



Rebecca's five children all attended St Mary's and have grown into happy, confident individuals

Five children together at school

At one point all the siblings were at St Mary's together. "Come September I'll only have Emilia at the school - there were a few tears as her twins brothers moved on to secondary school but she has many lovely friends to keep her company! My niece and nephew also attended the school so St Mary's feels very much part of our family life. As other parents will understand, siblings are often very different characters but all our children have had a great experience going through the school," says Rebecca.

Developing in all areas

"Emilia has always benefited from the school being a warm and friendly place: it's this special environment that has helped her to flourish. She has always been surrounded by encouraging and enthusiastic teachers who have enabled her develop inside and outside the classroom. Academically, she's doing really well and I know that she's going to come away in a strong position for secondary schools. Beyond this she has had the chance to explore many different extracurricular activities. She loves singing and is a member of the choir; a real highlight this year was when they went to perform at the Royal Albert Hall, which was a fantastic experience. At the moment Emilia especially loves PE - she could barely sleep with excitement the night before sports day. She has joined netball and dodgeball clubs and has school swimming lessons at the nearby pool. She has attended cake decorating and science club with equal enthusiasm - I really appreciate the variety of opportunities she has had to learn new skills. The children are also really encouraged to take on various roles within school (school council, eco warriors etc) and to participate in fundraising for different causes. Overall, for Emilia and all of her brothers, academic progress is supplemented by a rich variety of experiences," says Rebecca.

Spotting each child's potential

Rebecca has been impressed by St Mary's teachers' abilities to develop each of her children's potential.. "Over the years I've realised that teachers can encourage your children and support their development in ways that really surprise you as a parent. The child who I thought was very shy in Reception gave speeches as House Captain in Year 6! The teachers do an amazing job of helping children find new talents. My children have all taken something away from St Mary's that was beyond my expectations" says Rebecca.

Full of positives

When choosing a school it's easy to focus on one priority. St Mary's has many positives which makes decision-making easier. "It is a Church of England school and that really come across in the best possible way - being compassionate, understanding and thoughtful in the world is part of every day school life. It has always felt like a very welcoming and inclusive environment. The school has a family feel and it's been a real positive participating in the community and PTA events".

Come and walk around

"I always think it's useful for families to visit potential schools and just take a walk around, that's a great way to get a snap shot of school life. It makes a difference to see how you feel when you see a school in action. Everyone wants their child to become who they are capable of being and to find a place where they belong. St Mary's is a happy place where children can really thrive" says Rebecca.

Children say:

Emilia says: "It feels like a second home because my teachers are so kind to me. I love having friends in different classes throughout the school."