



Pegasus Evaluation 2025

This year marks the 39th anniversary of Pegasus Playscheme, continuing our tradition of providing a safe and enjoyable space for neurodiverse and disabled children, young adults, and volunteers. Despite some challenges, the scheme ran successfully, filled with laughter and memorable moments. We were also visited by the High Sheriff of Kent, Jonathan Neame, and members of Dover District Council.

Pegasus Playscheme is a registered charity (no 299301) and therefore we operate based on fundraising, grants and donations to ensure the three weeks can run every summer. Being a Playscheme for individuals with severe difficulties, all requiring 1-1 support we take the children and young adults from a range of local areas to ensure we can support as many individuals as we can to have a summer they will not forget! The scheme also supports these individuals to engage with new people, overcome their own challenges, and have new experiences in their local community and offering valuable respite to those closest to them.

Every summer, as the school term ends, families of children with disabilities and neurodiverse conditions face a unique set of challenges. The structure and support offered during the school months are suddenly absent, and many parents and carers are left to navigate long days without sufficient support or respite.

Our outcomes for 2025

- To provide one-to-one support to children and young adults with severe and complex needs, facilitating the development of peer relationships.
- To raise awareness of varying needs and contribute to reducing social stigma.
- To implement a range of safely managed, engaging activities designed to promote social integration, offer positive experiences, and encourage healthy routines.

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- To offer training opportunities for teenagers, equipping them to support young people with disabilities and participate in meaningful summer activities.
- To enhance the wellbeing of local children and families using our service, while fostering positive community relationships.
- To offer a safe environment where parents and carers can feel reassured and access respite during the summer break, with the aim of reducing family anxiety.
- To help alleviate demand on social care by providing spaces for children involved with the social care system.
- To encourage independence when appropriate and support older children as they transition to our Youth Forum.
- To support disabled children and young people in improving their physical and emotional wellbeing through participation in safe and supportive activities that help develop new skills and engagement within the community.
- To increase awareness of the importance of mental health, and provide emotional support for disabled children, young adults, staff, and volunteers.

Clients and Venue

The scheme was welcomed back once again to our usual venue at Astor School in Dover – this is a central venue for most of our clients who come from the local towns.

Children taken this year have come from the following areas:

Dover	Deal	Herne Bay	Folkestone
17	11	1	6
Hythe	Canterbury	Dymchurch	Ashford
2	4	1	2

Due to volunteer and child ratios, we aim for between 10 and 13 children in each group each day – however not all children attend for every day – their varying needs are such that for some, everyday attendance can be too over stimulating so instead, the child coordinator attempts to fill every space so we can take over the 10/13, for example:

Group 1: 8-13 age bracket saw a total of 16 children attending across the course of the scheme

Group 2: 14-17 age bracket saw a total of 13 children attending across the course of the scheme

Group 3: 17-21 age bracket saw a total of 15 children attending across the course of the scheme

Therefore, a total of 44 children benefitted from attendance on the scheme this summer.

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This year, we had to turn away two children under age 8. During the three-week scheme, we received two calls for spaces and accommodated both. All places are prepaid to cover costs; we do not offer refunds for illness since scheme expenses are already committed. This aligns with social services guidelines and standard practice among play schemes. Many parents mistakenly believe we are fully funded by KCC, but this is not the case. Pegasus relies totally on many grants/trusts and donations all of which we are most grateful for.

Parents and carers complete detailed forms when applying for their child to join the scheme; however, it can be challenging to fully understand a child's needs from written information alone. Following a discussion last year, an additional question was included on the application form regarding behaviour triggers and effective strategies for support. This change has helped staff anticipate and respond to a range of behaviours during the programme, and input from parents has supported the smooth operation of the scheme. All new participants begin with a three-day trial period to determine whether the scheme is appropriate for them, during which one-to-one support with a volunteer is available.

Each child received a photo as a memento of their time in the scheme. Since introducing a folder for these mementos last year, photos have been sent home for children to add to their folders as a record of their summer experiences.

Transport



Transport for the play scheme was once again arranged through Regent Coaches. Transportation remains our largest expense (£17,850), but it is essential to the success of the programme, ensuring reliable access to various venues for children's activities. This year, the fleet comprised two 29-seater coaches and one 38-seater coach. This configuration affects attendance capacity, requiring the child coordinator to meticulously plan seating to accommodate all children, volunteers, and staff daily.

Prior to the scheme, all drivers receive detailed timetables to facilitate efficient route planning, parking, and designated pick-up and drop-off points. Our drivers consistently integrate seamlessly into the programme, fostering positive relationships with staff, volunteers, and participants. Such continuity greatly supports both the children and operational efficiency. Although occasional bus breakdowns may occur, they are promptly managed with immediate replacement vehicles. The longstanding partnership between the scheme and Regent Coaches has fostered a strong, collaborative relationship that continues to benefit all involved.

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Staffing



This year, nine staff members were employed. Of these, six were staff from the previous year, two transitioned from volunteer to staff roles, and one was a new hire. All staff underwent interviews, reference checks, and DBS screening before the scheme commenced. Additionally, they attended a training day that included safeguarding training, reviewing children's files, and familiarisation with the scheme's operations and planned activities in preparation for the first day.

Approximately 38 one-to-one volunteers were also engaged, including both new and returning participants. These volunteers adapted to the requirements of the scheme, provided support across various groups, and assisted the children assigned to them each day.

