



Alisha and Arthur are both thriving at Holly Hill Church School with the exceptional support and dedicated staff

Hayley lives with her two children, Alisha, aged seven, who is in Year 2, and Arthur, aged six, who is in Year 1.

Settling into school life

Transitioning to school can be challenging, especially for children with additional needs. Hayley recalls Alisha's initial days: "Because Alisha has Cerebral Palsy, she was still using her knees now and again to get around when she first started the nursery.

She had Miss Andrews, who was very helpful, and she got on with her really well."

Arthur also adapted well to the school environment. The staff's understanding and accommodating nature have helped both children feel at ease. Hayley says: "Arthur has one-to-one support sometimes, which has been really beneficial for him."

Enjoying school activities

Both Alisha and Arthur have found joy in different aspects of school life. Hayley shares: "Alisha loves the staff and her classmates. Her teachers understand her needs and have helped her a lot, such as teaching her how to tie her laces and allowing her to stay inside with a friend when her legs hurt."

Arthur, on the other hand, thrives during playtime. "Activity-wise, Arthur loves playtime, so he loves going outside. He's undergoing tests for autism and ADHD," Hayley explains. "Even though he hasn't been officially diagnosed yet, the school has already put support measures in place to help him."

Additional support for Alisha

Alisha requires extra support due to her condition. "She uses a wheelchair and sometimes needs help walking because of her poor balance," says Hayley. "The staff also chop her dinner food into smaller pieces to prevent choking, and they adapt their teaching methods because of her global developmental delay, which can affect her ability to absorb information."

The school's personalised approach has made a significant difference: "They've got to know her so well that they can tell when she's struggling," Hayley notes.

Tailored activities and clubs

Alisha and Arthur both enjoy various activities and clubs at Holly Hill Church School. "Alisha loves art, and the school ensures that PE activities are adapted to her needs," says Hayley.

"Arthur struggles to sit still, so for subjects like maths, the teachers let him do a jigsaw puzzle first and then return to his maths work, helping him to focus better."

Supportive and approachable staff

Hayley is particularly impressed with the school's staff and their communication. "You can approach all the staff, and they communicate really well. They're very accepting of children with different disabilities. Alisha wasn't fully walking when she started, but they still accepted her," she says.

The school's commitment to inclusivity extends to the parents as well. "I'm autistic myself, and they communicate with me so well. If I have any worries or questions, they're always there to help," Hayley adds.

Hayley appreciates the personal touches from the staff. "Alisha really wanted to show her teacher her dance costume, so I spoke with Mr Carr, and they allowed her to go in ten minutes early to show her class teacher. You don't get many schools that are like that," she shares.

A welcoming and inclusive community

Holly Hill Church School fosters a strong sense of community. "The SENCo team is amazing, and there's always a member of staff at the gate in the mornings that you can talk to and ask any questions. If they can't answer it immediately, they'll look into it and get back to you," says Hayley.

The school's dedication to providing exceptional support and creating an inclusive environment has made a significant impact on Hayley's family. "I feel at ease knowing that my children are well cared for and supported. It's a wonderful place for any child to grow and learn," she concludes.

