



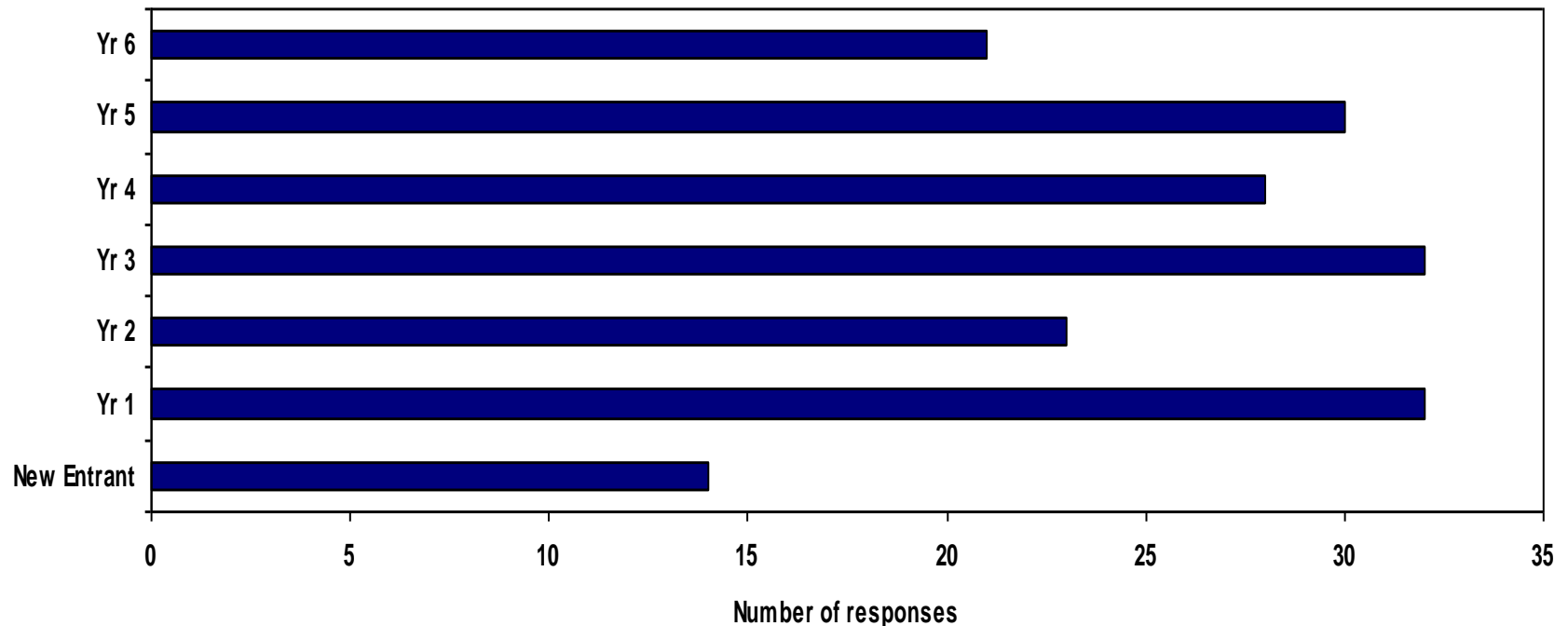
DPS Strategic Plan

Survey Results

November 2011

Response

- 124 responses were received to the survey, representing the views of the families of 180 DPS children, or 50% of the current roll*
- The majority (72%) chose DPS as it was their local school, with 54% of families saying that the reputation of the school also influenced their choice



