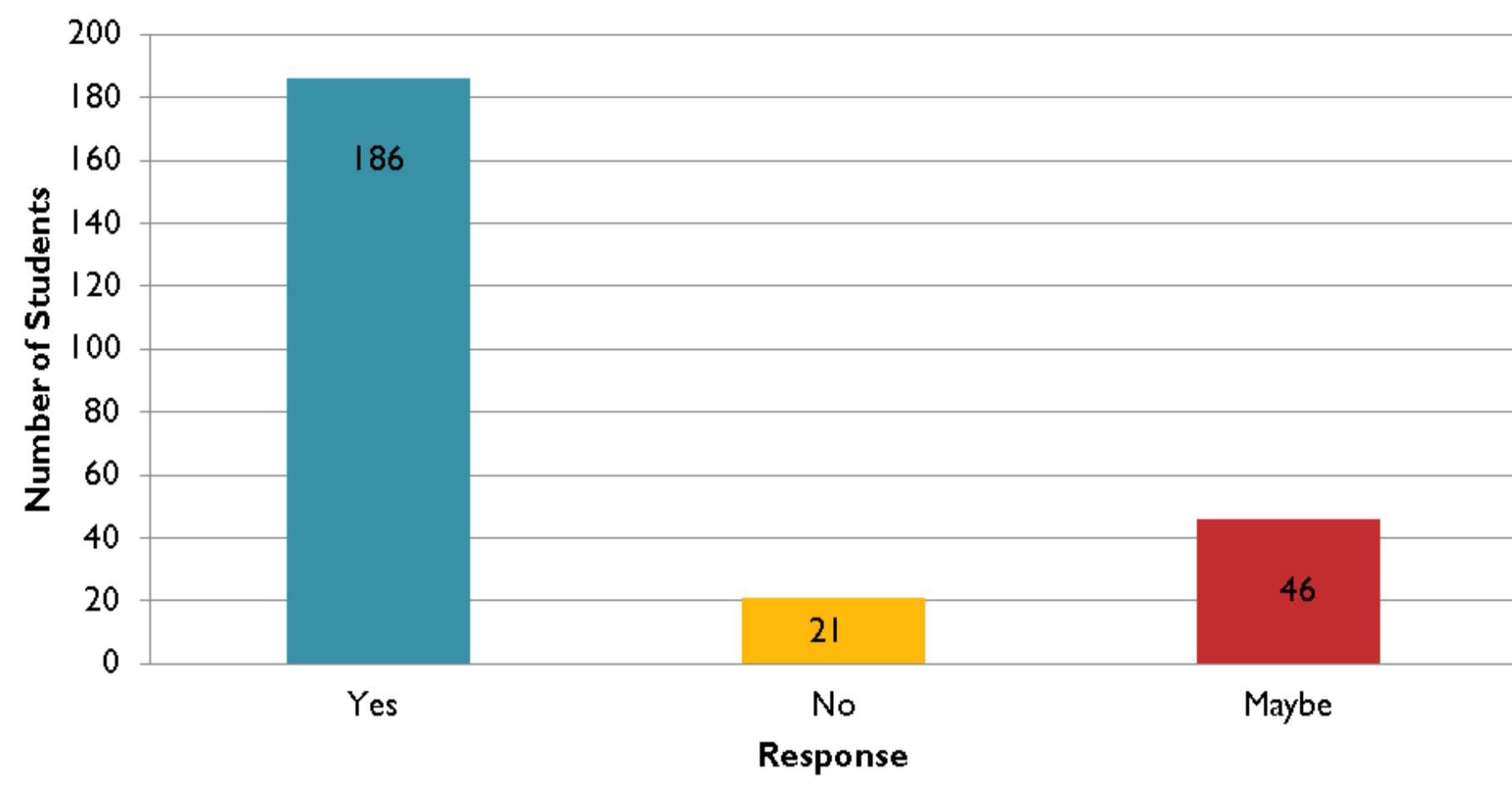


To Believe or Not to Believe...