Total Volunteer hours 9.30-3.30 daily – 6 hours daily

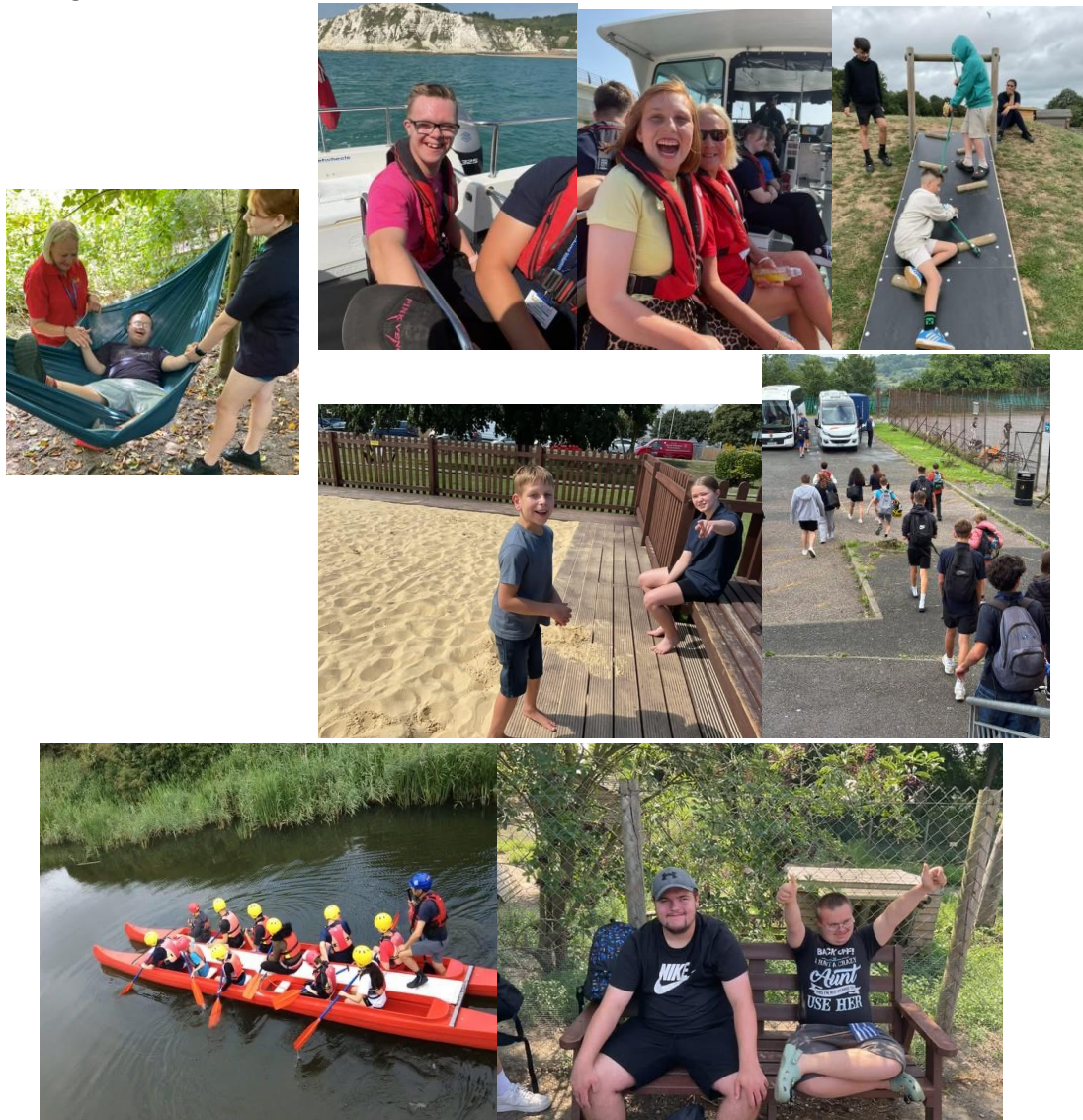
Week 1: 1050 volunteer hours

Week 2 – 1140 volunteer hours

Week 3 – 1038 volunteer hours

Total volunteer hours across the scheme: 3228

Activities:



We scheduled and prepaid all activities for the three-week programme, with group leaders confirming bookings and attendance daily to aid planning. Swimming and the "wipeout" water activity remained popular, so less favoured options were removed to maintain excitement. Activity times were also adjusted to ensure children could have lunch at a consistent time, supporting a structured routine.

After feedback from the teams, all groups were given a free day to select their own activities that would suit their groups. This was used to go to Dover castle, minigolf with ice cream and inflate and play.



This year, we reviewed whether children's information could be shared with a third party to help complete documents when participating in activities.

Funding:

As for many charities funding is becoming increasingly more testing and sourcing the £76,000 needed to operate is a real challenge. Every possible grant and funding application is applied for but sadly we are often not successful as the call on funds from charities is so high.

Despite this we kept with the decision of the price being £40 per day where, the price per individual to attend is £104 per day. This amount appears to be a reasonable cost to ensure the running of the scheme which equated to £76,004.84

Who is involved?

Once again, Pegasus continues to run and be led by a committee. Each member of the committee has a specific role to undertake which in turn ensures that the scheme runs smoothly and all tasks are completed. The committee are as follows:

Sue Clark MBE – Chairperson and fundraiser, supplies coordinator

Natasha Gilmurray – Vice Chairperson, Scheme manager, child coordinator and photo coordinator, supplies coordinator

Lyle Bax – Staff Coordinator, supplies coordinator and scheme manager during the 3 weeks. Youth forum chair

Scott Clark –, Volunteer co-ordinator and activities coordinator.

