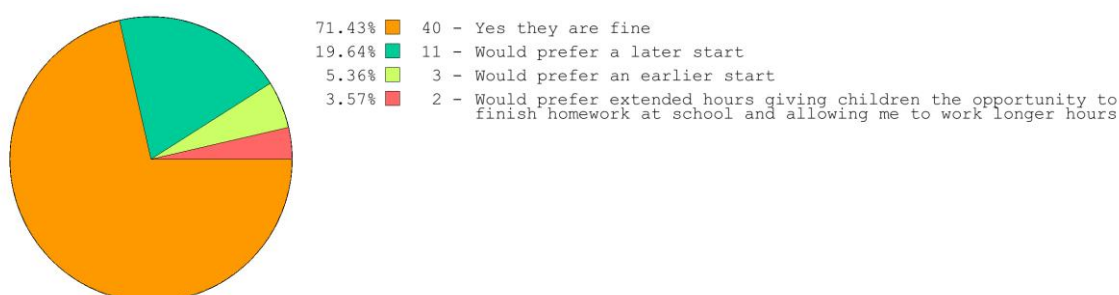
How do you feel about the range of subjects covered at your child's school(s)?



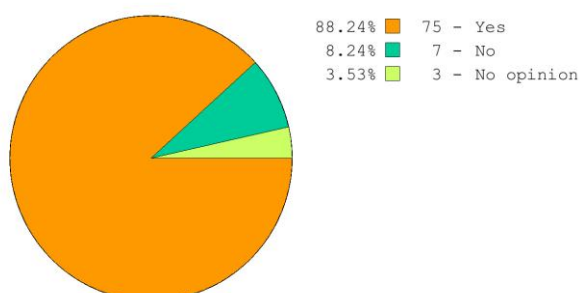
How do you find the quality of teaching at your child's school (generally)?



Do you think the school's start and end times are OK?

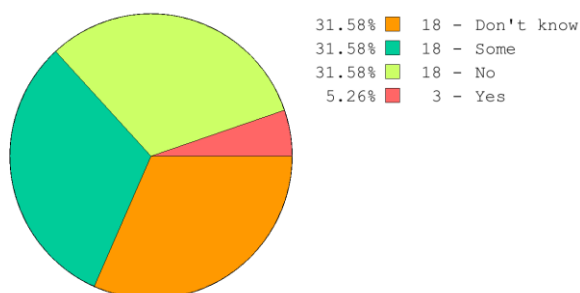


Do you think a school uniform should be mandatory?



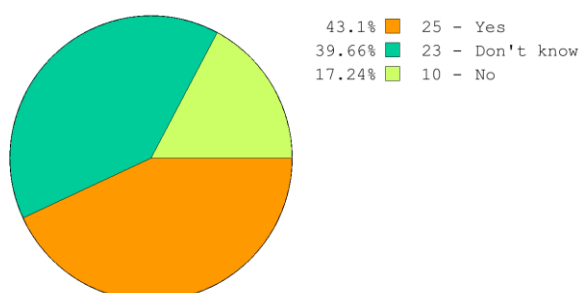
---

Is there a problem with bullying at your child's school?



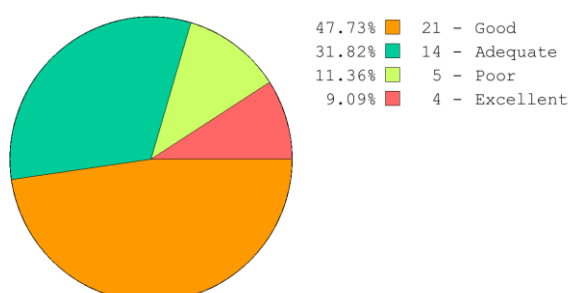

---

Is there adequate mentoring for new starters or higher/lower achievers at your child's school?