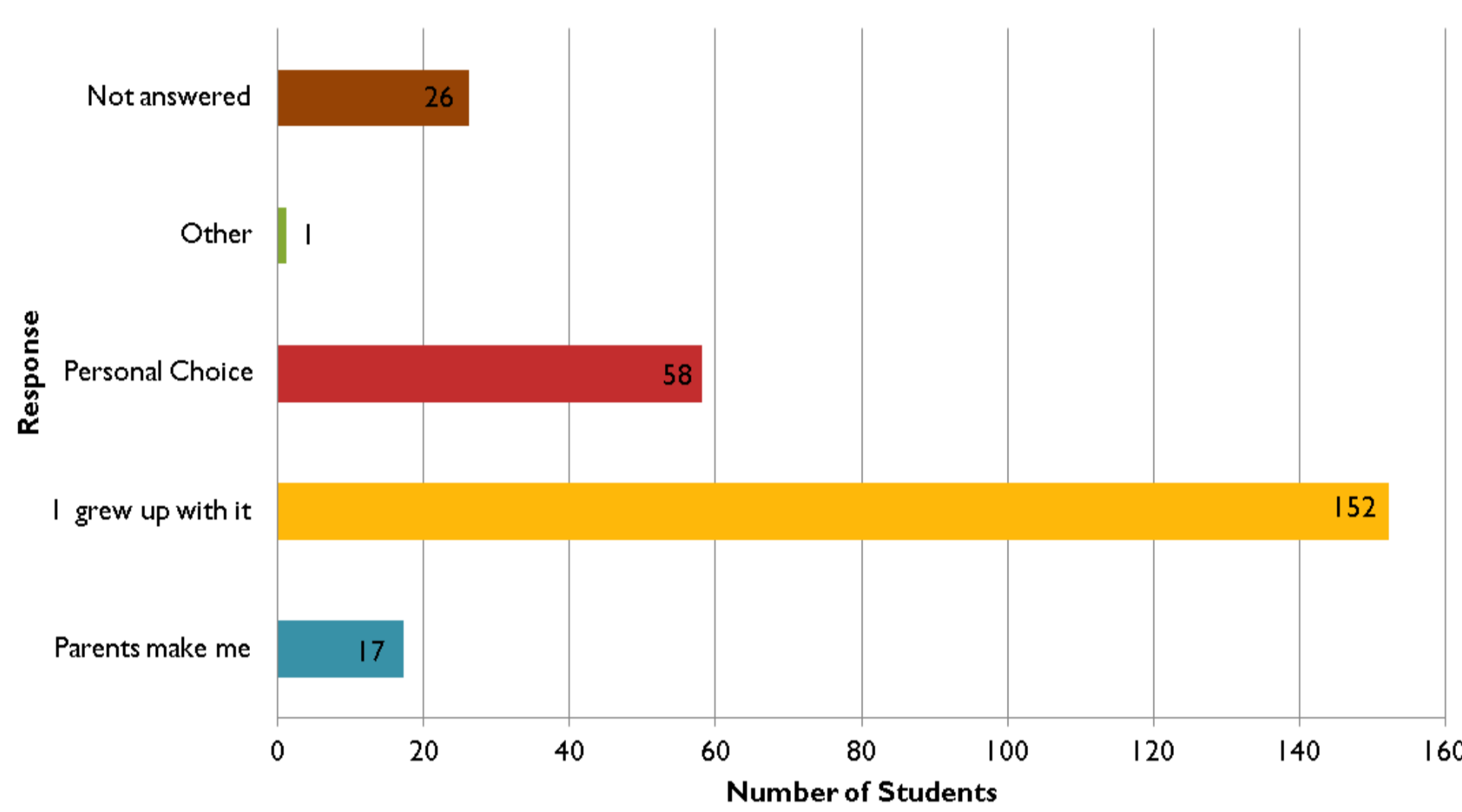
Do you believe in a God, gods or other deity?



Our Approach

We began to gather information by creating a survey with nine questions. We asked about religious beliefs and practices of the students. We surveyed two classes from each year in our school, which totalled 253 students. This gave us a wide pool of answers that would