Scarlett Clark – social media, volunteer and activities co-ordinator and DSL.

Katrina Gravenor – Treasurer

Alec Hall – Youth Forum vice chair

We are also lucky enough to have a small core group of parents who also offer additional support and advice during the scheme and we are very grateful for their support.

Parent Feedback:

All parents/carers are given a questionnaire to complete to ask their views of the scheme – this is order that we can make necessary changes and/or adjustments and to support validity in moving forward year on year!

We received 20/44 questionnaires back this year

Where did you hear about Pegasus?



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Previously attended – 8

Friend – 7

Social media- 1

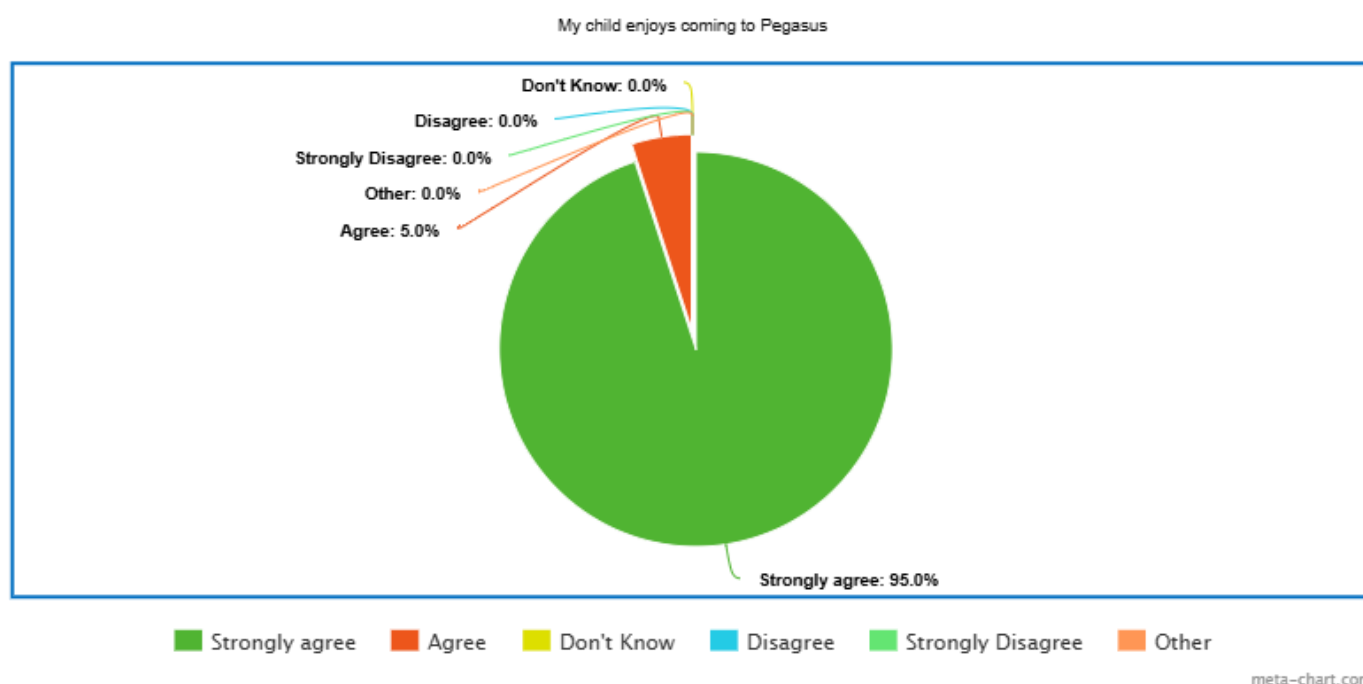
Sibling – 1

School – 2

Family of previous attendee- 1

My child enjoys coming to Pegasus:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
 	I				
95%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%



Additional comments:

"My child loves Pegasus"

"He speaks about it throughout the year"

"Looks forward to everyday"

"Seems very settled and enjoys attending"

"Totally loves it"

"She says it's the best thing she ever goes to"

"Gets so excited about it every year and is already talking about next year fingers crossed"

"Highlight of both my children's year"

"excited for each new day and clearly loves it"

"He loved it"

"Pegasus is all he talks about in the summer"

