



Clifford All Saints provided a welcoming community when Douaa first moved to the UK with her children

Douaa has Lynn in Year 3, age 8, Jad in Year 1, age 6 and Oubai, age 4 starting Reception this September.

Initially reluctant

Douaa and her children moved to the UK from Abu Dhabi. They made the move last September and are now close to celebrating their first full year at Clifford All Saints. Douaa says, "When I first received the offer from Clifford, I was worried. I had looked at the Ofsted report and didn't feel confident the school would offer the level of education I wanted for my children. My plan was for them to attend temporarily until they got a place at our chosen school."

Brilliant new beginning

Douaa's feelings changed when the children started at Clifford. "I saw the care, support, effort, and quality of education the school provides. Even when my children received offers from other schools, we decided without hesitation to stay at Clifford. Now, even my youngest, Oubai, will be starting Reception this September," says Douaa.

Welcoming community

"Everyone has been friendly and made us feel welcome. It feels like a whole community—the teachers, the other parents, even the support staff who are there every morning opening the doors and welcoming the children. I've found everyone to be friendly—the teachers, everyone has made us feel at home," says Douaa.

Supportive Headteacher

Douaa has been impressed by the Headteacher at Clifford. Douaa says, "One of the most special things about Clifford is the Headteacher. He knows every child by name and even remembers their birthdays. He makes a point of speaking to the children and wishing them a happy birthday, which means so much to them. He's approachable, kind, and genuinely listens. You feel you can speak to him anytime, and he'll answer any questions with patience and openness. I feel he's more than just a Headteacher to the children."

Approachable teachers

Douaa has found the teachers at Clifford All Saints to be strong role models. "The teachers are very good at finding a balance between structure and approachability.

They know how to encourage good behaviour while also being kind and open. During our first weeks, I received phone calls from teachers checking in on how we were settling and whether the children were happy. That showed me how much they truly care," says Douaa.

Academic learning

"Lynn enjoys Maths, Geography, History, and English, and Jad is also progressing really well. I'm very proud of both of them. The quality of education has far exceeded my expectations," says Douaa.

Meeting new friends

"I remember during our first week, a parent invited us for coffee. It made such a difference. I felt truly welcomed and part of something. Now, I help other parents with pick-up and drop-off, and we organise events together. We had a lovely Christmas party with Santa, and we've done fundraising for school resources like tablets and playground equipment. The parent community is strong and supportive," says Douaa.

Christian ethos

Clifford All Saints is a Church of England school. "I was initially unsure because we are not a Church of England faith family. But the Headteacher reassured me this wouldn't be a problem. There are many children from different faiths, and the school encourages questions and openness. My children learn Christian values and attend church, and we talk at home about how this fits with our beliefs. It helps them feel a sense of belonging both at home and at school," says Douaa.

Feeling supported

"My husband and I used to think we'd only be here for three months before heading back to Abu Dhabi. Now, nearly a year later, we're settled and thriving. Thanks to the school and the community around it, we've built a life here and created lasting memories for our children," says Douaa.

Children say:

Lynn says: "I've made lots of friends."
Jad says: "I like reading new books."