



Annual School Report 2025

(Based on 2025 Data)



The River School is a Government approved, independent, co-educational Primary School and Early Childhood Centre (ECC) located in a beautiful, rainforest valley in Maleny, Queensland. The school began as a service project of Ananda Marga, a global organisation for self-realisation and service to all.

Our school is a loving community for 76 primary students from Prep to Year 6 (41 who identify as boys, 34 who identify as girls and 1 who identifies as non-binary). Students travel locally from Maleny, as well as from the Sunshine Coast using a bus service, and come from a variety of backgrounds. We also operate a Long Day Care Centre for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten children.

The guiding philosophy of *The River School* and Early Childhood Centre is Neohumanism. Neohumanism takes the inner spirit of humanism (love of humanity) and expands it to embrace all beings — plants, animals, and the entire universe. Neohumanism recognises diversity but also emphasises the interconnectedness of all things on a universal level. A Neohumanist education seeks to nurture in children their already innate capacity for love and compassion.

History of The River School

The community land on which the school is situated was purchased in 1984. It comprised a total of 52 acres and a community of five families. In 1987, the community decided to set aside a portion of the land (some 15 acres to the south of a gully which divides the property) for Ananda Marga projects. This portion of the land was named Ananda Kamala meaning “Bliss of the lotus flower”. The first project, the *Ananda Marga River School*, opened in 1995 with 23 students. The school’s name was decided by the children who enjoyed playing in beautiful Bridge Creek that runs through the school.

The dedication and passion of the Prout Community, Ananda Marga Education Ltd and numerous Dada's and Didi's have shaped *The River School* to become a world leader of Neohumanist educational practices. Some of the original founders of the school remain on the Prout community and continue to be significant contributors to the school culture and environment. Pepa (Prabha) Demasson, a co-founder and major contributor to the development of the school, served 16 years as Deputy Principal, and 3 years as Principal before retiring in 2013. At this time, Jenny Oakley was appointed as the new Principal to continue guiding the Neohumanist vision of the school founders. In 2017 Anne Donoghoe, who has been with the school since 1997, was appointed Principal of The River School.



School Mission

- Nurture each child’s highest physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual potential,
- Encourage a deep Neohumanist understanding of the interconnectedness of all things, embracing humanity, animals, plants and the entire universe,
- Model love and cooperation throughout the school so that children develop a compassionate heart with a clear moral compass, and the skills and confidence to put their love into action,
- Create a supportive learning community encouraging diversity, unity and service to all.

Staffing Information

Refer below for breakdown of staffing between The River School (Primary) and The River School Early Childcare Centre:

Number of Full Time Staff	16
Number of Part Time Staff	24
Total Staff Numbers	40
Total Full Time Equivalent Staff	27.6
These staff were split between:	
Teaching Staff (School)	13
Non-Teaching Staff including LA's (School)	18
ECC Staff	<u>9</u>
Total Staff Numbers	40

All of our classroom teachers hold a minimum Bachelor's Degree in Education.

All of our classroom teachers participated in Professional Development opportunities in 2025, which included curriculum development, school policy updates, restorative practice, Neohumanist Education, behaviour support and embedding Indigenous curriculum.

Across both The River School and our Early Childcare Centre, a total of \$8,093 was spent on Professional Development for the 2025 year.

Total No. Staff	Number of Hours Worked	Total Staff Absences (sick + leave without pay)	Average Staff Attendance Rate
40	46,344	1,594	96%

Average staff attendance based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave periods:

Proportion of teaching staff retained from the previous year:

Number of permanent teaching staff at end of previous year (2024)	Number of these staff retained in 2025	% Retention rate
13	13	100%



Social Climate

Based on our Neohumanist philosophy, the school works to foster a sense of community and family in the school. This familial feeling extends beyond the school to all humanity and the knowledge we are part of a bigger family that includes plants and animals. Children develop this understanding both intuitively and rationally. In meditation they are guided to experience their oneness with all things. Rationally they learn to respect and appreciate the diversity and unity of our universal family.

Service projects are encouraged in every class, in each phase of learning, so that children can act on their understanding of connectedness and develop confidence and skills to make meaningful changes in the world around them.

The school also runs “Buddy Programs” between our youngest classes and Year 5, which is a valuable mentoring program for all the students involved. Furthermore, lunchtime clubs offer students a variety of extra curriculum activities.

