

A Year 6 and a Year 2 student are learning and developing in the caring community of Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School

Their parents live in Sidcup with the students, who are aged ten, and aged seven.

Understanding the faith

The parents of the Year 6 and Year 2 students are glad the Catholic faith is at the core of everything pupils learn at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School. "Helping the children to understand the faith is an important part of their learning and we are glad religion is embedded into the curriculum. The school teaches Catholicism in a fun and easy way so that the children can understand it," their mother says.

Catholic school choice

The parents wanted a Catholic school for their children. "My husband and I are practising Roman Catholics and we are bringing up our children as Catholics, so sending our children to a Catholic school was an important decision. We looked at other schools, but Our Lady of the Rosary was always our first choice," the mother explains.

From Nursery to Year Six

The older student went to the nursery at Our Lady of the Rosary and has gone all the way through to Year Six. The student is now going to a Catholic secondary school. The younger student is also enjoying the school and has made good progress and is also doing well academically.

Learning about compassion

"Children are encouraged to be polite, kind and respectful by the staff at Our Lady of the Rosary," their mother says. "They learn about the importance of showing compassion, forgiveness, and respect to each other. Faith underpins everything at the school and children are encouraged to have empathy with others and to live their lives in a compassionate way."

Respect for diversity

The mother is pleased that the local priest delivers mass at the school sometimes and that the pupils sing the hymns that they sing in the church. "Children can take their First Communion in Year 3, if they wish to. The Year 6 student enjoys RE lessons and learning about other faiths. Although it is a Catholic school, they will accept children from all religions and backgrounds."

Reading and reflecting

Families are made to feel included by receiving an email each week from the school called The Wednesday Word so they can share a simplified version of Sunday's gospel with their children and guide them on how to lead their lives. "It gives them the chance to read and reflect. Because the school teach the children to respect each other and be considerate, it is a safe, warm environment to be in and the children are well looked after," the mother says.

Strong teaching staff

"The teachers shine out because they get to know each child's strengths and encourage them. It is the teachers who are the real strength of the school. They know every child's name, even if they don't teach them. The school is friendly and the teachers know all the parents," the mother says.

Time for celebration

"The student in Year 6 has enjoyed being in the environment of the school. She loves Art and likes English and writing stories. She enjoys playing with the other children in the after-school club and running around outside. In this setting, all the different age groups mix well. At the end of Year 6, the pupils have the chance to celebrate with a Prom, which the parents help to organise. The Year 2 student is also in a lovely class and has made good friendships. The Year 2 student is good at reading and has done well in tests."

Children say

The Year 6 student says: "I have really enjoyed my time at the school and have made some amazing friends."

The Year 2 student says: "I love my school, it's brilliant especially the teachers."