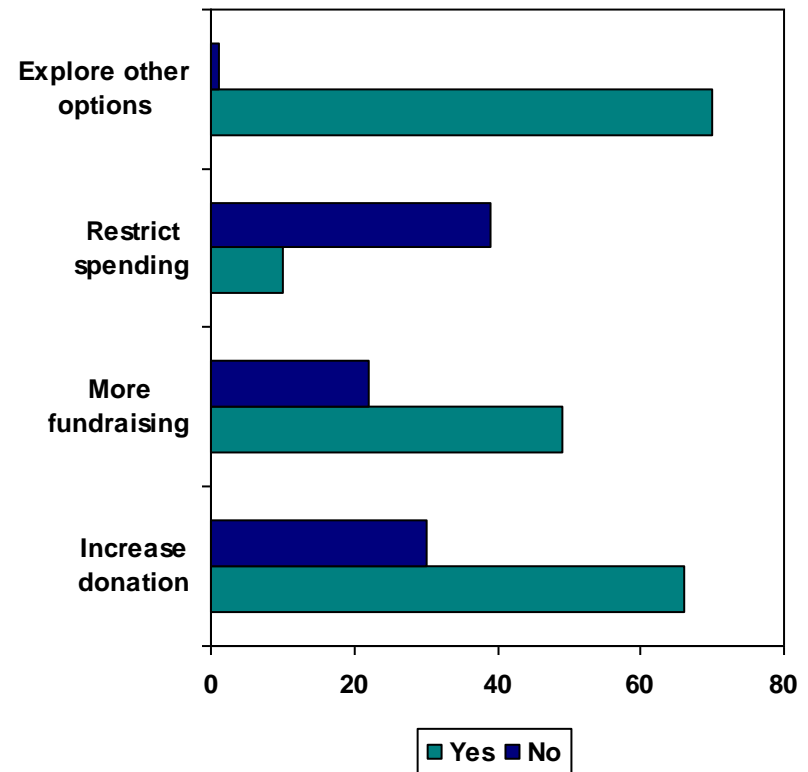
(*50% based on 2010 roll in ERO report)

Fundraising

Although about 2/3 of families would be happy to see the donation level increased, a third indicated that they would not be in support of this.

Other comments made by a few parents:

- A number indicated that they would struggle to pay the donation
- Questions were asked as to what happened when families did not pay the donation
- Could there be a consideration made to single parent families or those on benefit
- Can we introduce monthly payment options?



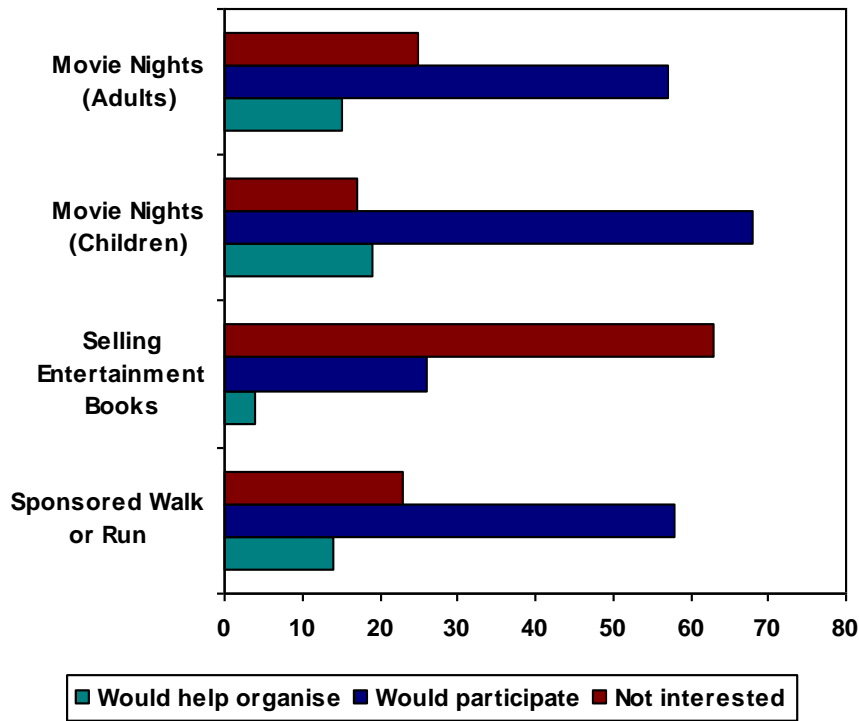


Comments on Fundraising (cont.)

- Would like to be able to see a budget to comment more fully
- Would like to know how the donation compares with other dec. 10 schools
- Would like a clearer picture on how money currently raised is being spent
- Is the current level of spend on IT justified?
- Questions raised about the number of non-teaching staff

Fundraising

Would you be interested in helping or participating in any of the following suggested events?