Academic Focus

The River School offers a unique educational experience designed to give children the best possible start to their schooling years. Our Neohumanist philosophy of love, respect and kindness to all beings and the environment, ensures that all learning areas of the Australian Curriculum are delivered within a meaningful framework that nurtures each child’s development to its highest mental, spiritual, emotional, social and physical potential. Students are encouraged to question, to challenge themselves and be peacemakers who understand their connection and responsibility as global citizens. The River School is a Government approved, independent Primary School that recognises education must be relevant, engaging and purposeful.

The Curriculum

We offer a robust curriculum, balancing formal and informal learning styles that include inquiry-based approaches and play and project based holistic pedagogy in the younger years, and integrated units in Yrs. 2 to 6. Our English program is underpinned by scientific evidence-based practice comprising of *InitialLit*, *MiniLit Sage* and *Spell-Ex*. Numeracy learning is bolstered by the use of the PAT Maths program, as well as MathsOnline in the upper primary. Our children's social, emotional, and spiritual growth is supported by daily yoga, meditation, and weekly virtue practice.

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings and Extra-Curricular Activities

Celebration Circle

On Monday afternoons the whole school participates in a Celebration Circle. This includes a candle-lighting ceremony, blessings by the students, singing, meditation, small performances, an introduction to the week's virtue, school playground code and general announcements. Parents are welcome to attend these gatherings, which nurtures our sense of community.

Meditation and Yoga

These important practices are part of our daily *Inner Me* time. Children benefit from early use of their imagination and intuition in creative visualisation activities and meditation exercises. Yoga exercises help children stretch and relax, meditation centers them, and discussions involving the *Getting of Wisdom*, focus on our virtues and social, emotional learning.

The Arts

We have specialist teachers in Music as well as Arts and Cultural Studies. Our dedicated Arts space features a kiln, where students are able to fire their own clay creations. Media Studies also is offered to our students through our Arts and Cultural Studies Program, which also includes Indigenous studies and a strong environmental focus.





Sport

During 2025, the school participated in several sporting activities.

We held our annual **"Friendly Olympics"** in Term 3 and in the summer season, students of all ages cooled off in our freshwater creek at the school. Students practiced field events weekly to determine their personal best scores for the Olympic Day.

Year 2 to Year 6 students enjoyed swimming lessons at the Maleny Pool during Term 4, which focused on water safety and swimming skills.

Grants from *Sporting Schools* (Australian Sports Commission) allowed us to run a basketball clinic in Term 2.



Building Memories and Skills through School Annual Camps

The River School believes in the power of experiential learning, and that's why annual school camps are a cherished tradition! In 2025, students across all year levels embarked on exciting adventures designed to foster growth and connection.

Younger Years: Building Community and Teamwork

Our Year 1 & 2 campers journeyed to the House of Happiness on Bribie Island, where the focus was on "community and connection." This unique experience, open to many parents, fostered a wonderful family atmosphere. Students explored the beach, swam together, and strengthened their bonds as a group.

Year 3's Piccabeens and Year 4's Wattles classes headed to Noosa Northshore for a 3-day adventure centred on team building and connectedness. Through activities like archery, body surfing, and the thrilling Giant Swing, students built stronger relationships with their teacher and classmates.



Upper School Camps: Learning to be Self Motivated Leaders

Our Year 5 Regent class kept it local, traveling to QCCC Mapleton camp where they took part in solo and team based activities such as archery, canoeing, low ropes and a giant swing.

In 2025 our Red Cedar Leaders attended the Emu Gully Adventure camp. Located just outside of Toowoomba, Emu Gully encourages our students to take part in activities that stretch their comfort zone and give them experiences that allow them to showcase their leadership and teamwork skills.

Energising Young Bodies and Minds: A Healthy Approach

In 2025, The River School provided healthy, vegetarian food at its tuckshop and parents are asked to provide only vegetarian food in school lunches. Why? Most people, when they consider healthy eating habits, are concerned only for their physical health. However, the Ayurveda tradition (a system of traditional Indian medicine) also promotes *eating for mental health*.

Ayurveda places foods into three categories, *sentient*, *mutative* and *static*. Sentient foods are good for the body and calming for the mind. A sentient diet consists of a balance of fruit, vegetables, grains and pulses. Mutative foods may or may not be good for the body but make the mind restless (examples: coffee, tea and carbonated soft drinks). Static foods are bad for the body and mind (examples: meats and alcoholic drinks). It is well established that junk 'foods' (high in sugar, colourings and preservatives) make it difficult for children to concentrate. Hence, Neohumanist schools encourage children to eat sentient foods.

