

St. James School Environment Survey Results
June 12, 2012

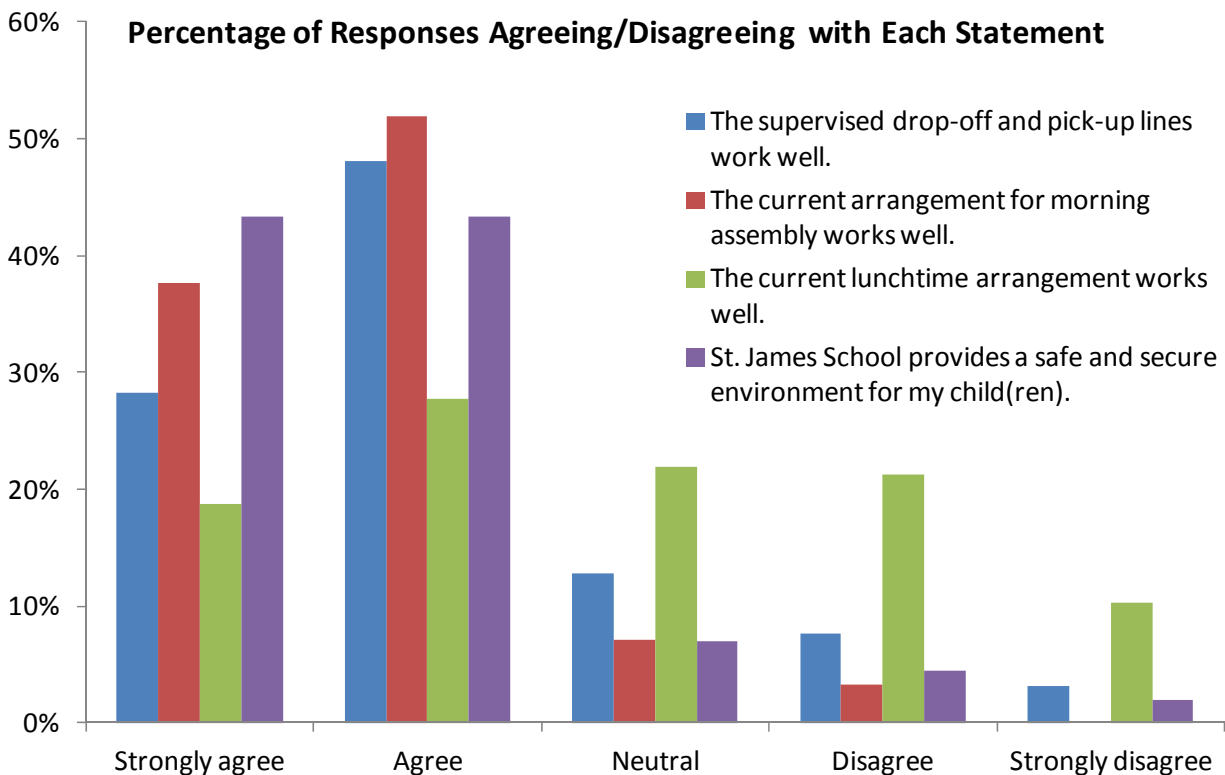
The St. James School Environment Survey was conducted in response to concerns expressed at a January 2011 meeting of school parents. Many concerns were expressed at that meeting. However, the limited attendance at the meeting left those in the meeting wondering whether all concerns were raised and how widely the concerns were shared. Therefore, this survey was conducted to answer two questions: “What concerns do school parents have about the school environment?” and “How widely shared is each concern in the population of school parents?”

Out of 230 school families, 147 responded to the survey, for a response rate of 64%. Eight families responded more than once to the survey, but their responses conveyed different opinions.

The survey consisted of four statements and a scale of agreement/disagreement for statement. These statements were selected to encompass and elicit all the concerns expressed at the meeting without bias toward specific concerns.

1. The supervised drop-off and pick-up lines work well.
2. The current arrangement for morning assembly works well.
3. The current lunchtime arrangement works well.
4. St. James School provides a safe and secure environment for my child(ren).

Each of the four survey items was followed by a comment box that allowed for expression of specific concerns. The aggregated scale responses are shown in the following graph.



The majority of respondents agreed with the statements in Items 1, 2, and 4. Item 3 produced mixed responses: 46% agreed, 22% were neutral, and 32% disagreed with the statement, “The current lunchtime arrangement works well.”

Most used the free text field to express their concerns with regard to each statement. These concerns were categorized. The number of times a category of concern was mentioned is shown in the following table. When a respondent mentioned multiple concerns, each one was counted. The table also expresses the count as a percentage of school families.

Concern	Count	% of School Families
Sun exposure	43	19%
Eating on benches	37	16%
Proximity of moving vehicles to assembled children	27	12%
Driver misbehavior	13	5.7%
Drop-off/Pick-up operation	10	4.3%
Gates open during school	9	3.9%
Wet benches	7	3.0%
PA system	7	3.0%
Eating in heat, cold or rain	7	3.0%
Short lunch	5	2.2%
Anza traffic	4	1.7%
K-2 supervision outside classroom	3	1.3%
Bad parking behavior	3	1.3%
Classrooms not open during rain	2	0.9%
Short playtime	2	0.9%
More affordable lunch	1	0.4%
Hot blacktop	1	0.4%
Play is too structured	1	0.4%
Need for adult help during lunch	1	0.4%
Lack of supervision	1	0.4%
Lack of supervision of Garnet entry during lunch	1	0.4%
More oversight needed	1	0.4%
Parent attention during yard duty	1	0.4%
Park supervision	1	0.4%
Play supervision	1	0.4%
Playing in the park	1	0.4%
Summer camp student helpers	1	0.4%
Unsafe restrooms	1	0.4%
Vulnerability in park	1	0.4%
Family members picking up not questioned	1	0.4%
Bullying	1	0.4%
Classrooms closed in wet weather	1	0.4%
Collision risk at Anza entry	1	0.4%
Lack of supervision in park during snack time	1	0.4%
Students chase balls into parking area	1	0.4%
Play leaders retrieve balls from street & under cars	1	0.4%
Path used by students from classrooms to OGC	1	0.4%

The survey successfully answered the two questions from the meeting. The majority of parents agree that the school environment works well and is safe and secure. However, some parents have specific concerns and the survey quantified the extent to which these concerns are shared. In particular, three concerns stand apart from the others in the frequency they were mentioned. The results indicate that each of these three concerns is shared by a substantial but minority portion of the school parent population.