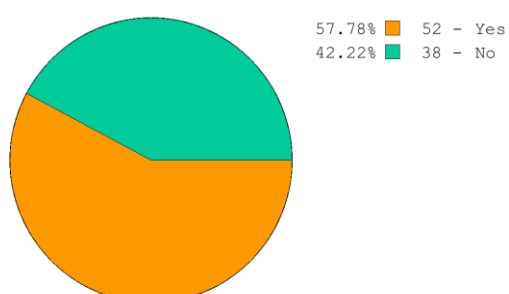

---

What do you think of the school meals at your child's school?




---

Do you think we should have a secondary school in the village?



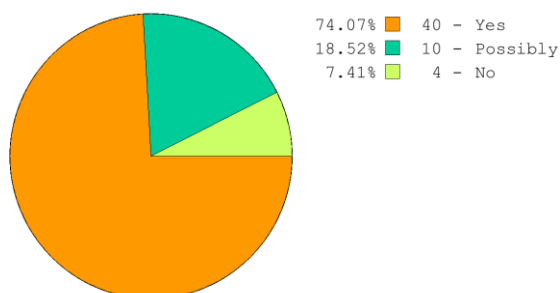

---

Which of the following subjects, if any, are not covered adequately at your child's school?



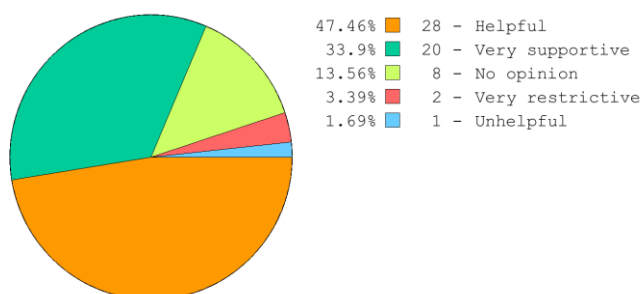
---

Would you recommend your child's school to others looking for a new school?



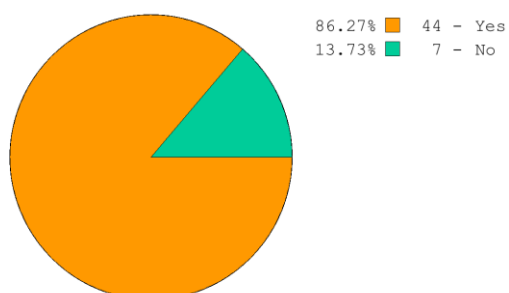

---

How supportive are the staff and teachers at the school to both pupils and parents?



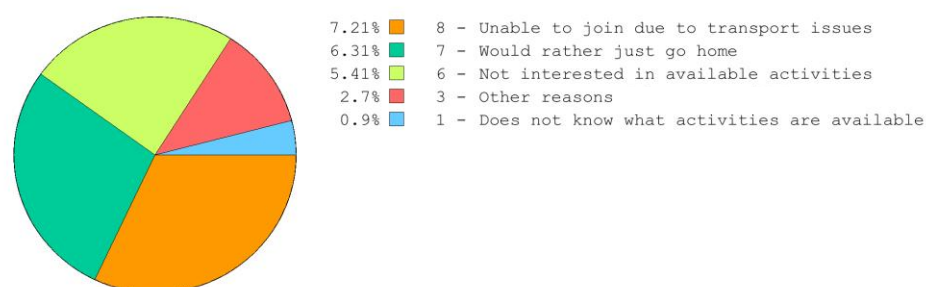

---

Are there plenty of extra-curricular activities at your child's school?



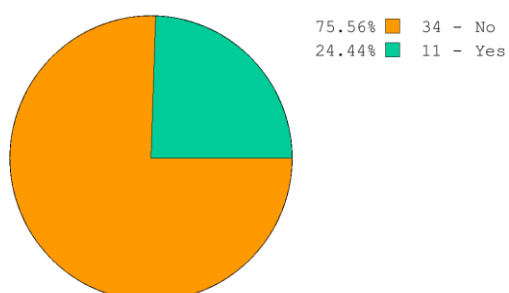

---

If your child does not take part in extra-curricular activities please explain why.