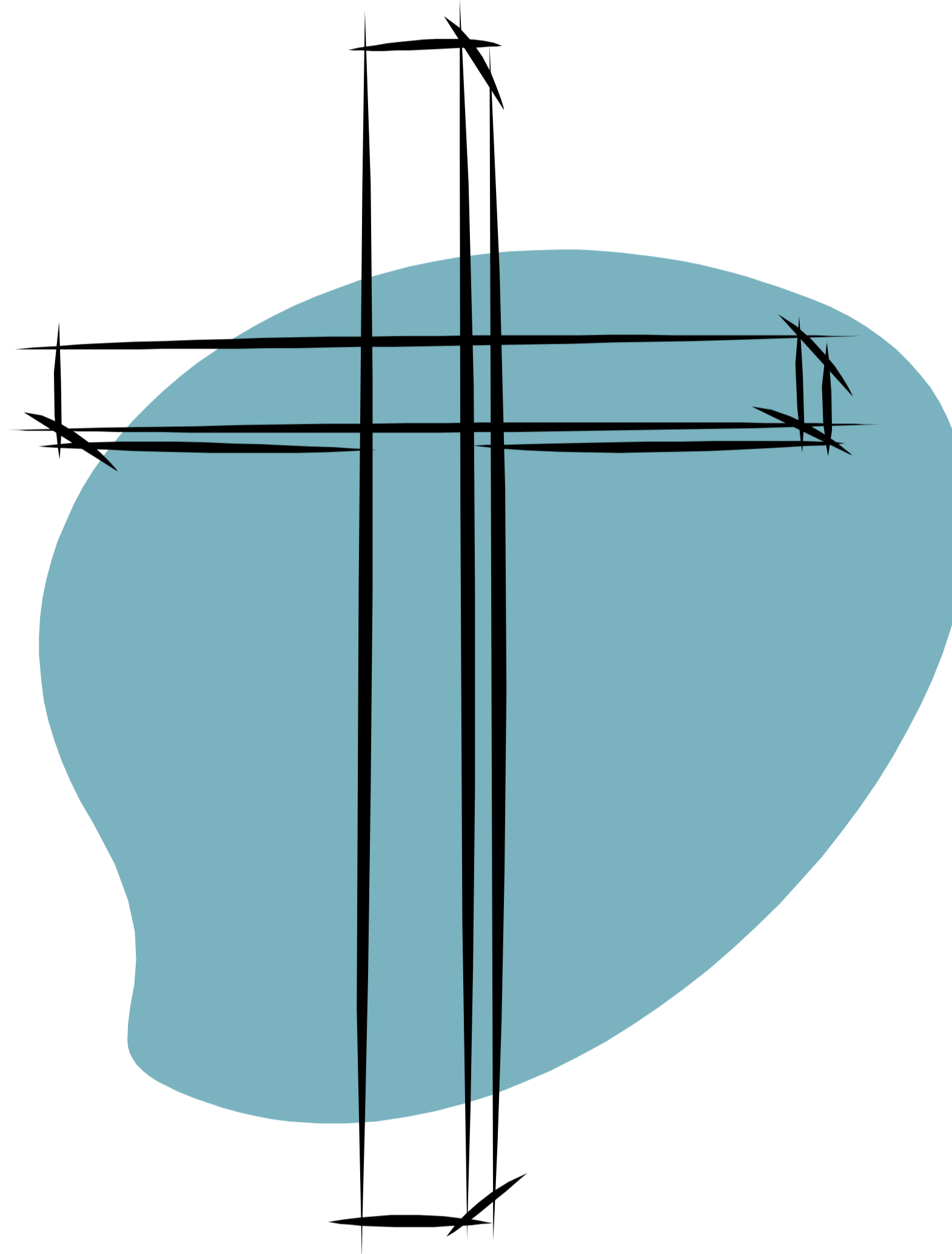
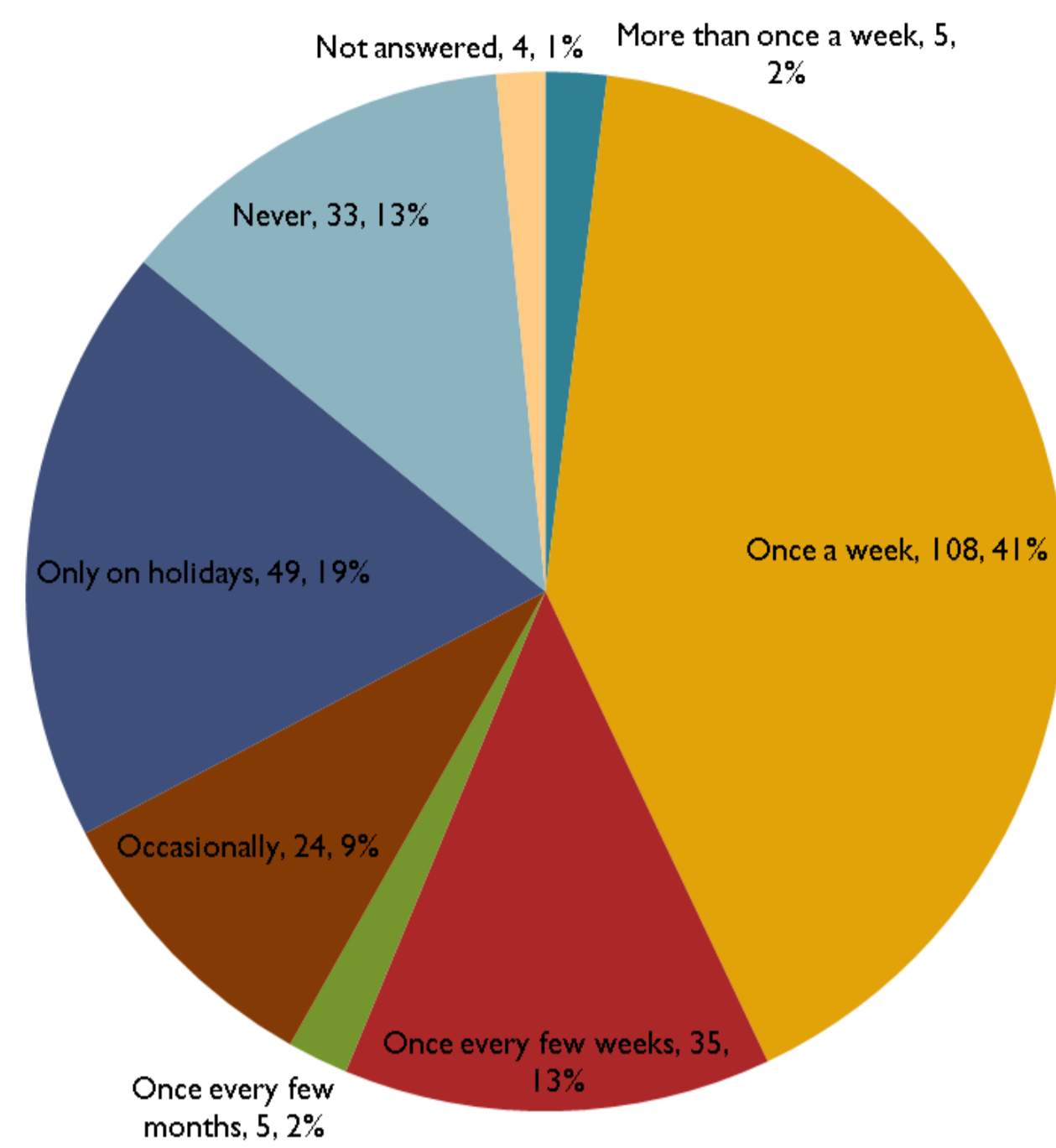
Why do you adhere to this belief system?



What We Would Change

Some of the questions were unclearly phrased and students did not know how to answer them. For example, in the question about having read a holy book, a lot of students answered "do not have a holy book." We intended this answer to mean that the religious beliefs of the student did not have a holy book, i.e. atheism for instance. However, students became confused and might have thought it meant that they do not own a holy book. Students might have also answered questions based on how they believed their friends would answer.