Parent and Friends Committee (P&F)

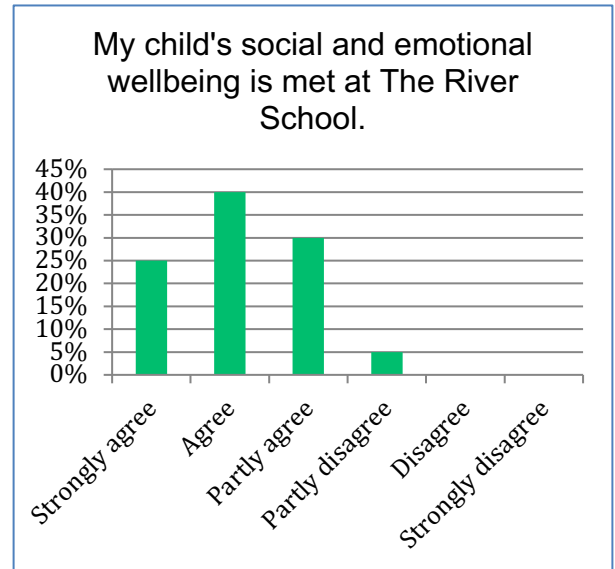
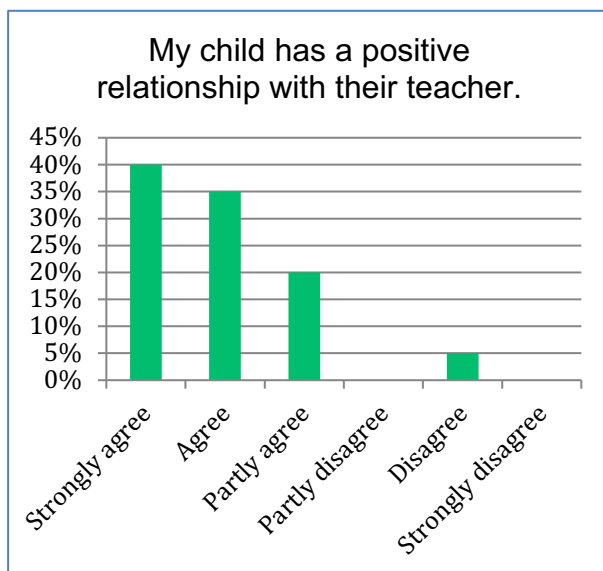
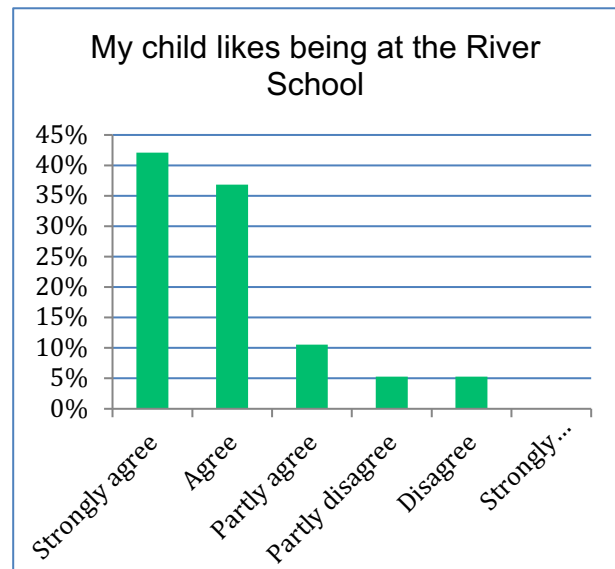
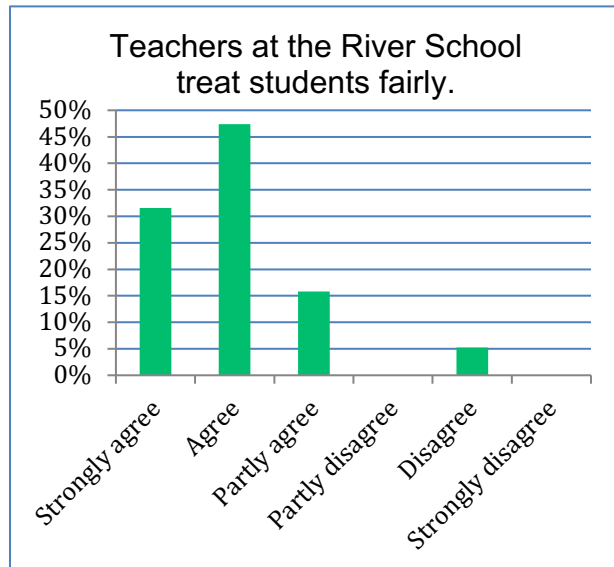
In 2025 there was an active River School Parent & Friends Committee. Their focus was to serve as a conduit between the school and the parent community. They successfully hosted school Café Nights and fundraised for the school.

