



Isla and Elise have both flourished in the friendly atmosphere of Stedham Primary School

Mike and Sarah live in Stedham in West Sussex with their daughters, Isla, aged 11, and Elise, aged eight.

Excellent education

Sarah and Mike are delighted with the high quality of teaching and individual attention their daughters have received at Stedham Primary School. Sarah says: "Isla received a bespoke education that gave her an excellent start for secondary school, and Elise is very happy at the school and embraces all the opportunities that come her way."

Top choice

The couple considered other schools when Isla was due to start her education but chose Stedham above them all. Sarah says: "The advantages of being able to attend the school in our village, which is part of the community and has very good facilities, outweighed what was offered by any of the larger schools some distance away. Isla started in Reception when she was four and loved the school immediately."

Learning to mix

Sarah and Mike quickly discovered the benefits of Isla attending a school where the teachers knew every child by name. "There are small class sizes for every year and the staff are aware of all the children's capabilities and teach them accordingly. Isla now looks back on the way she was encouraged to mix with other children as one of the highlights of her time at Stedham. She enjoyed being in the choir and in school plays, and loved doing forest school in the woodland next to the school," she says.

Confident speakers

Stedham Primary teaches pupils to be independent, articulate, and confident when speaking to adults, as well as to be able to speak in public, Sarah says. "Isla is now thriving at her new school, which has a grammar stream. She was assessed and put in the grammar stream thanks to the good teaching she enjoyed at Stedham. There are 220 in her year and she was in the top 30 children chosen."

Forging friendships

Elise who is now in Year 4, is also having a wonderful experience at Stedham, Sarah says. "She is doing well in English and Maths, and

enjoys learning French. She has also loved being in school plays and doing forest school. Elise has made lots of friends and enjoys mixing with everyone. Even though it is a small school, there is a good range of nationalities represented by the children and, at the recent harvest festival, the traditions of all their different countries were featured."

Variety of activities

Stedham is a friendly school and all the age groups play together in the playground. "There is a good range of after school clubs, and a morning club, starting at eight am, which helps working parents. Pupils are given lots of opportunities, which helps build their confidence. In Year Six, they can visit their secondary school every month to take part in sports activities, which is good preparation for moving up. Large primary schools are not able to give their pupils so many opportunities," Sarah says.

Heart of the community

"Stedham Primary is an important part of the village and there is a lovely family feel to it. Former pupils and local people regularly come into the school to read with the children and talk to them. The school has the use of the village sports hall and cricket field, and the memorial hall, and there are strong links with the village's centuries old church, where the children perform their nativity play. Some parents from Midhurst already choose to send their children to Stedham because of the quality of education offered. We would recommend the school to families from further afield because of the way the teaching is tailored to each child and the excellent opportunities pupils are given."

Children say

Elise says: "I love doing Forest School and being with my friends and I am looking forward to starting the new netball club."