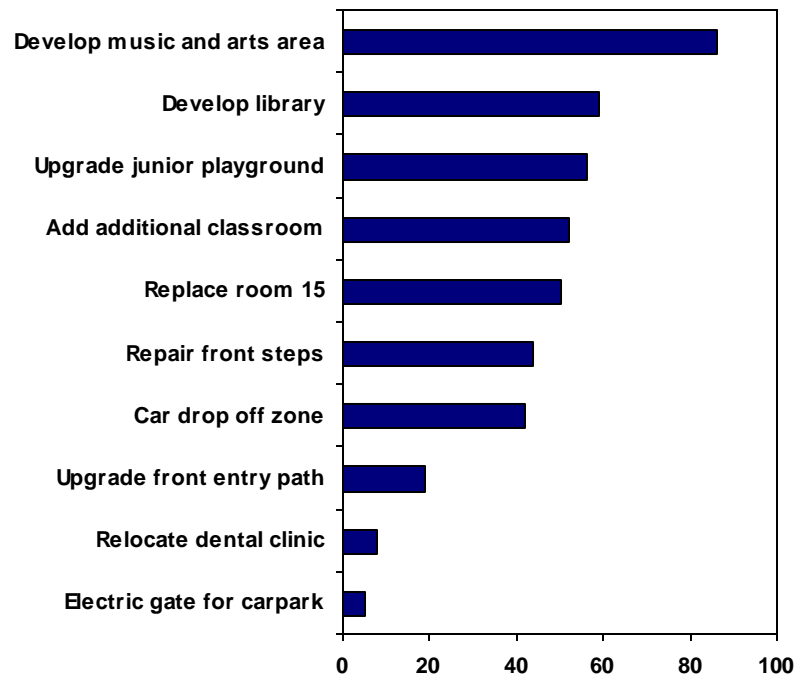


■ Other fundraising ideas

- Dog show
- Fireworks party
- Santa visit
- Crafts fair
- Balls / Dances / Parties / Black tie dinner on Valentines day
- Recycling incentives
- Comedy / Movie / Quiz nights
- Pamper evenings for mums
- Sale of chocolate bars etc.
- School garden and sale of produce
- Utilize parent contacts for donations or sponsorship (set up a database)
- Take advantage of available grant and community trust fund opportunities

Property Upgrades

Which projects would you rank as high priority?

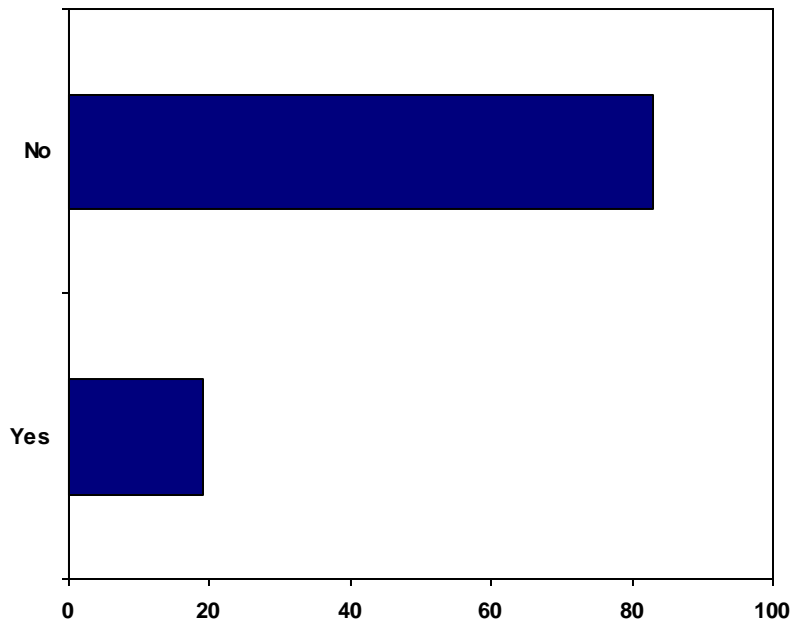


■ Other suggested projects

- Better utilisation of the school hall as an indoor sports arena
- Upgrade of the kitchen facilities to enable child involvement / better catering at fundraising events
- Overhaul of water drinking fountains
- Purchase of more musical instruments and art equipment
- Provide facilities to teach language skills as this is best done as early as possible.
- Provision of sun shelters in outdoor play areas
- Development of outdoor areas for growing plants / vegetables
- Provide proper bike sheds
- More computers in classrooms
- Upgrade of room 15
- Need a masterplan to coordinate all these projects!