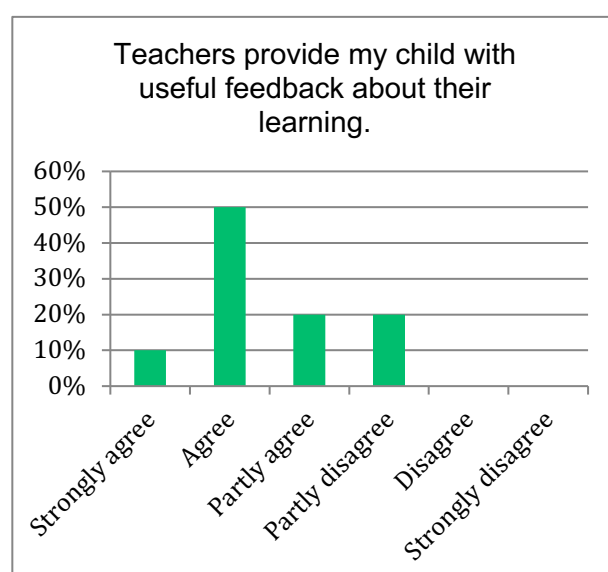
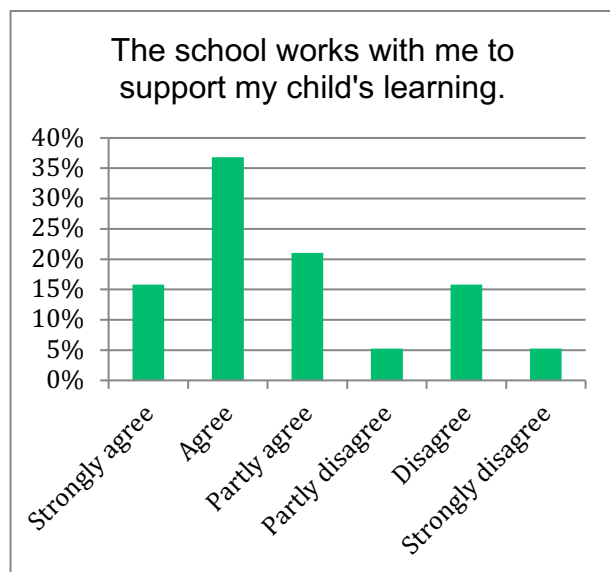
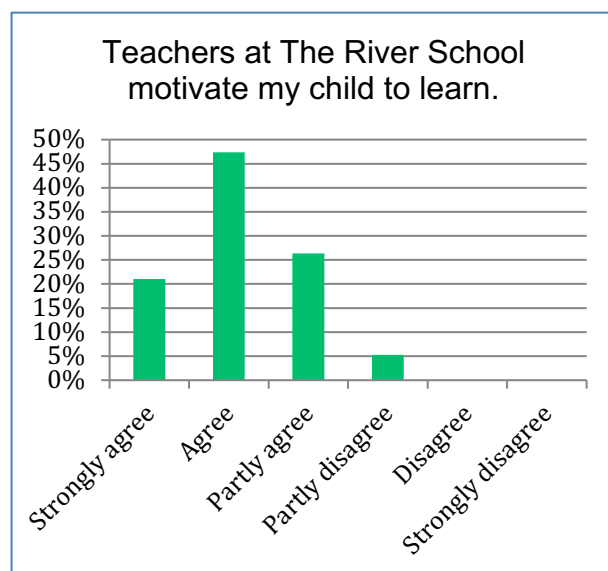
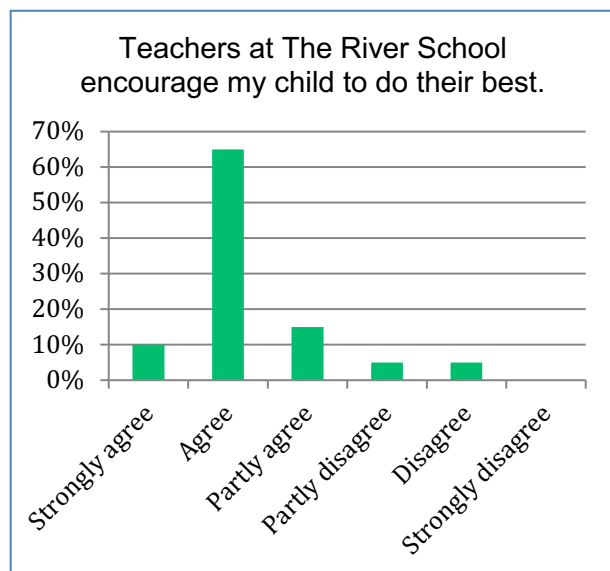
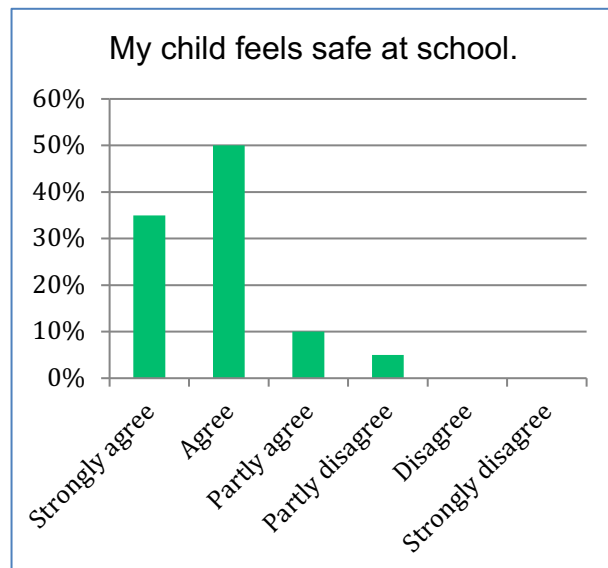
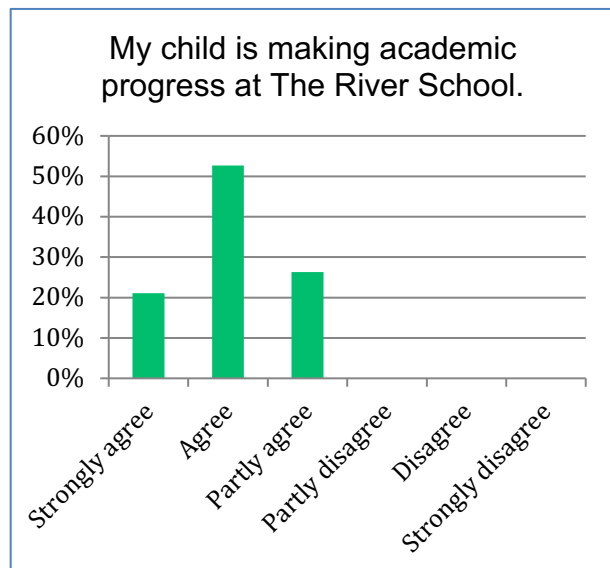
Our Annual Spring Fair was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate 30 Years of the River School. We invited our local community to come and celebrate our achievements, as well as show case who we are as a school and what we have on offer.