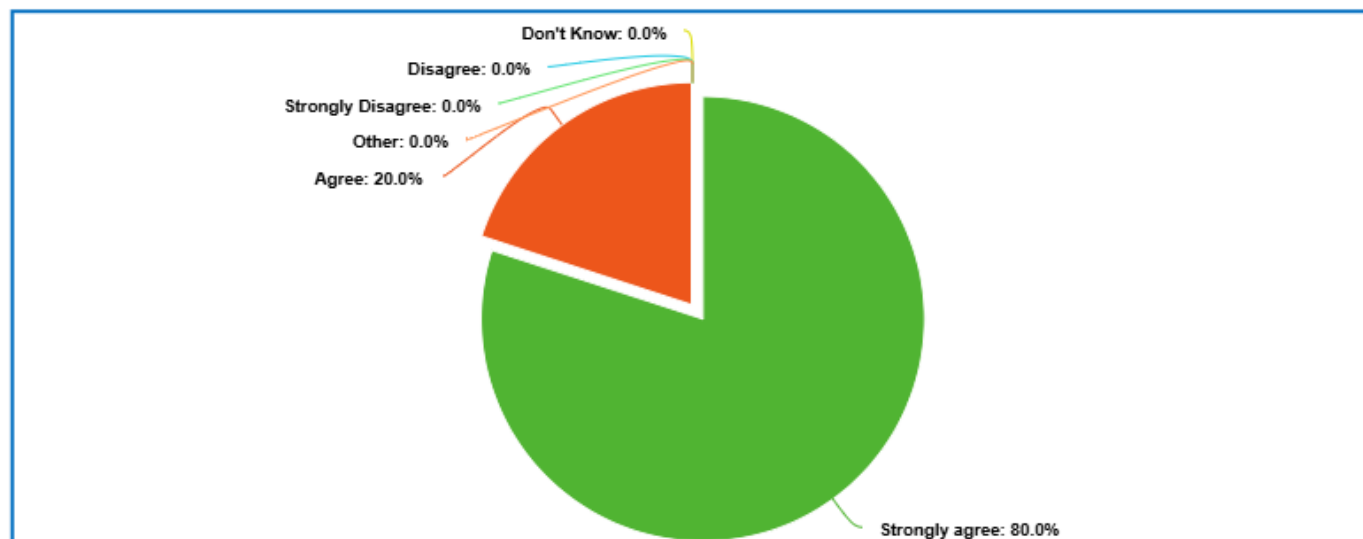
"My child has loved it so much"

"Thoroughly enjoys days at Pegasus"

I know my child is safe at Pegasus:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
80%	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%

I know my child is safe at Pegasus



Strongly agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree Other

meta-chart.com

Additional comments:

"I have never in 9 years of coming worried about safety"

"I have no concerns"

"I am always made to feel assured that he is in safe hands"

"Lots of staff are first aid trained"

"Never had any issues"

"I trust Pegasus totally"

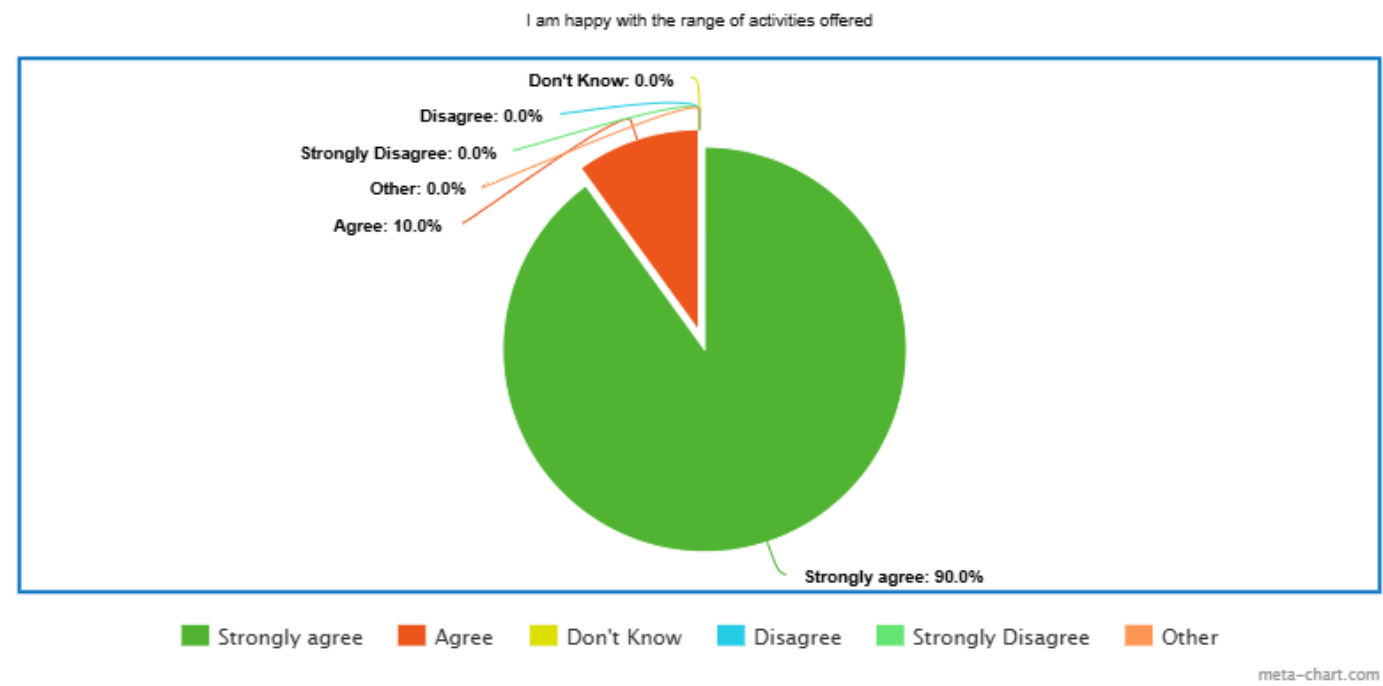
"The volunteers and staff have all been attentive"

"Do not doubt his safety for a minute"

"Don't have any concerns about this"

I am happy with the range of activities offered:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
90%	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%