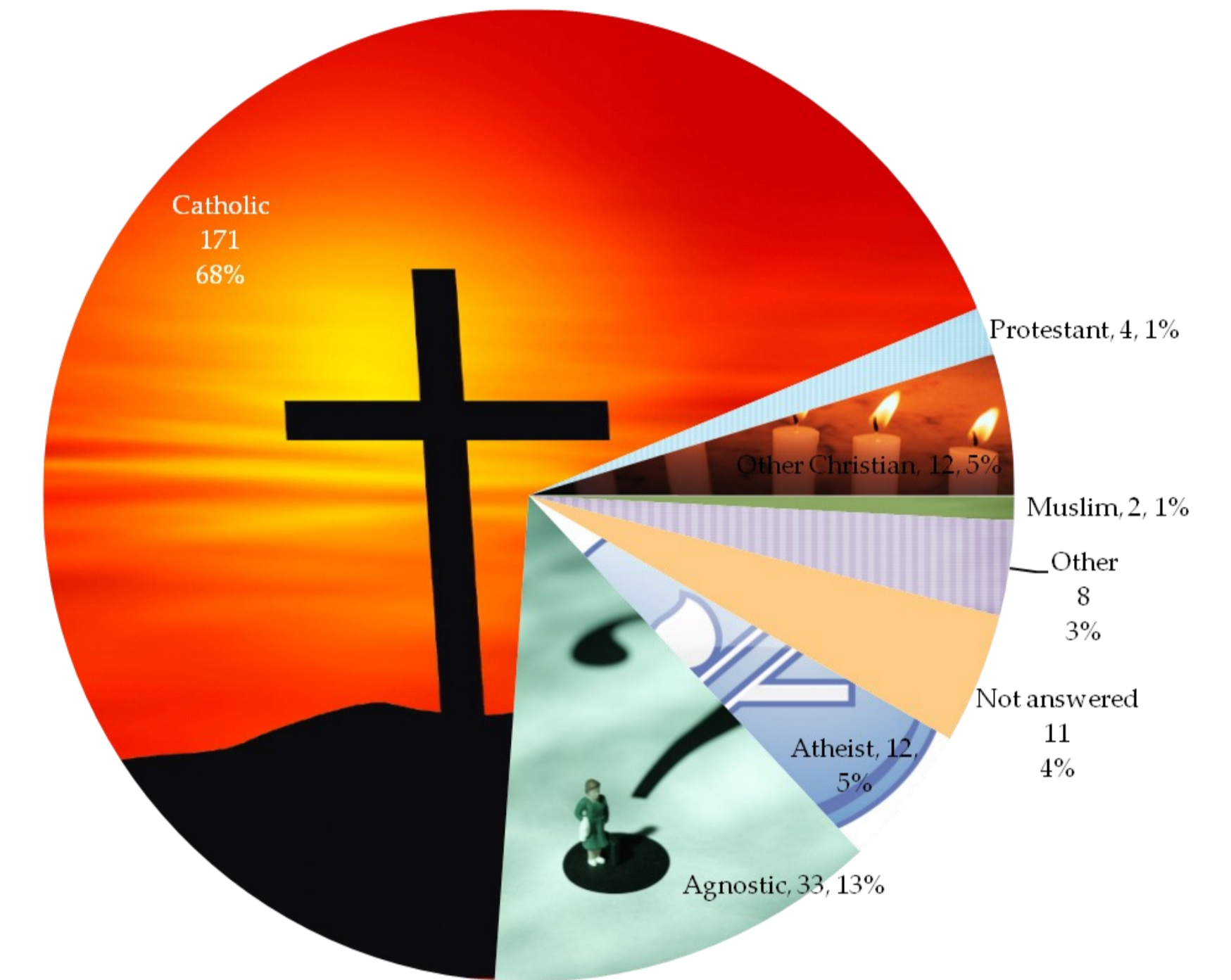
How often do you attend religious services?