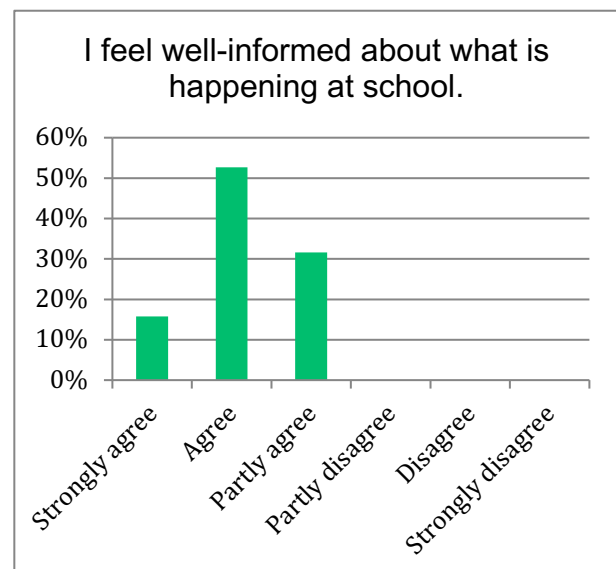
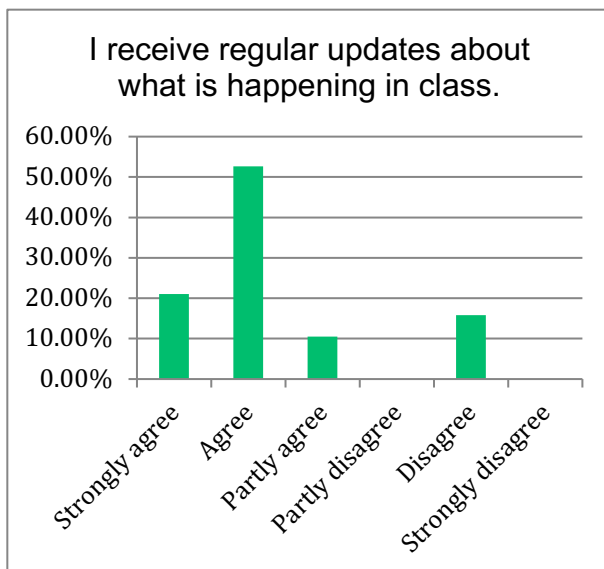
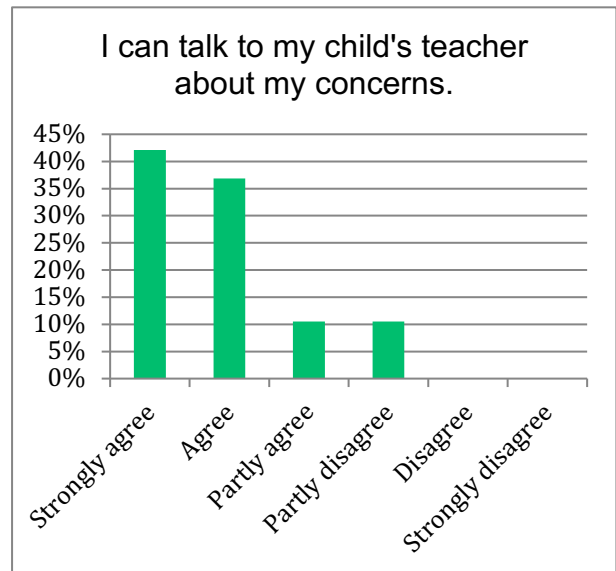
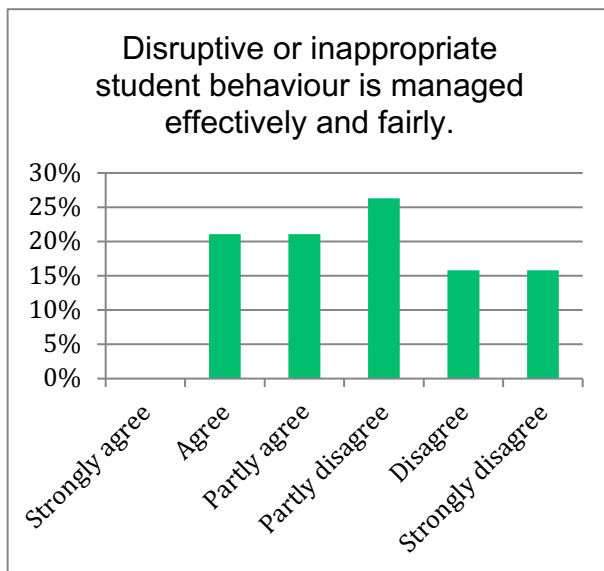
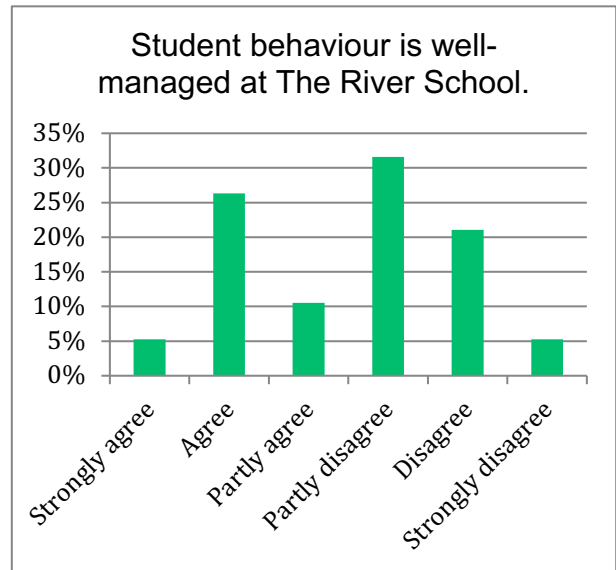
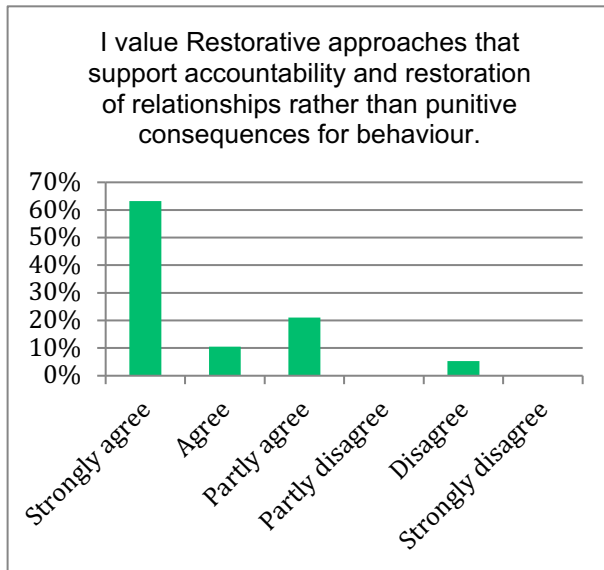