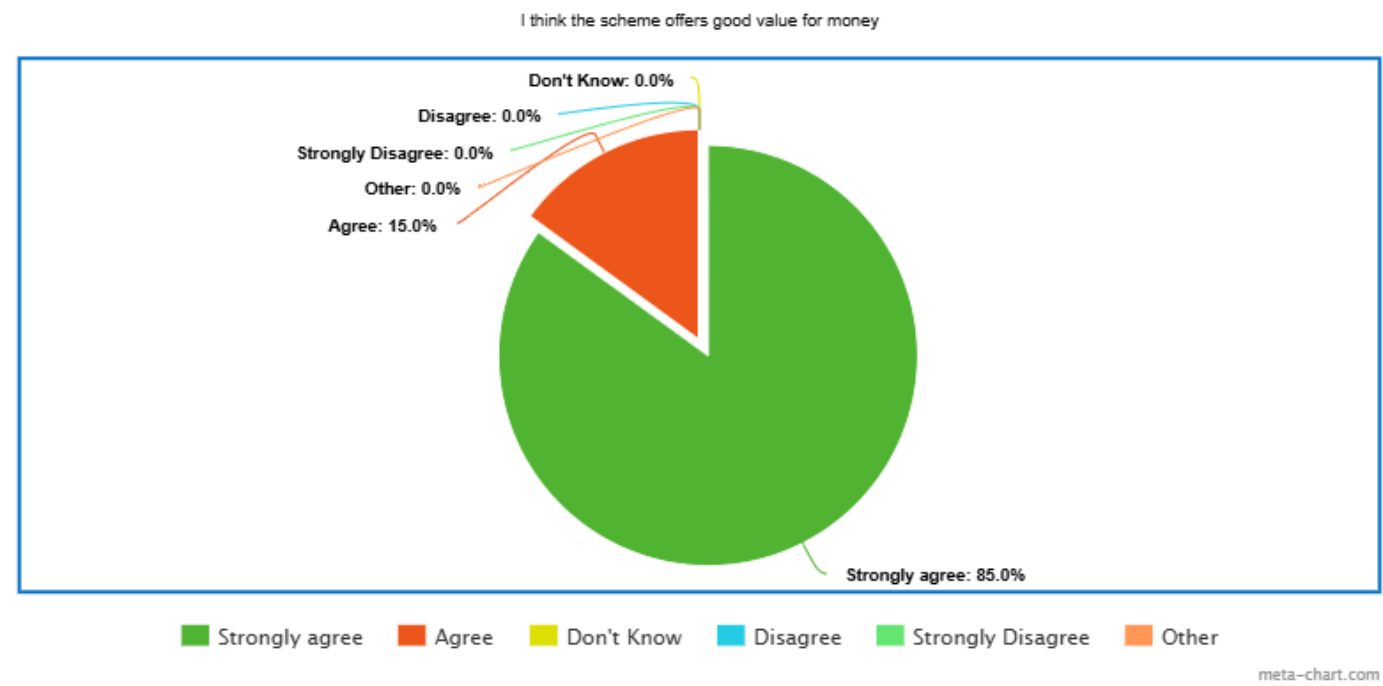


Additional comments:

- "It's been particularly fab this year"
- "Such a wide variety"
- "Every day is different"
- "Great activities"
- "They experience wonderful days out"
- "Lots of activities on offer its amazing kids always get excited on drop off"
- "We have been delighted with what is on offer"
- "So many wonderful activities"
- "some more new ones would be good"
- "Brilliant"
- "Always lots of activities my son enjoys the wildlife trips"

I think the scheme offers good value for money:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
85%	15%	0%	0%	0%	0%



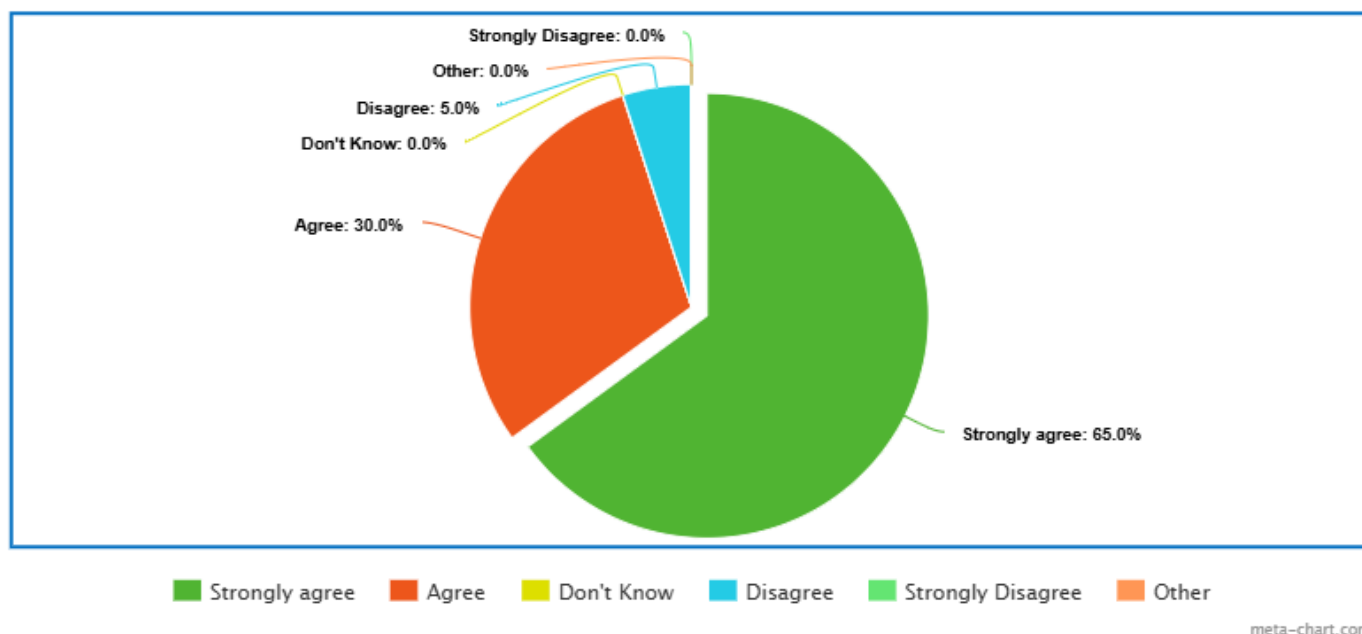
Additional comments:

- “Can’t put a price on the wonderful 3 weeks”
- “100%”
- “Considering hours and activities great value”
- “Most defiantly where else could you take a child 6 hours a day for £40 a day plus 1-1 and transport”
- “For a full day of stimulating activity and exceptional supervision we regard the scheme as great value”
- “100% agree worth every penny”

I found the arrangements prior to the start of the scheme to be detailed and informative:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
65%	30%	0%	5%	0%	0%

I found the arrangements prior to the start of the scheme to be detailed and informative



Additional comments:

"Tasha has done a great job in her 1st year"

"I was contacted early in the year and could ask questions"

"Emails covered everything"

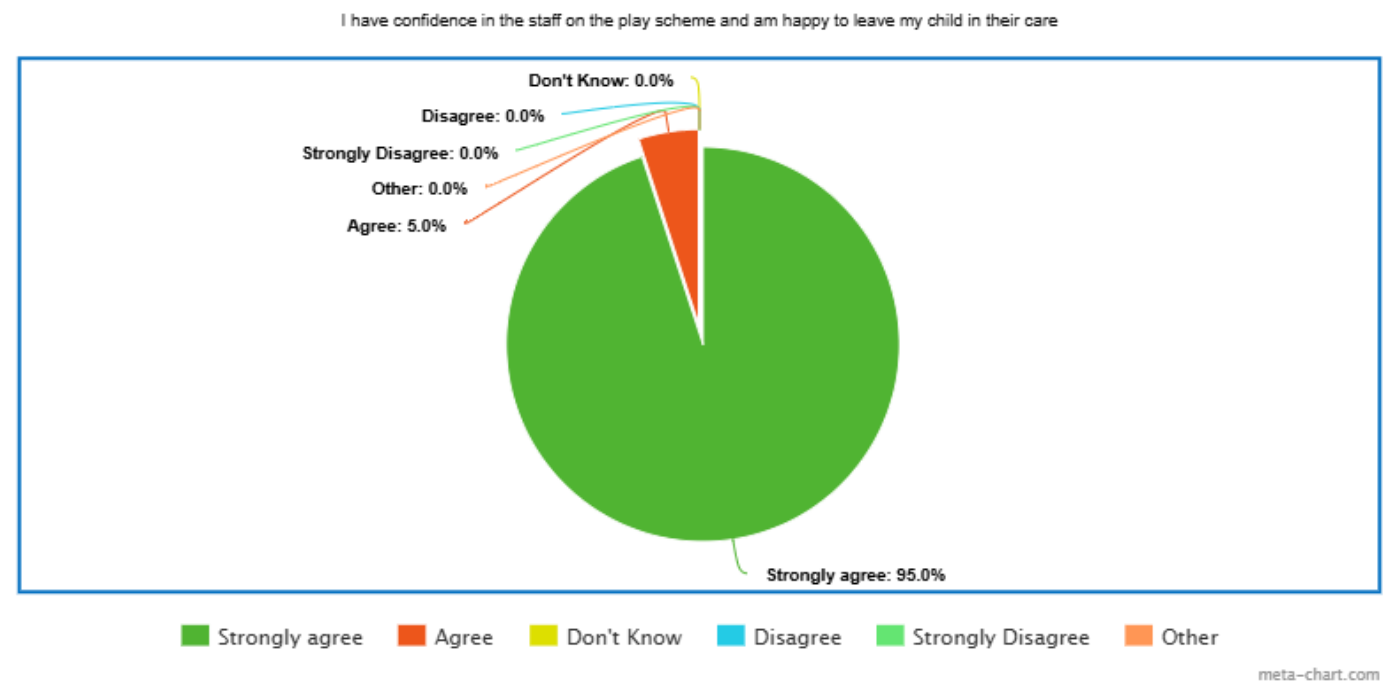
"Would like the programme to be a bit bigger on email"

"Natasha was excellent in her communication"

"Very informative"

I have confidence in the staff on the play scheme and am happy to leave my child in their care:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
95%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%