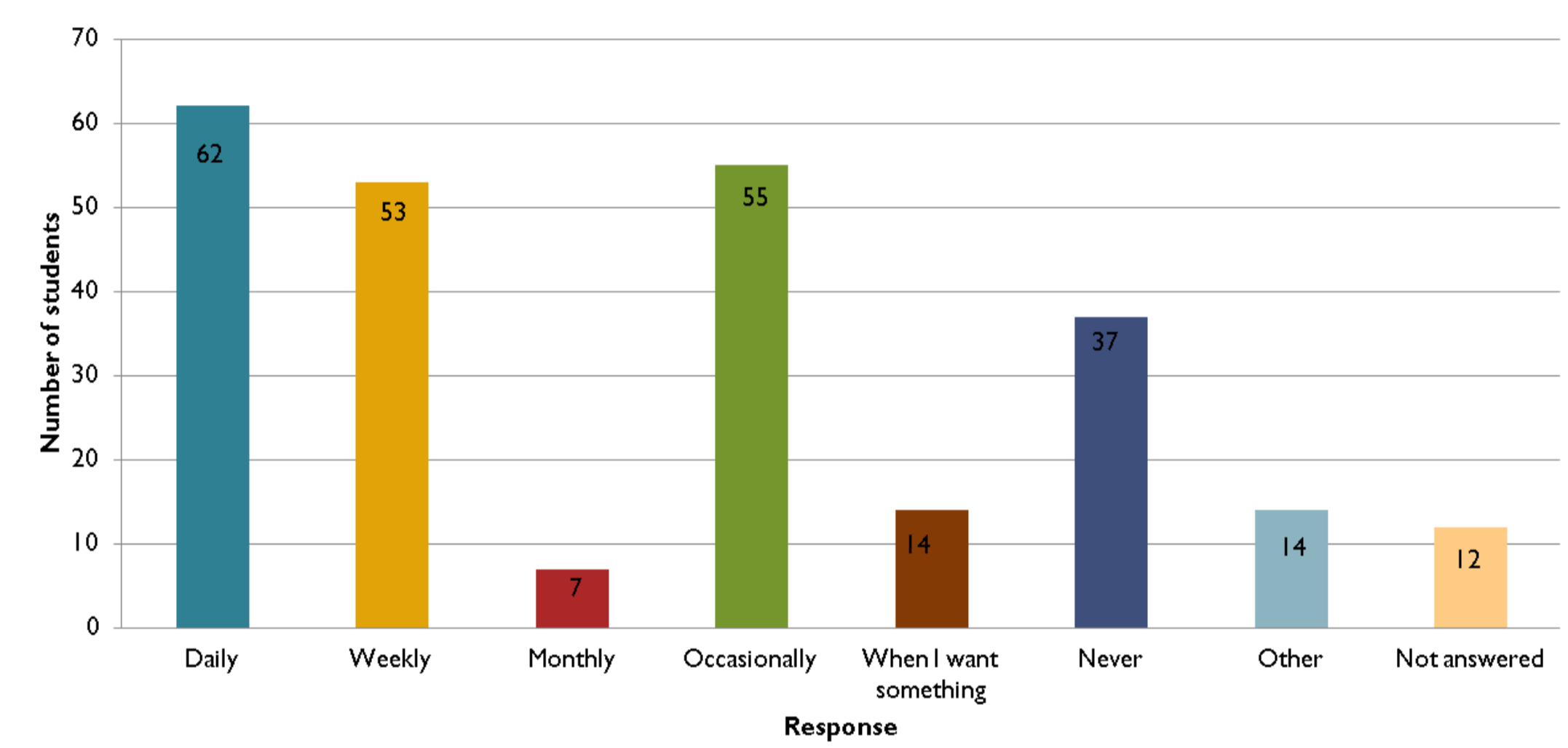
Our Goal

Our goal was to investigate the religious affiliations of the students in our school and why they held their beliefs. We gathered data from 253 students, ranging in age from 12 to their late teens, using surveys. To insure the most accurate information possible, surveys were anonymous.

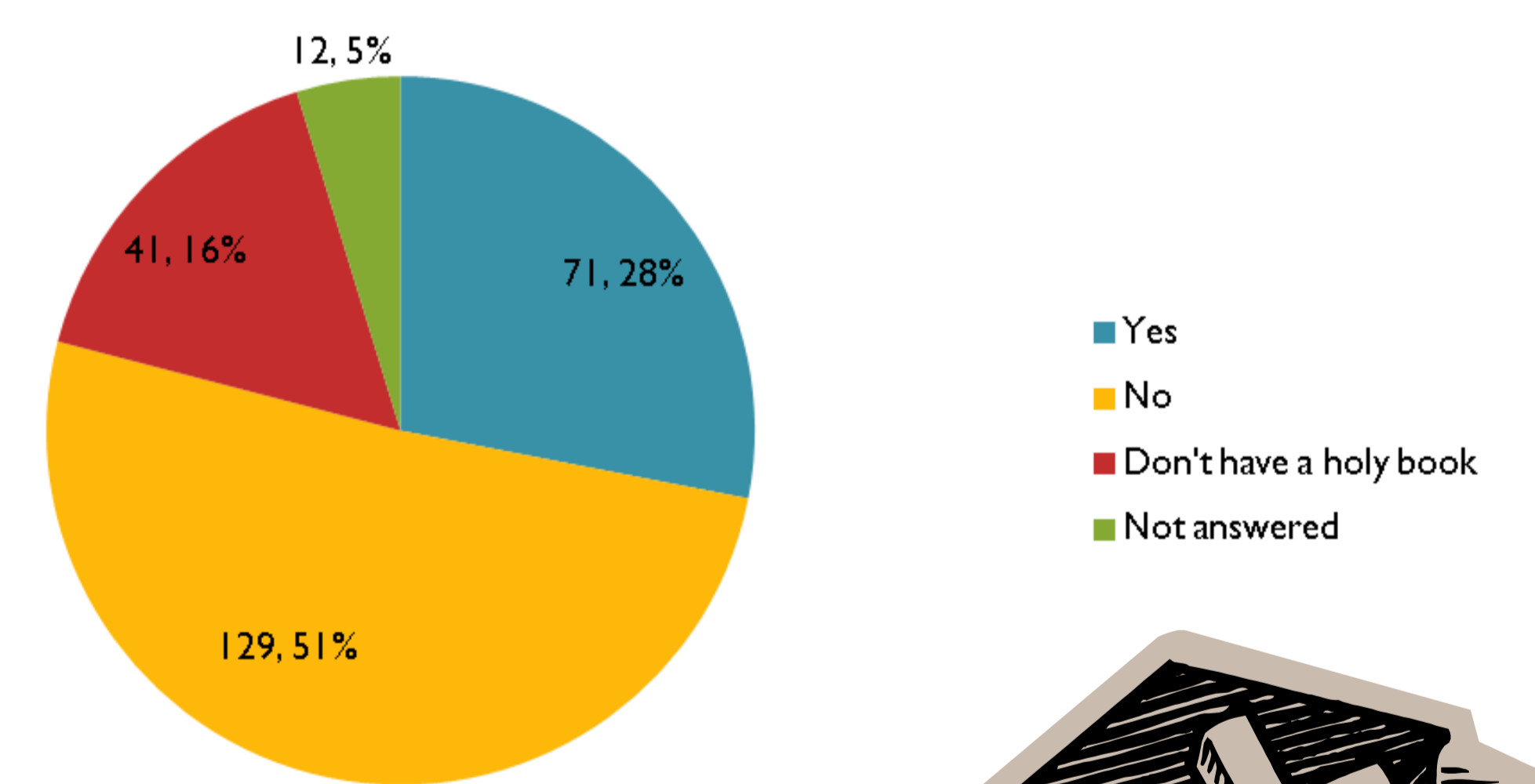
How do you define your beliefs?



