



Debbie and Paul Johnson live in Siddal with their daughters, Cody, six, in Year 1 and Macy, four.

Debbie **believes** the **nurturing environment** at Siddal Primary School is **helping her** daughter to thrive both academically and personally

The natural choice

Cody attended the preschool at Siddal children's centre so Debbie was familiar with Siddal Primary School as they are closely linked. "I liked the feel of the school. It's very friendly and the staff have always been so helpful. Cody settled so well into the preschool and was already familiar with some of the school staff, that it felt like a natural progression to apply for Siddal Primary School," explains Debbie. "Cody is quite shy, so the first few weeks she was a little unsure but the staff would comfort her and would always reassure me. They were very approachable and Cody had always had a lovely day when I collected her. She settled in very well after her initial reservations and she really loved her time in reception."



Siddal Primary School

Ensuring children feel comfortable

One of the key points for Debbie is the way the school manages the transition periods between school years. "They are very good at managing change and ensuring the children feel comfortable with everything. Cody spent a day in Year 1 to prepare her for the next stage which I think was brilliant. She got to know her classroom and the kind of work involved. I think it's a really positive way to introduce the children to what's involved next for them."

A school to thrive in

According to her delighted parents, Cody is thriving at Siddal Primary School. "There's no looking back for her! Year 1 meant a new classroom for her and a new class setup involving a mixed class of Reception and Year 1 children and I wasn't sure how she would handle the changes but she has absolutely flourished in this environment. I think having the mixed class has been brilliant for her. She absolutely loves it! She has progressed really well. I think it's really helped having a mix of academic work and play and patient and caring staff. She seems to have got a lot from the balance of academic work and learning through play that Year 1 has provided."

A nurturing environment

Debbie adds: "I think the mixed Reception and Year 1 class is nurturing for children. Cody's reading and writing has come on greatly during this last year; she really has thrived in the mixed class environment and to anyone who may have reservations about it, I honestly believe it's been beneficial for Cody, both in terms of her academic progress, but also for her personal development and self-confidence. I feel confident that she is more than ready for Year 2."

An approachable and understanding teaching team

Another key strength for Debbie is the approachability of the staff. "I really like how visible around the school they are and how the door is always open if you have any concerns. The Headteacher is great. I feel like the teaching team really understand that my children are my priority. I feel my girls are safe at Siddal Primary School and I trust them completely and know that they care about them as individuals, which is so important."

Happy and content

Debbie adds: "I'm not the kind of person to compare my child's progress to others or to place too much importance on Ofsted reports. What matters to me is that my children are happy and content in their learning environment and are well cared for in my absence."

A really positive educational experience

"We would definitely recommend Siddal Primary School to other parents; we think it's a great school that allows children to progress at their own speed without the pressure of targets. We believe it provides a really positive educational experience for our children in a safe and secure environment."



Children say:

Cody says: "I really like my classroom because I love reading, writing and playing in it!"



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