Potential hazards or areas of concern

Have you noticed any hazards or areas of concern?



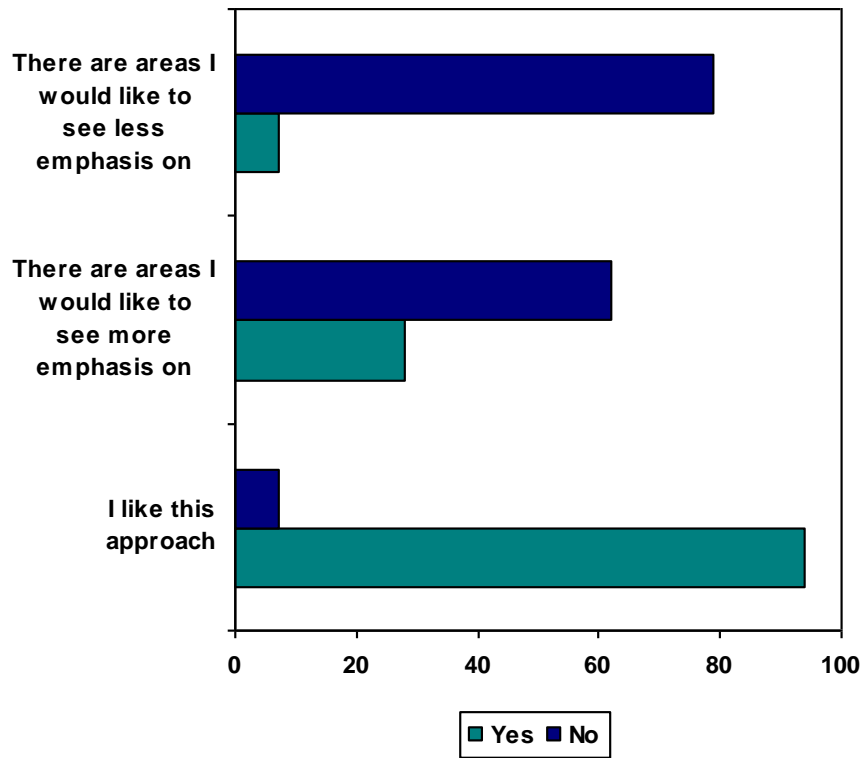
- Children scooting at speed on the school ground and particularly down the mountain roads
- Steps leading up to school could do with improving
- Parents using Mt Vic as a drop off zone
- The gap by the back entrance into the hall is dangerous
- Would like more safe crossing areas around the school
 - e.g a patrolled crossing on Kerr Street in the afternoon - lots of children head down into the village after school for activities and there is no safe place for them to cross without adult supervision

Walking School Bus

- Provide incentives for parents helpers and children that participate
- Have a trial week
- Offer parents the option to pay rather than volunteer.
 - If kids are using school bus then there is high chance that parents are not available/able to walk their children to school themselves.
- Introduce scooter or bike school buses