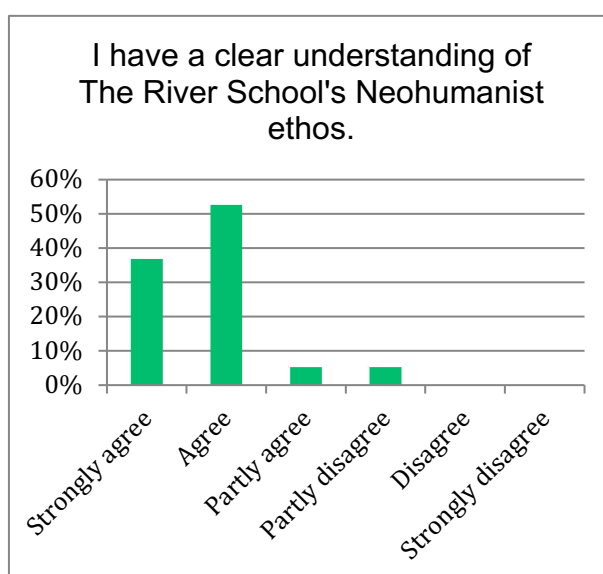
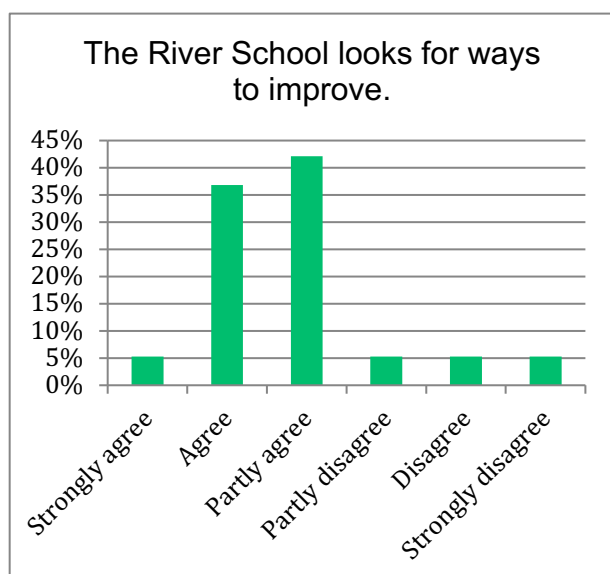
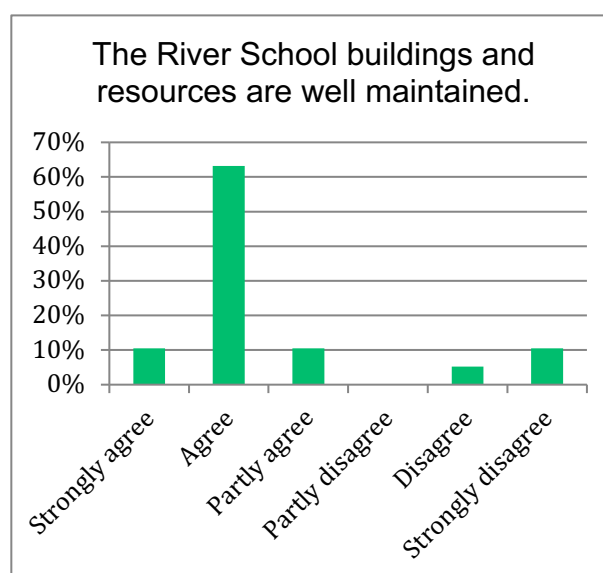
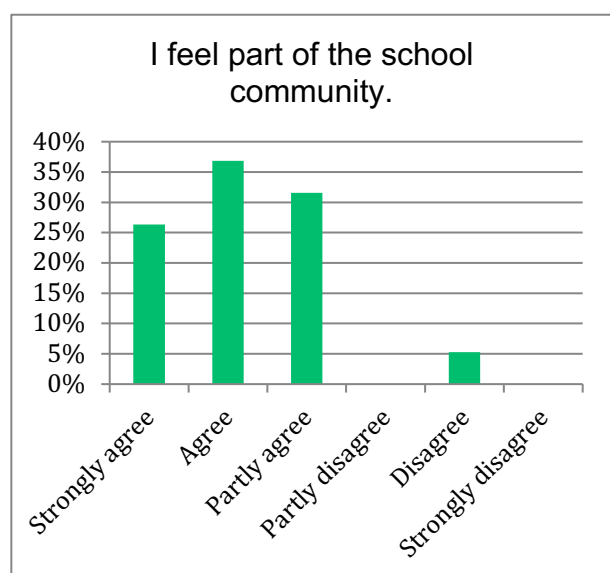
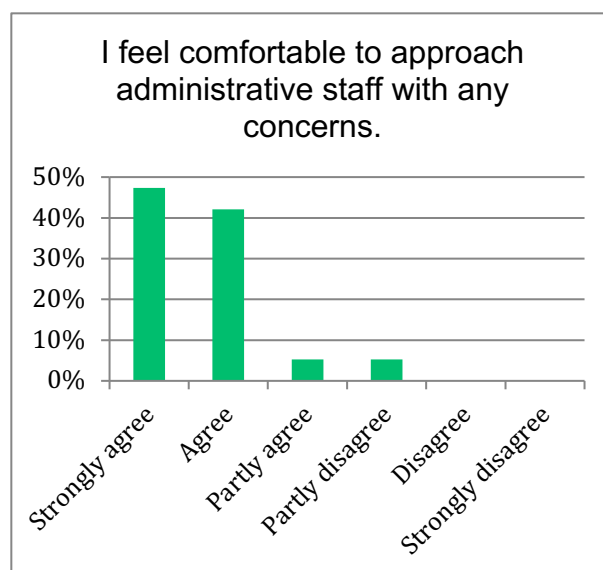
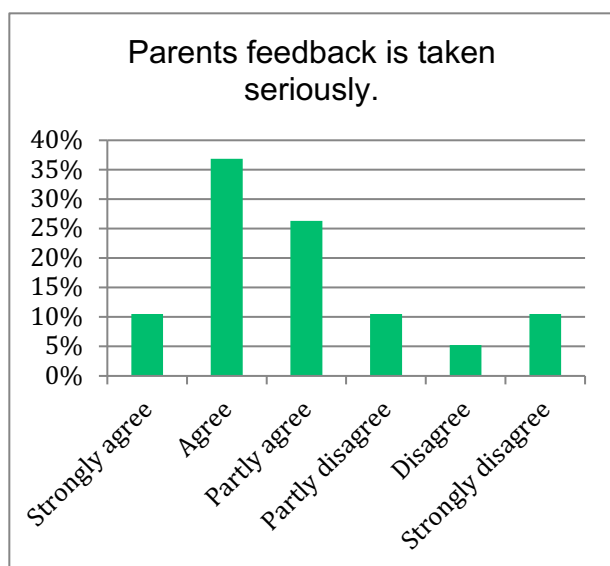
Parent satisfaction and feedback about the school