---

Are there any subjects that you took as a child, which are no longer taught but you feel would be useful?





THE GREAT WAKERING  
PARISH PLAN 2015

## ALSO SEE ISSUES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN PAGE 9

“...some years no spaces.”

“...not room for new families moving into new developments.”

“A lot of children ... have special needs ... we have found there is just too many children in the class for him to get the attention which they agreed to.”

“could not get into Great Woking Primary... as our child's year group was full and still is with a waiting list.”

“Bright children in Woking are disadvantaged!”



## Community Views and Comments

**Q: Do you think the school is big enough? Are there plenty of places available?**

Primary School can take 420 has 380 - **some years no spaces.** Great Woking Primary school has vacant places which the additional housing development planned is intended to help secure for the long term. **The school in Great Woking is already huge for a primary school and should not take any more expansion. Barling School should be expanded along with its catchment area.** Only just enough at moment - **not room for new families moving into new developments.**

**Q: How do you feel about the class sizes?**

**But smaller would be better.** Too big in primary school for the size of the class rooms - sometimes it is very squashed in the rooms with the tables - and when the whole class are in, it is not a nice environment and quite congested. **A lot of children in the classes have special needs including my son and we have found there is just too many children in the class for him to get the attention which they agreed to.** Both my children have been in low birth rate years so not affected by large class sizes as yet.

**Q: In the last 5 years, if your child was seeking education in a school other than Great Woking Primary or King Edmunds, how easily were you able to find the placement you required?**

My son went to Alleyn Court Nursery so we had to pay because we weren't very impressed with the nurseries around here. He then attended St. Georges Primary School for a short while because Great Woking Primary School had quite a bad name and we had to attend church for 3 years! **Originally at a different school and could not get into Great Woking Primary even though in catchment as our child's year group was full and still is with a waiting list. We were told to go to schooling further out!**

**Q: If you had difficulty in finding a suitable placement, why was that?**

**Bright children in Woking are disadvantaged, even if they pass the 11+ they can still be overlooked and the place allocated to a Southend person!** This is wrong and makes me VERRRRRRY angry. Our children are not given the opportunities just because they live 2 miles in the wrong direction

**Q: How does your child get to school?**

Sometimes walks, sometimes by car. One goes by car, the other

by contract bus. Free bus Essex Community Services provide bus transportation

"The time they start at King Edmund is a joke. Home at 14.30!"

"as it does not give enough time for the school children to get the bus home again. The 8am bus does not go to Asda so a long walk ..."

"I would not have to worry about getting to work on time then and my child would definitely walk every day."

"I am very happy with KES and the standard is high and my children are progressing well at the primary school"

"King Edmund could easily start half hour later, giving all the family a better lifestyle."

"...should have a choice of where to buy... cost down."

**Q: How easy is it to get to school?**

***The time they start at King Edmund is a joke. Home at 14.30!*** is the reason they start early just to enable the private bus company to be able to double up and supply two schools? Long route crossing into Southend borough. ***Only because free bus is provided.*** My granddaughter just about gets to school on time. ***A bus at that time needs to go to Asda. Also it needs to get to Asda about 5-10 minutes later than it already does which is 3.11pm, as it does not give enough time for the school children to get the bus home again. The 8am bus does not go to Asda so a long walk has to be made from North Shoebury roundabout.***

**Q: Do you think the "walking" bus should be re-established?**

***Definitely, the children and their parents are getting lazy and large. I would not have to worry about getting to work on time then and my child would definitely walk every day.***

**Q: How do you find the quality of teaching at your child's school generally?**

Issues due to teachers leaving and new headmistress implementing difficult regimes.

***I am very happy with KES and the standard is high and my children are progressing well at the primary school.*** Depends on who is the teacher.

**Q: Do you think the school's start and end times are OK?**

***King Edmund could easily start half hour later, giving all the family a better lifestyle.*** KES has a lot of time to spare when home at the end of the day. Also problems with youngsters going out in dark am to get the bus. ***Good provision of kids club and hobby clubs at Great Wakering Primary School.*** We already use the Kids Club and I think there is good after school provision and breakfast club.