Curriculum

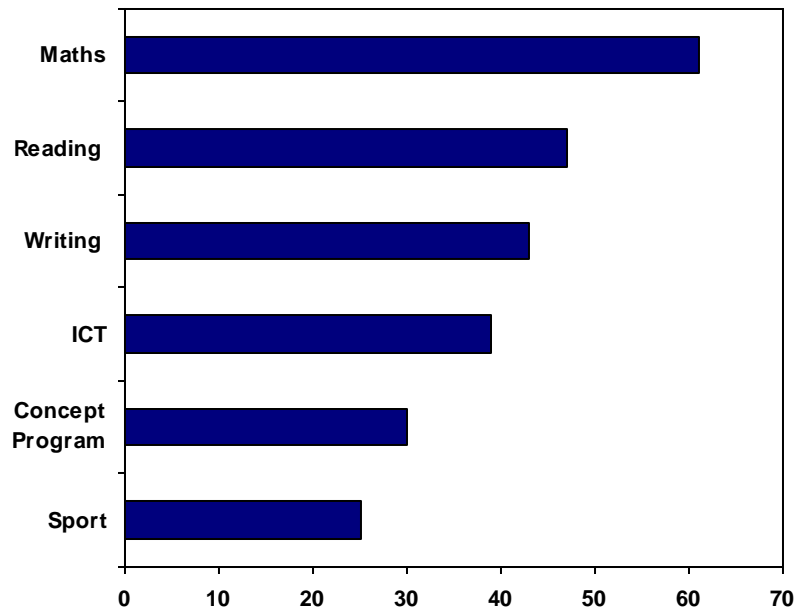
Feedback on the "Concept" structure



- Other areas a few parents commented they would welcome focus on
 - Diet and financial awareness
 - Arts, science, community involvement
 - It would be great if families could have further info. regarding the concept and an opportunity to contribute to the curriculum in terms of making connections between home and school to support what is happening in the classroom
 - Would like to see more maths and science
 - Would like trips to relate to the concepts
 - Would like more history & geography (both local and international)
 - Can we investigate the possibility of teaching a foreign language?
 - I'd like to get more take home info / have the website updated more with what they're up to
 - Is it possible to reinstate extension programmes for bright kids?

Curriculum

Would you be interested in information sessions on any specific areas of the curriculum?



■ Comments (cont)

- Would like more information on what they are covering in class in order to be able to help them at home
- Would love to see more work on the arts, music and drama
- Would like more opportunities for extension for children who need it
- Would like to see opportunities for language learning
- School-wide access to "Mathletics" or similar program
- Would like to see a greater emphasis on maths and science

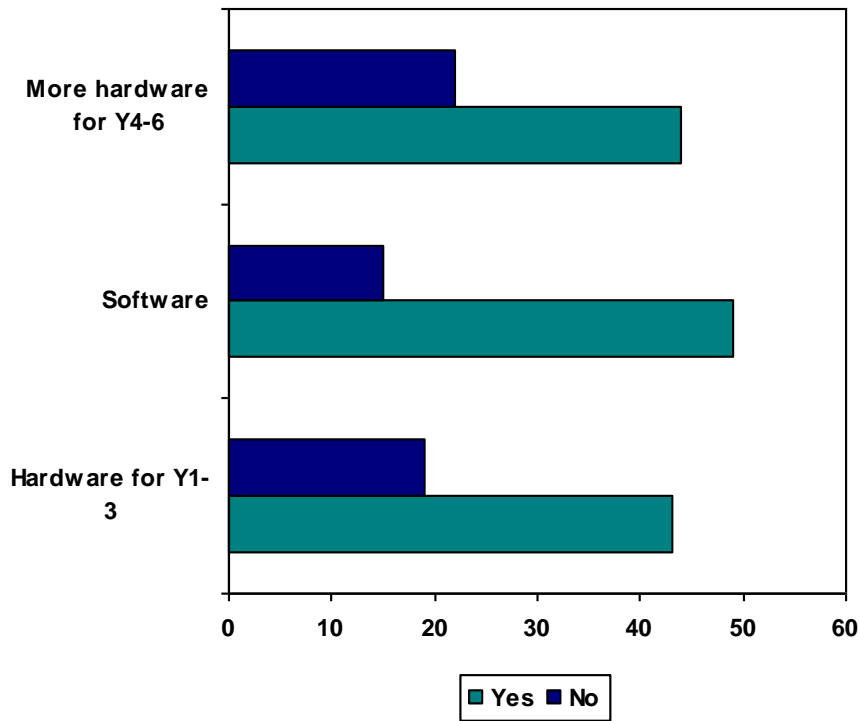


Reporting structure

- 80% of parents responding liked the current reporting structure
 - A minority thought the reports were too general, and not focused enough on work throughout the year
- There was a mixed response to the suggestion of e-portfolios, with around 2/3 of parents who answered the question being in favour of their introduction
 - Many comments, however, suggested they were a “nice to have” and would not be a priority.