How often do you pray?



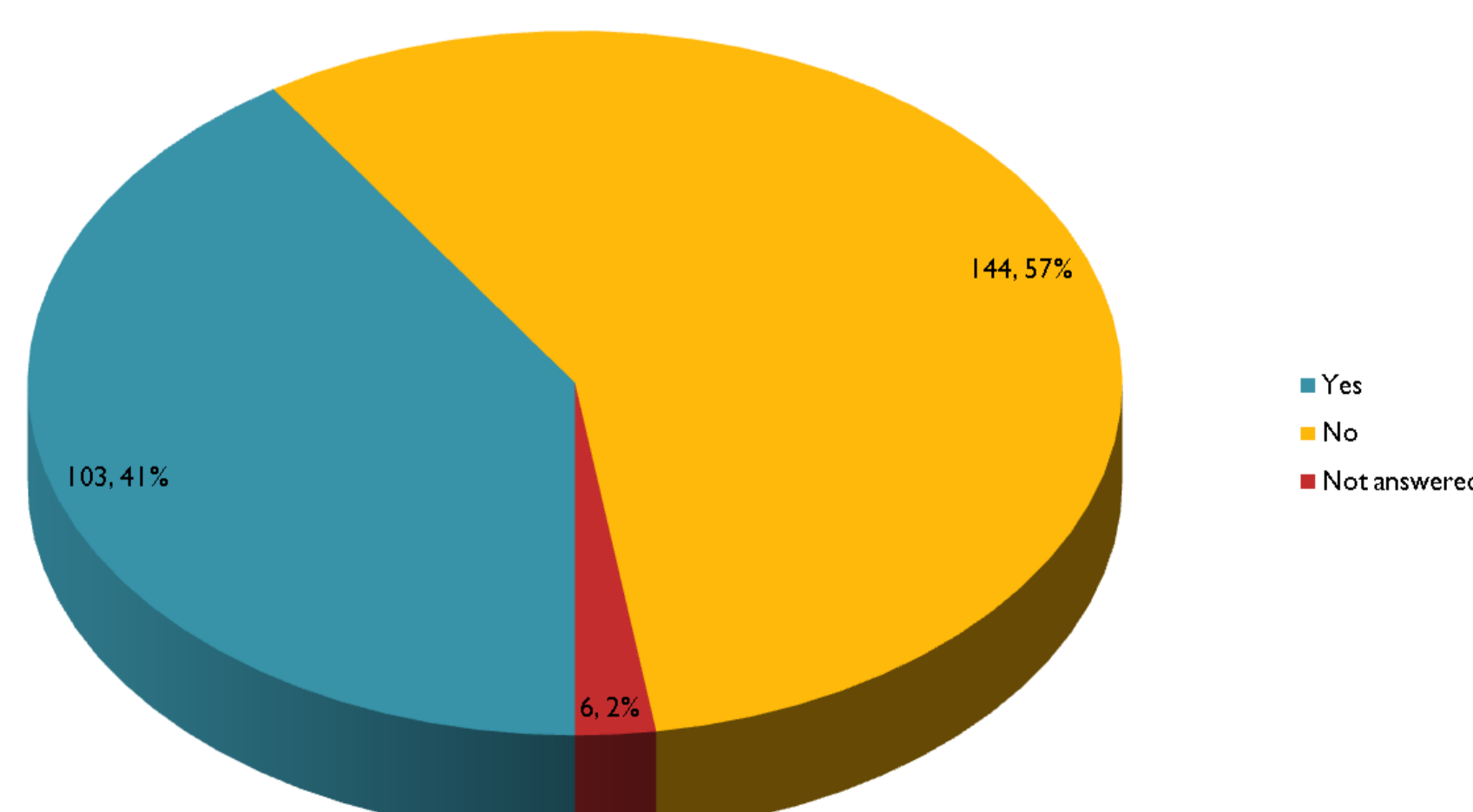
Have you personally read your religious holy book?