**Q: Do you think a school uniform should be mandatory?**

Yes. It stops families from being singled out and competition between children over who has the latest designs etc. All children become equal. It looks smart. ***No, because it cost too much. You should have a choice of where to buy it to keep cost down.*** I believe a uniform gives a child a sense of belonging at a school. A child in school uniform would also be easier to identify if they had committed a crime and/or anti-social behaviour/nuisance.





"The kids would end up blinkered and wouldn't be streetwise."

"I must admit before my children went to Kes, I was supporting a secondary school in Woking, but now they are there, they are progressing so well and the distance generally is not a problem."

"Primary School needs new one, present is unsuitable as former secondary school"

"French doesn't suit all and German or Spanish would be good"

"... there were too many changes of teachers"

**Q: What do you think of the school meals at your child's school?**

Resident Chef/ all meals prepared on premises, believe breakfast, mid-morning, lunch, after school available. **Good - primary school. St. George's no longer have school meals.** No time to eat, due to short breaks and no extended lunch. **Expensive.**

**Q: Do you think we should have a secondary school in the village?**

If numbers justify. **The kids would end up blinkered and wouldn't be streetwise.** The cost of transport to Rochford over the years would have paid building cost of new school in the village. I think the KES has a very high standard and to bring a secondary school to the village would be difficult to establish. **I must admit before my children went to Kes, I was supporting a secondary school in Woking, but now they are there, they are progressing so well and the distance generally is not a problem.** It would be nice for the children not having to travel as far. Ideally yes, but the reality is it cannot be justified on current numbers of pupils from GtW.

**Q: Which of the following subjects, if any, are not covered adequately at your child's school?**

**Sex & parenting education - should be done earlier.**

**Q: What do you think could be improved in your child's school?**

**Primary School needs new one, present is unsuitable as former secondary school.** KES- more languages? **French doesn't suit all and German or Spanish would be good.** Better consultation. **More contact/communication with the teaching staff.** Smaller class sizes and better teachers. **Communication on pupil performance with parents.** 11+ preparation and identification. **Better one to one support for under achieving children.** **As regards King Edmund School there were too many changes of teachers.** 1 Special Needs. 2 Politeness of Staff. 3 Organisation.

**Q: Are there plenty of extra-curricular activities at your child's school?**

**But doesn't do them as she is tired by then. Difficult for the kids from Woking to stay behind to do as buses are limited and tend to carry home the kids who misbehave.** **Kids Clubs, hobbies etc.** I feel that there could be more offered to children within the Great Woking School.

**Q: What do you think of your child's prospects upon leaving school?**



"But doesn't do them as she is tired by then... (late) buses are limited and tend to carry home the kids who misbehave"

"...lack of aspirations amongst a lot of people in the area"

"Woodwork, metalwork and other practical subjects."

"... I did typewriting and shorthand, been invaluable in my working life"

Worrying. Good. None I'm afraid, if I'm honest. Too early to say. **Seems to be a big lack of aspirations amongst a lot of people in the area.** Not good. Excellent prospects. I'm concerned that even if they achieve well academically they will have limited job prospects with youth unemployment being so high. Worried as I think the government in general have made it difficult for young people. Depends on the employment climate at that time, but generally am positive. We will not be able to afford university fees but have no choice if they want to go **but no guarantee of job at the end of it.** We honestly don't feel there is a future for our children in this country but that's nothing to do with the village!

**Q: Are there any subjects that you took as a child, which are no longer taught but you feel would be useful?**

**Woodwork, metalwork and other practical subjects.** Home economics. English grammar! Respecting your elders... Business skills. More cookery skills. A level IT. German/another language than French, Biology/Chemistry/Physics as individual choices without having to take all three or General Science. **At secondary school I did typewriting and shorthand, been invaluable in my working life!**

