



Colette's four children have all thrived at Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

Colette lives with her four children near Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School. Joseph, 15, and Niamh, 13, have now left. Emilia, 10, is in Year 6, and Henry, seven, is in Year 3. All of Colette's children have had positive experiences at the school.

A warm welcome for newcomers

Henry started at Holy Trinity not long after the COVID pandemic, which meant he missed out on much of the usual preschool experience. Despite this, Colette was impressed with how well he was welcomed into the school community: "Henry started not long after COVID and had less preschool experience, but they really welcomed him in. Both he and Emilia are really settled and happy there."

Engaging activities and OPAL

Emilia and Henry have enjoyed the school's Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) programme: "One of the big things that they've loved this year is OPAL. They've been working on that recently to make playtimes child-centred and creative," Colette explains. The programme, supported by an external organisation, has transformed playtimes, making them more creative and enjoyable. The children engage in various activities, including using scooters and boxes and tyres, encouraging them to be active and imaginative in all types of weather.

The involvement of the Leeds United Foundation has further enriched their school experience. "Leeds United Foundation come in and do a lot of the sporting education and extra stuff at play times and lunch times. They all love that," Colette notes. Emilia and Henry have taken advantage of lunchtime football and individual challenges set by their teachers, which have helped them push their limits.

Supportive and approachable teachers

Colette has high praise for the teaching staff at Holy Trinity. As a school trip volunteer, she has had the opportunity to get to know many of them well: "I'm a school trip volunteer, and it's quite nice because I get called into trips that aren't even for my own children's years. But because I've been quite a few times, I know a lot of the staff quite well. They're so good and approachable," she says.

She appreciates how the teachers go above and beyond to help each child reach their full potential: "One class has been learning about the United States, and the teacher set two of the children - one had family there - the challenge of memorising all the different states and their capital cities and said they'd reward them with 200 Trinity Cards if they did. They

had two days to do it, and they succeeded, and the whole class celebrated it."

Initially shy and lacking confidence, Emilia has also thrived with her teacher's encouragement: "Emilia is a happy little girl but would never put herself out there. And then, within a few weeks, she had been encouraged to be a worship counsellor. She now stands up in front of assemblies and speaks out in front of the whole school," Colette says.

A community built on values

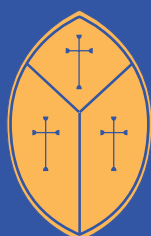
The school's values are a cornerstone of its approach, and Colette believes they make a significant difference in how it operates: "I think that the Christian values of the school mean that they really do see each child as an individual," she says.

The school also fosters a strong sense of community among parents through initiatives like Praying Parents. Colette enjoys taking part in these sessions, which provide a chance to connect with other parents, discuss school matters, and offer prayers for the school: "On a Wednesday morning, we just have a coffee, or a cup of tea and a biscuit, and have a little chat just about life first, and then any news about the school, and we have a really short prayer about it. It's been nice getting to know the school on an even deeper level," she explains.

Children say

Emilia says: I love all the different sporting activities we get to do

Henry says: I love playing with the tyres at playtime



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