ICT Development

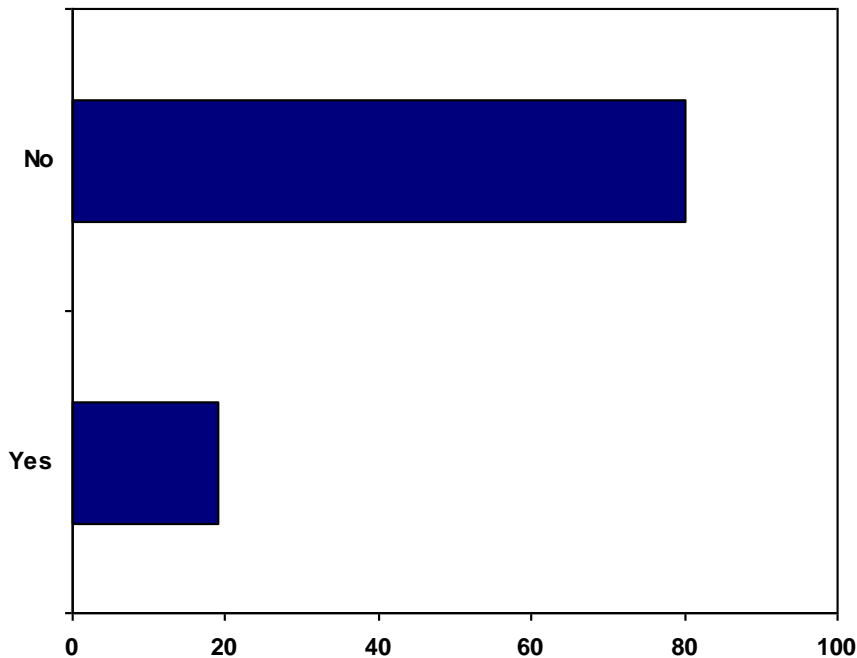
What do you view as the priority areas for future ICT development?



- Most respondents did not feel they were familiar enough with the proposed next developments to comment
- There were, however, a number of comments that suggested that ICT should be less of a focus for younger children

ICT Communication

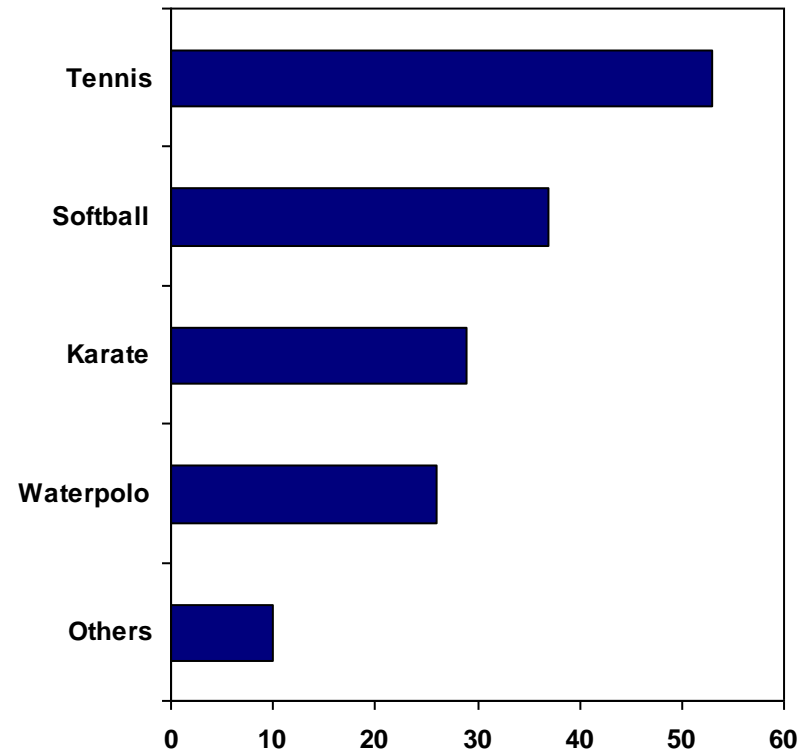
Would you like the school to investigate using social media e.g. Facebook, Twitter to communicate with you?