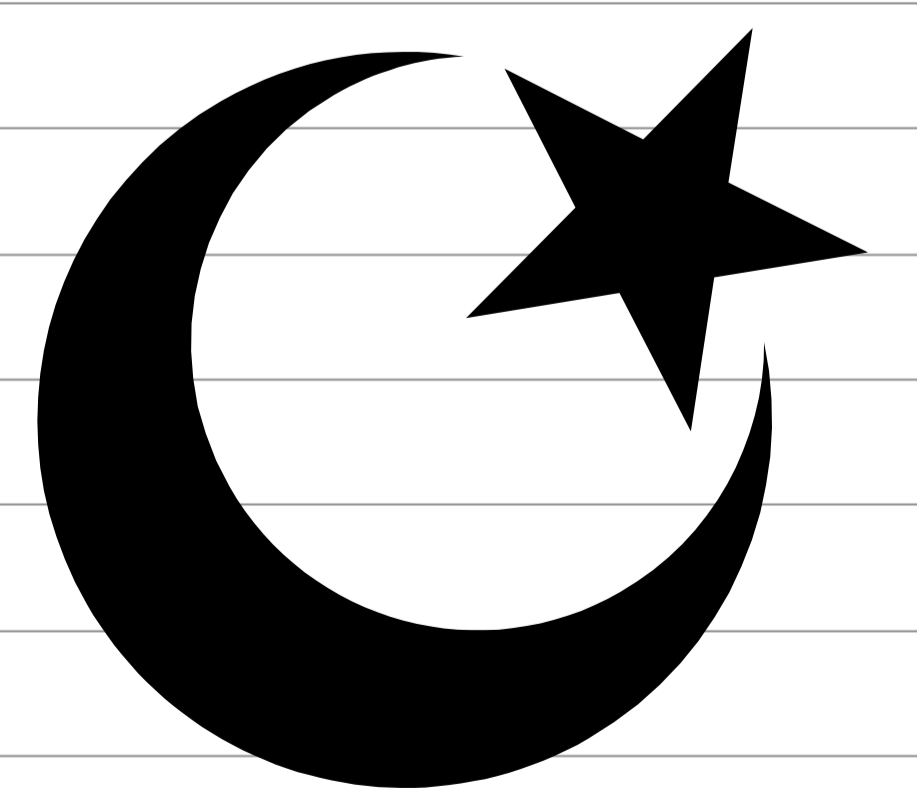
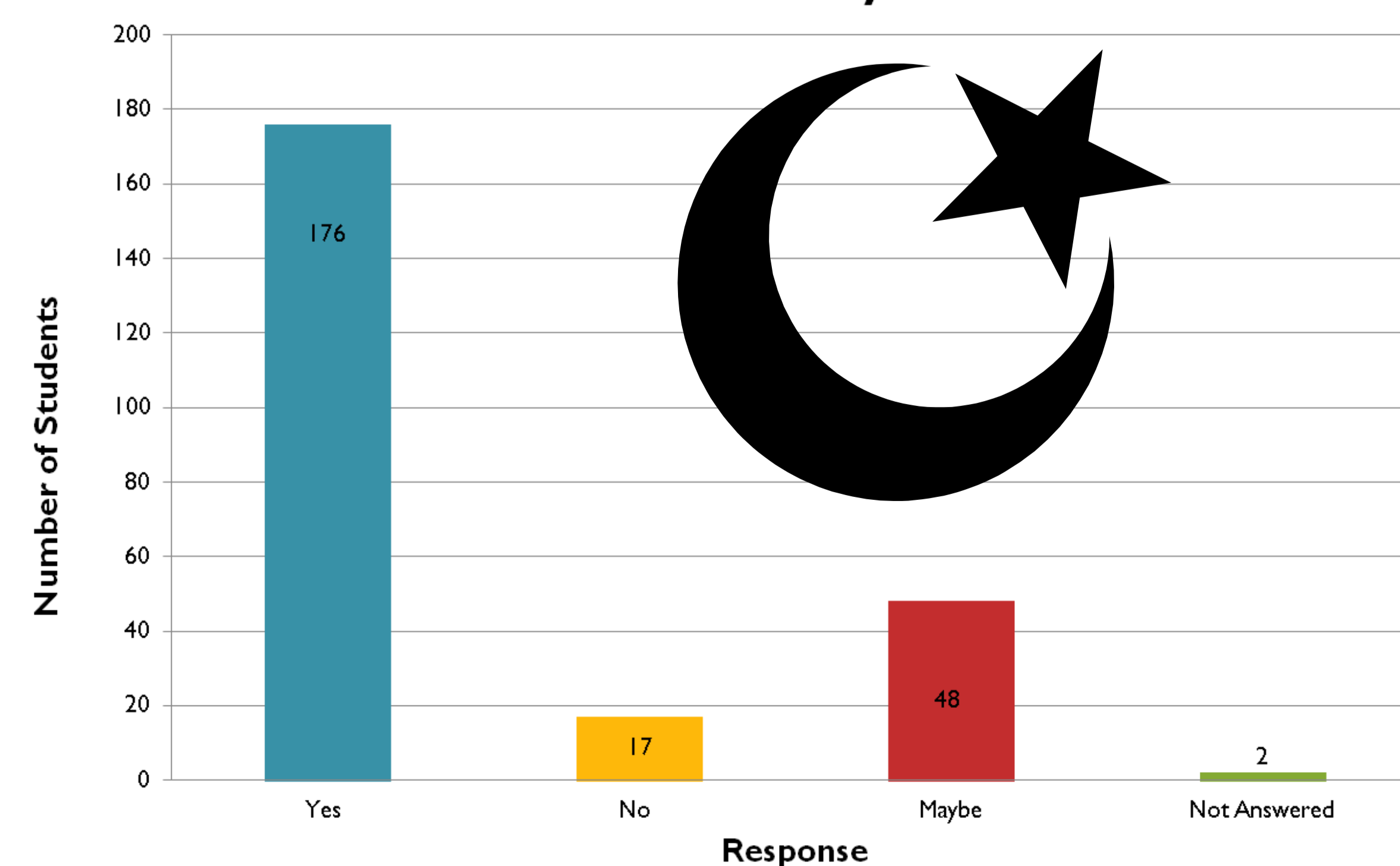
Main Findings

From the results of our surveys, we have gained the following information about our school's religious beliefs;
 The large majority of the school believed in a god, gods or another deity
 The mainstream of students are Catholic, though a fair percentage consider themselves to be Agnostic
 Out of the 253 students surveyed, about 60% said they adhered to their belief system because they grew up with it, followed by the 23% who said it was a personal choice
 77% of students were happy with their choice of faith
 A similar number would pass on their faith to their children if they were to have any
 Little more than half have not personally read their holy book, over a quarter of students have, while 16% said they did not have one.
 There was not a very overwhelming majority for question 7. Under half of students attended religious services once a week, about one fifth only on holidays, both once every few weeks and never had 13%, about one tenth occasionally, and 2% each once every few months and more than once a week.
 There was also a wide variety of mixed answers for the question "How often do you pray?", the top four being; daily, weekly, occasionally and never.
 More than half of students felt that the survey had not made them think again about their beliefs.

