



The positive energy at St Teresa's School is the reason Mark and Fiona Slater moved their family to Wokingham

Mark and Fiona have Emma age 10 in Year 5 and Sophie age 8 in Year 3.

A new start

Mark and Fiona were looking to move to the area from Buckinghamshire due to work commitments. They had specific criteria they wanted from a school, and they were delighted on finding St Teresa's. "The girls are doing amazingly well. We're very happy and they are flourishing at St Teresa's. Emma joined in Reception and Sophie started in the pre-school. We didn't live in Wokingham when we had to choose a school for Emma. We were looking to move to the general area due to work but had made no firm decisions on location. It was St Teresa's that made us choose Wokingham" says Fiona.

"We were looking at all the Catholic schools in the Berkshire area and we picked St Teresa's. We then found a house next to the school. Looking back, it was the perfect fit for us" says Mark.

Meeting all our needs

"We didn't think we would find a school that would have everything we needed. We knew we wanted a Catholic school, and a breakfast and after school club was important to us as we both work full time. The presence of a pre-school for Sophie just meant every box we were looking for was ticked as having both girls at the same place was the ideal," says Fiona.

"On the visit day the staff were engaged and energetic and this made them stand out from the other

schools we visited. The facilities and the building were well maintained and cared for and everything felt very positive," says Mark.

A great team

"St Teresa's have an excellent team. As well as having fantastic teachers, the support staff and the teaching assistants are brilliant too. They have a lovely playground, with a trim trail and play equipment. 'Smiley Assembly' takes place on Fridays which is a really positive event where the children are awarded certificates for their achievements. The girls are doing well academically, and this is in part due to the positive encouragement they get, - it's so valuable," says Mark.

Learning about the world

"Mark and the girls are Catholic but I'm not. From my perspective I wanted the girls to learn about other faiths and cultures. There are children at St Teresa's with parents from all over the world. Through RE the girls have learnt about different religions and I think that's very important," says Fiona.

"I love the fact that the girls are at school with families from many countries. The diversity is brilliant and opens up a lovely understanding of the world and all the different people in it," says Mark.

Opportunities for everyone

"Emma plays football and in the past they've taken part in in baking, gardening and knitting clubs. There is a good variety of sports and non-

sports activities on offer. They are both in the chamber choir which they absolutely love, and they get to perform in a variety of places. They have had one-off opportunities as well, such as attending fencing, multi-sports and rugby events with other schools," says Mark.

Choosing the right school

"We took our time, and we knew specifically what we wanted and needed when we were looking for a school for the girls. St Teresa's ticked every box, and we haven't ever regretted our decision. It's a brilliant school where each child is approached as an individual. They know when children are ready to be challenged and when they need some extra help," says Mark.

Positivity from the top

"The balance between academic achievement and building children's confidence is excellent. The school have helped our children become well-rounded individuals and this is down to the values of the school. Our head teacher is a hugely positive influence on the children and her staff. She's instrumental in how everyone comes together in such a positive way, and the deputy is also full of energy. It's infectious!" says Fiona.

Children say:

Sophie says: "Lunch time is my favourite time of the day."

Emma says: "Our school dinners are super yummy."