- The vast majority of respondents indicated a preference for notes or email rather than social networking, which they either use for friends, or do not use at all
- The majority considered these tools inappropriate for school use

Sporting curriculum

- 98% of parents would like to see the current sporting programs continue
 - In addition, over 80% of parents would like to see other sports made available, suggestions included:
 - A ski team
 - Soccer
 - More water sports (use of pool)
 - Dance and gymnastics
 - Badminton
 - Hockey





Uniform

- The question of whether parents would like to see the introduction of a uniform provided highly polarised responses
- 55% of parents who responded to the question were in favour of a uniform, but the comments from both those in favour and those against were very strong

Things we should start doing...

■ School culture and communication

- Introduce a uniform
- Improve communication (update website, include some learning / project examples in newsletters)
- Review concerns and complaints policy
- Improve the process for communicating the allocation of class placements (communicate openly and in advance). Provide children and parents an opportunity to meet the teacher & class mates for next year
- Improve Board profile in the school and communication and links with parents and PTA
- Make sure that the results of this survey are publicised and used
- Investing more in teacher development
- More time for eating lunch

■ New Initiatives

- Introduce a "Kitchen Garden" at the school and engage a group of parents in starting an environmental programme
- Introduce "After School" clubs (sports and other) so children can go direct to club rather than elsewhere
- Greater engagement with local community projects especially in senior school

Things we should start doing...

■ Curriculum

- Making homework readily available on the website and perhaps having optional extras for those kids who want it
- More art, drama and music
- More history and geography
- Provide funding for children with special needs for learning and those that learn differently from the main stream.
- Minimum amount of outdoor play per class (seem to be large variations between classes at present)
- Develop stronger extension programmes for able children
- Investigate maths "recovery", similar to reading recovery programme
- Provide opportunities to learn a language
- More multicultural information

■ Property

- Upgrade room 15 and provide more classroom accommodation
- Better library and more exposure from the kids to the library
- Upgrade junior playground
- Whole school needs a paint job
- Investigate possibility of using Mt Vic tennis courts
- Making sure the toilets are cleaned regularly.

Things we should stop doing...

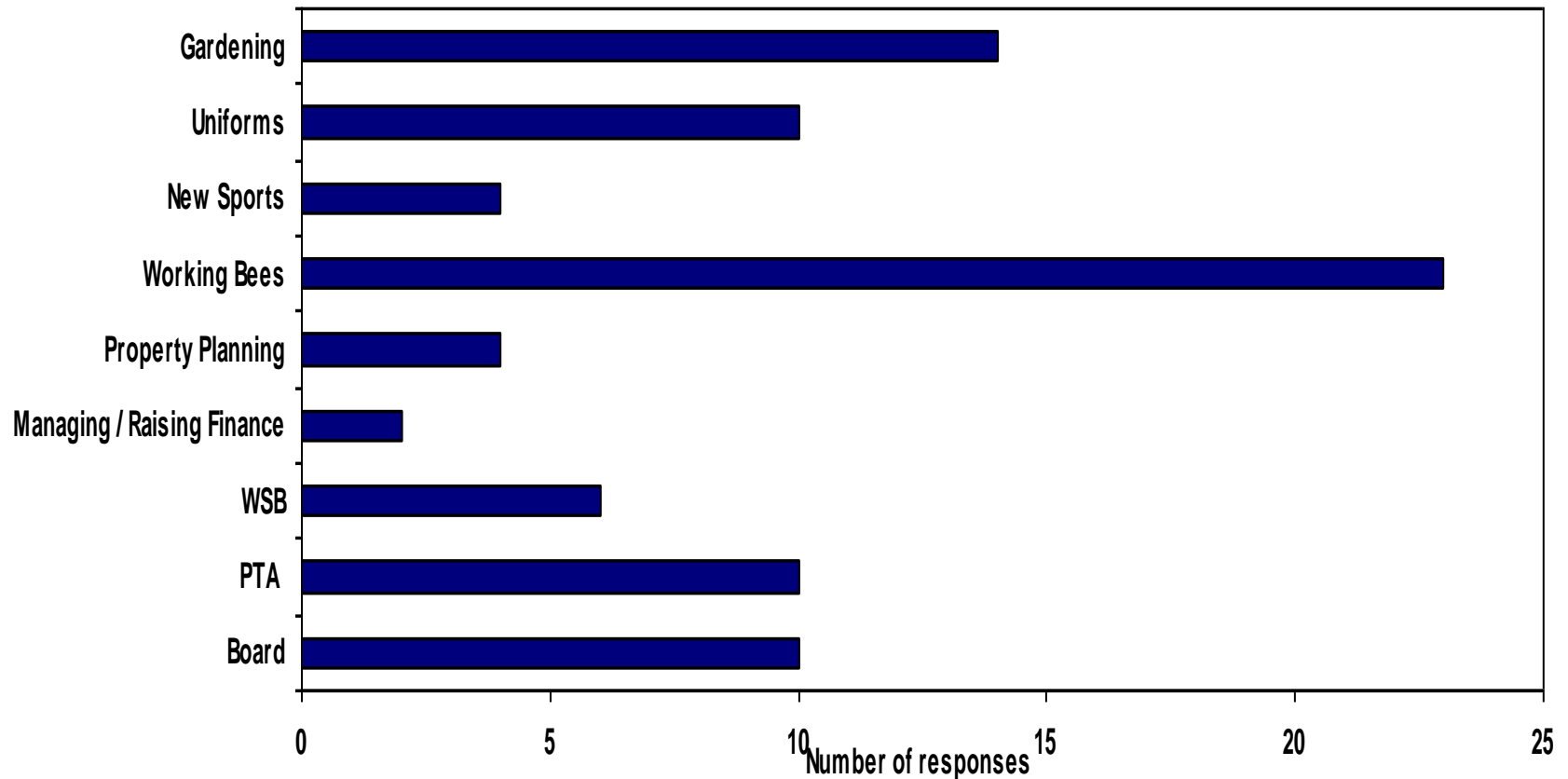
- Thinking about a school uniform
- Teachers out of class for training and sports days
- Giving out class placement forms at the end of the year – the teachers should know the children well enough to know their strengths and weaknesses, friendships etc. As parents don't have a say in which class their child goes into, the forms are unnecessary
- Stop testing and focus on inspiring the kids. Kids learn by getting involved in projects, not because they want to improve their basic facts score
- Considering drop-off zones for cars
- Having the most expensive pool key in Devonport for summer pool users
- Children should be allowed to come barefoot in summer. Also tree climbing back on the menu too please
- Selling unhealthy food for fundraising. It sends a wrong message
- Stop running sports where no winner is recognized
- Allowing the encroachment of commercialism, such as 'hiring' out classes for filming and so on