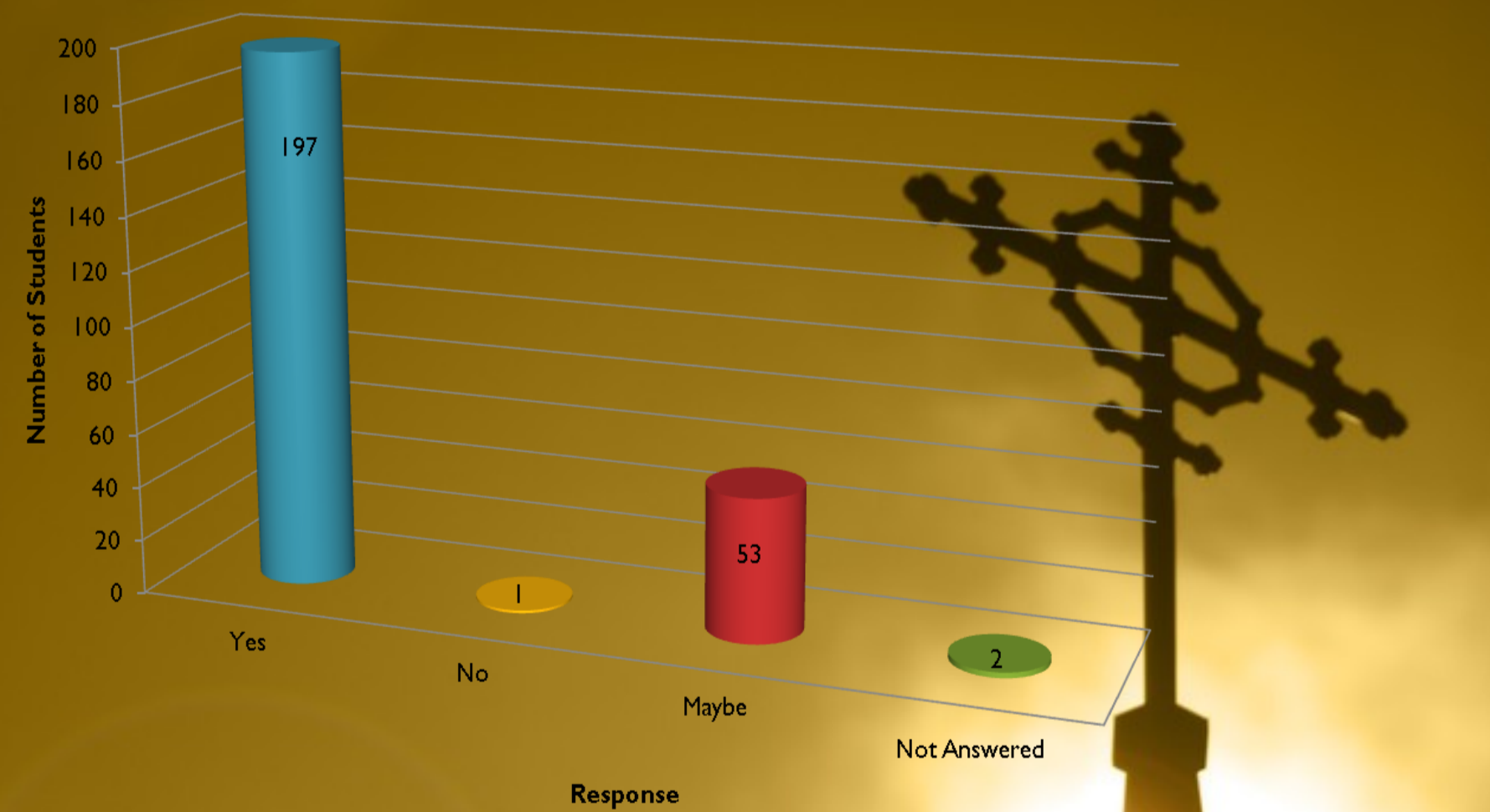
Did this survey make you think again about your beliefs?



Would you pass this belief on to your children if you were to have any?



Are you happy with your choice of faith?



The majority of people surveyed were happy with their choice of faith while 41% said that the survey made them think again about their beliefs.

Conclusion

We found our results different to what one would normally expect in a Catholic school. Although 68% were Catholic, there were a surprising number of people with different beliefs and more atheists than ever expected. 77% were happy with their faith, with almost everyone else saying maybe. And with 176 planning to pass their beliefs to any children they may have, religion is prominent in people's lives and will continue to be in the future.
 You can also see this by prayer and religious service attendance results; with 62 praying daily, 53 weekly and only 37 never. 41% of people go to services weekly and only a low 13% never attending. Religion still has a strong foothold in modern Irish society.