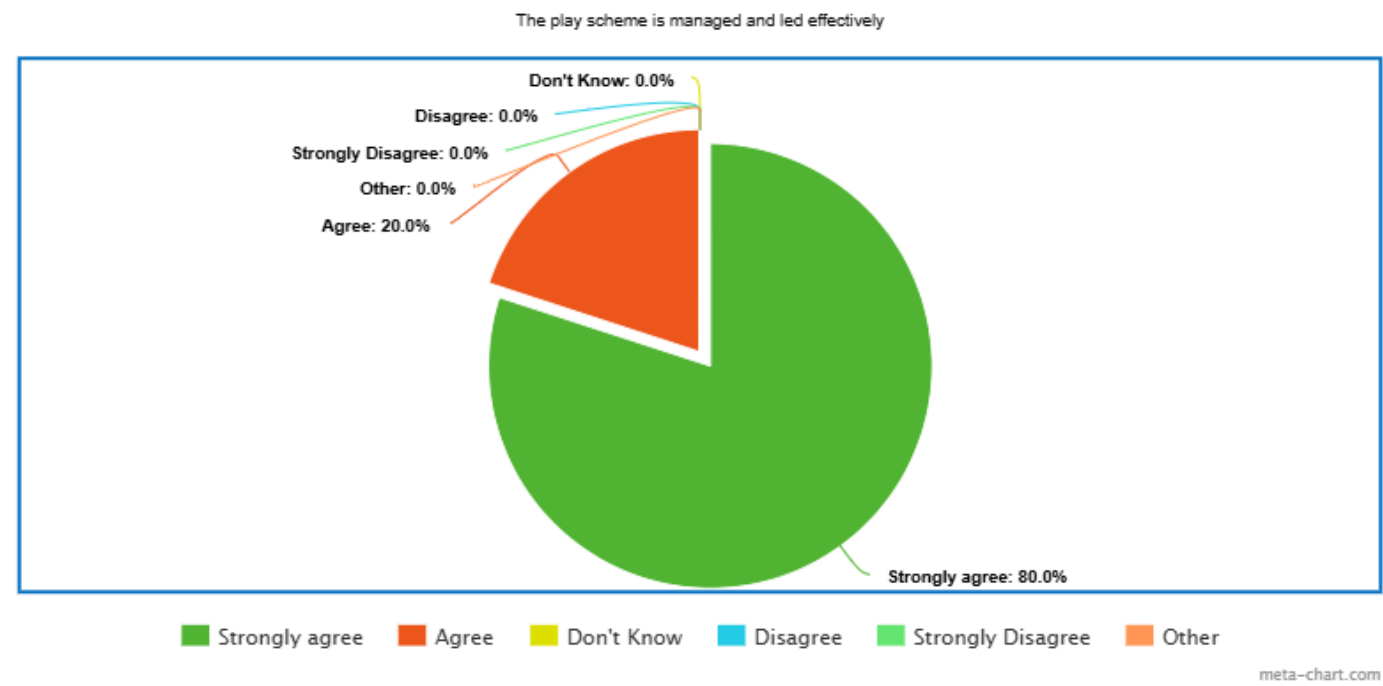


Additional comments:

- “Staff have always been wonderful”
- “My son is always happy greeting staff”
- “The staff have always been so lovely”
- “Makes my child feel special which he likes”
- “Amazing caring staff”
- “Staff are brilliant”
- “All staff are so helpful”
- “We have been impressed by the whole team”
- “I know he is well taken care of”
- “All the staff are happy”

The play scheme is managed and led effectively:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
80%	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%



Additional comments:

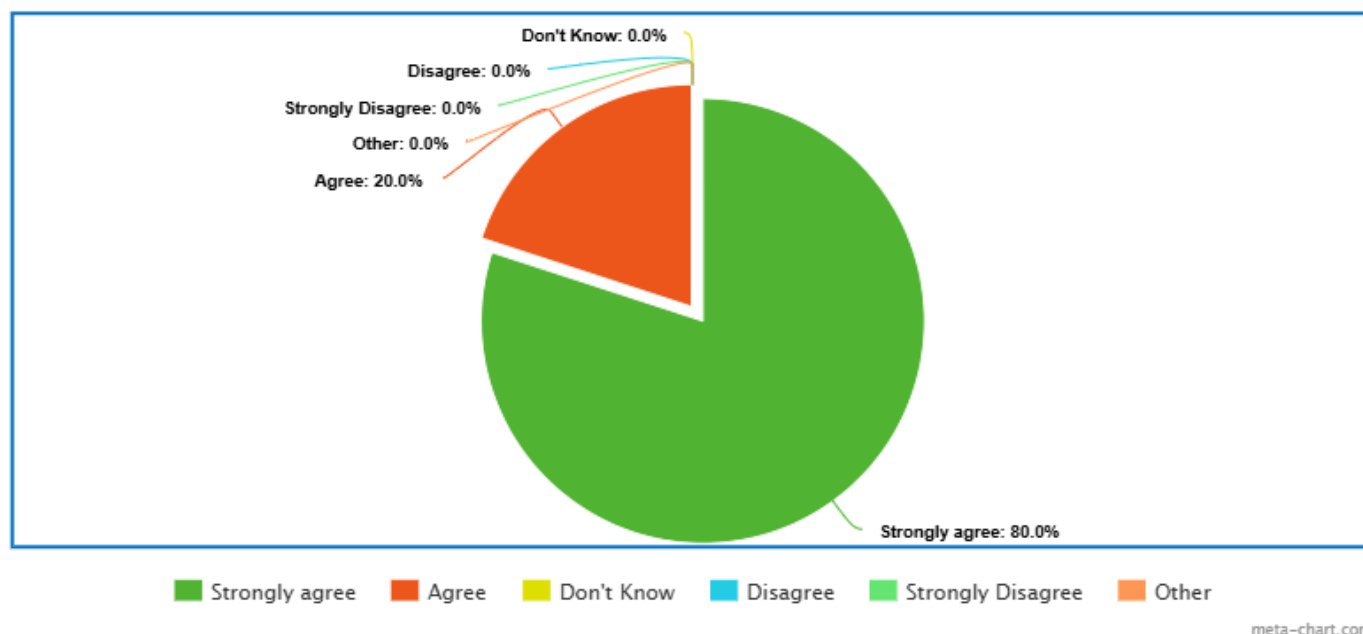
- “So well ran”
- “It is evident this scheme is managed well”
- “From the parents view it runs like clockwork”
- “100%”
- “Always on hand to answer questions”

I am confident that the scheme deals effectively with any problems and responds well to any concerns raised.