Things we should continue doing...

- Term "concepts" are fantastic and in particular all the emphasis on the RWC has been well received by the children
- The links between the younger and older kids is great (buddy system etc.)
- The students are very proud of class lead assemblies and families love them too
- Strong programme in literacy and numeracy is excellent
- Providing teachers with planning days and professional development support
- Parent/student/teacher interview structure
- Having parents/families in the classrooms as helpers
- Sushi Wednesday and sausage sizzle
- Swimming and Kiwi Sports
- Newsletters emailed works well
- Employing great teachers and building good role models
- Kapa haka is amazing
- Helping in the community being aware not all are wealthy parents
- Focussing on education and having happy children
- Anti-bullying message to all students
- School events
 - School drama performances, Sports day, Cross country, Book week fancy dress parade, Fair on the Hill, Field trips

Offers of help

- 39/124 responders indicated that they were willing to help in various aspects of the school



And finally...

- It's a great school which the kids love - keep up the good work
- A fab school with fab teachers. Well done!
- I think DPS is a great school, really happy with almost everything, keep it up!
- I think you are doing a great job
- Fantastic teachers
- So many things are fantastic, can't list them all but just a few: the Friday electives, the assemblies, the concepts, the sport competitions, the great teachers, etc...
- Keep up the good work!
- Class teachers are so friendly and welcoming as well as the office staff! Thank you!
- Overall LOVE LOVE LOVE the school
- The school is great!
- Love the school. Love the culture
- I have been very happy with the staff and the curriculum and culture of the Devonport Primary School community. My child is settled, motivated to learn and continues to grow academically and socially
- I believe the teachers are doing a good job and should continue the way they are right now
- We're really happy with DPS and the way it is run. So far our child's experience has been great
- You're doing a great job - keep it up
- Continue to be a great school I love sending my kids to!
- Fantastic School- Very nurturing environment for children. You should be very proud!