

West Acton Primary School was Mamiko's first choice for her girls once she heard about their welcoming approach and Japanese community

Mamiko has Karen age 10 in Year 6, Marin age 4 in Nursery and Nanami age 13 in Year 9 at high school

Starting school

Mamiko's eldest daughters moved to West Acton when Mamiko learned of other Japanese families attending. Mamiko says, "My eldest daughter started in Year 4, Karen started in Year 1 and Marin has joined in Nursery. I wanted the girls to attend West Acton because it had other Japanese families attending the school and I'd heard great things about how well the children had settled in. They had been going to a school that was further away and so moving them closer to home into a familiar community felt right."

Positive energy

"The teachers are always there to welcome everyone when you walk in. It's always a lovely start to the day and makes the girls feel comfortable. There is an energy when you walk into school, it feels like everyone is ready to learn and join in. There are different backgrounds and cultures represented by all the families at school and that adds to the sense of energy," says Mamiko.

Learning English

"School are great at welcoming children and families for who English is their second language. There are lots of children who join and need step by step support to build their knowledge and understanding of English and school do this very well. For me it's great because the Head Teacher can speak Japanese which is helpful and she's wonderful," says Mamiko.

Children say

Karen: "My favourite sport is Netball."

Marin says: "I like playing with my friends."

Nanami says: "I have lots of memories."



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