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
80%	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%

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I am confident that the scheme deals effectively with any problems and responds well to any concerns raised



Additional comments:

"Have been amazing"

"1st hand experience a problem dealt with straight away"

"They are always available to help"

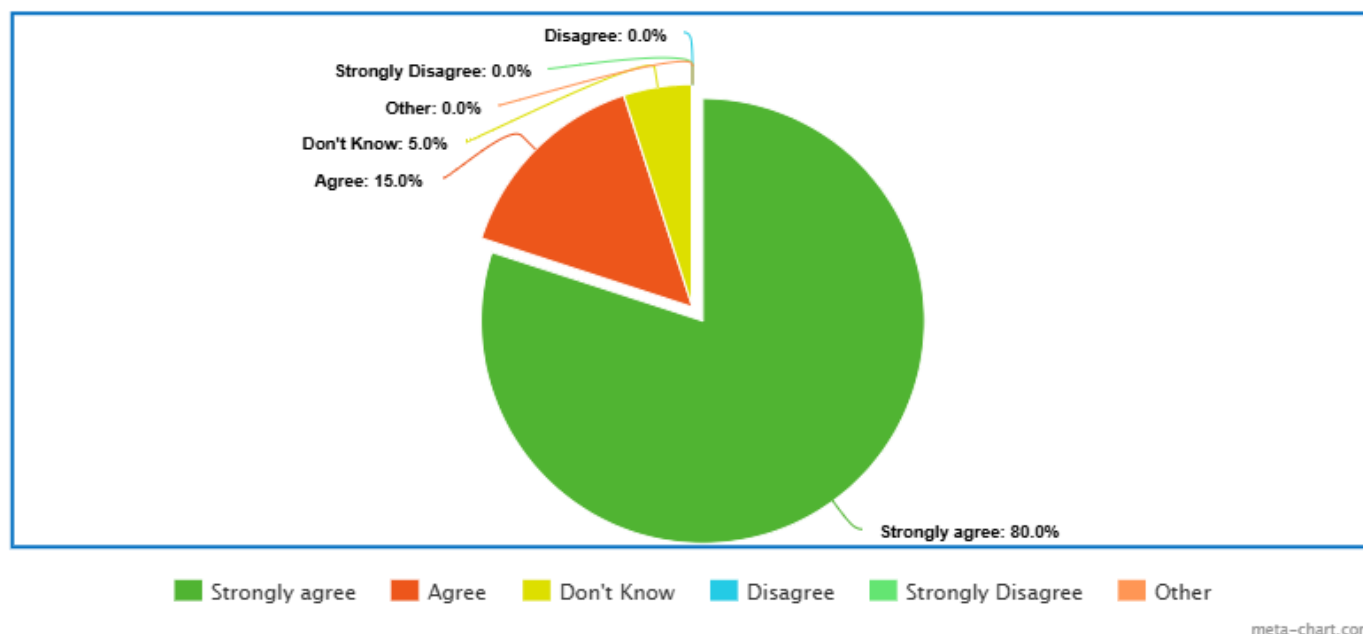
"Never had any problems in 5 years"

I like that the play scheme offers a buddy volunteer system and feel this benefits my child's social interaction:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
80%	15%	5%	0%	0%	0%

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I like that the play scheme offers a buddy volunteer system and feel this benefits my child's social interaction



Additional comments:

"I am concerned when looking after tricky ones but does seem to work"

"My son absolutely loves having a buddy volunteer"

"100% it's fantastic how they have a buddy"

"My son absolutely loves the buddy system"

"This is an exceptional feature within the design of this scheme"

"Gives my daughter the chance to build confidence"

"The interaction with the buddy is so beneficial"

"He looks forward to finding out who he has each day"

"My son enjoys the social interaction"

"Loves 1-1 attention"

If possible, could you write a short statement explaining what Pegasus means to your child/family

"Pegasus is a lifeline. I don't know how we coped before it!"

"My son has the ability to meet new people and form new friendships"

"Amazing scheme. 5th year of attendance never fails to amaze me how good it is"

"Pegasus has been a godsend for my family he just exploded vocabulary"

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"Pegasus is an integral part of our year"

"My son enjoys his time at Pegasus especially the activities"

"Pegasus creates an environment my child doesn't have anywhere else"

"It is the only group locally that i know is able to cater for my daughter's needs"

"The break is great for my granddaughter and us as a family"

"My daughter gets to experience different activities and loves it"

"Pegasus makes true of the concept of inclusivity"

"Pegasus is just amazing"

"My son just loves it"

"Pegasus is fantastic it gives my child a life outside of us"

"My child gets to do activities safely"

"Helps with social skills"

"Gives my son the chance to reconnect with friends"

"The summer holidays can be a challenge without routine Pegasus gives us that"

Do you have any suggestions of improvements you would like to see next year?

"No just a thank you to all involved"

"Know the timetable before dates a bit earlier so we can choose days"

"More jump-based activities such as flip out"

"I do not know how it could be better just brilliant"

"No, our small business now intends to fundraise for Pegasus"

"Communication of when we can book"

We addressed any feedback with parents.

We've explained that rebooking for next year isn't possible due to funding uncertainty. Many mistakenly believe we are fully funded by KCC; however, we are not. Fundraising is in progress for 2026, with the completion of many grants and trust applications. We are grateful to any donations that we receive.

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Timetables are subject to change as with any booking. Weather, staffing issues at activities: closures, sickness etc.