In our commitment to providing the best possible learning experience, The River School conducted a confidential parent survey in 2025. Parents shared their insights by rating statements on a scale as per the details below.









Student Outcomes

Over 2025, average student attendance rate for The River School was:

Average Student Attendance Rate for Each Year Level

Year levels	Average attendance rate for each year level as a percentage in 2025
Prep	79%
Year 1	83%
Year 2	83%
Year 3	85.7%
Year 4	83.3%
Year 5	81.4%
Year 6	78.6%

Benchmark Data 2025

The average NAPLAN score for all students at the school in each domain, compared to the average score of students in Australia for that domain

Reading

	Year 3 (2025)	Year 5 (2025)
Average Score (School)	452	449
Average Score (National)	402	492

Writing

	Year 3 (2025)	Year 5 (2025)
Average Score (School)	427	450
Average Score (National)	414	480

Spelling

	Year 3 (2025)	Year 5 (2025)
Average Score (School)	460	444
Average Score (National)	405	487

Grammar and Punctuation

	Year 3 (2025)	Year 5 (2025)
Average Score (School)	455	440
Average Score (National)	408	497

Numeracy

	Year 3 (2025)	Year 5 (2025)
Average Score (School)	444	437
Average Score (National)	405	492

School Income - Funding Sources

The River School receives funding from a variety of sources including Federal and State funding, Grants, school fees and parent contributions. Details of funding sources can be found on the *MySchool* website - <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>

For further information about The River School, or for a copy of our Parent Handbook and enrollment information, please contact reception on 07 5494 3559 or email admin@riverschool.com.au



The River School
251 Bridge Creek Rd
PO Box 411, MALENY QLD 4552
(07) 5494 3559
www.riverschool.com.au