



Micaela's daughters started Reception at The Rosary and they find school is there when support is needed.

Micaela has Isabella age 10 and in Year 5 and Emelia, age 8 and in Year 3.

Working together

Micaela instinctively knew that Bella needed extra support at school and once a formal diagnosis was made, Rosary were on hand to help. Micaela says, "Bella has a hidden disability called DLD which means she has a different way of processing information and language. Bella needs people to talk slowly for her and she works best with short instructions. It was hard to get Bella's condition recognised, especially as she had been an early years' "Lockdown" child. We were already working on her speech and language skills. Getting the diagnosis meant we could get the right support for her."

Quick to offer support

"It's frustrating how long the process takes for children and families in these circumstances. As soon as we knew Bella's diagnosis, school were in touch straight away to make sure the right support was in place. They've put things in the classroom to help Bella, for example she has a glossary on her desk which she can refer to. It helps her break down and understand what she's being asked to do" says Micaela.

Helping to settle

When a child receives a diagnosis, their emotional well-being needs to be taken into consideration. Micaela says, "School have been very good at helping Bella understand her diagnosis. She doesn't like having it but school have encouraged her and given her space to talk about it. She feels she can share when things aren't working and she feels listened to. She has teachers and staff she likes working with and building those relationships is helping her confidence."

Enjoying school life

"Isabella enjoys Art and is always happy when she comes home from school with a certificate for having done well. She received lovely feedback recently for a story she had written, school are good at recognising hard work and effort. Emelia likes lunch time when she gets to play with her friends," says Micaela.

Lots of variety

"Both girls are playing rounders now. They've done other after school clubs like gymnastics and origami. School provide a nice mix of activities, lots of variety for the children to try. They've both taken part in choir. Some of the activities are free, others are provided by external providers which parents pay towards, for example athletics," says Micaela.

Lovely grounds

"There are playing fields that the children can use and enjoying being able to run around on in the summer. It was important for me when choosing a school that there was outside space for the girls to play," says Micaela.

Listening carefully

A new Headteacher, has brought positive change and improvement to school. Micaela says, "School were good at listening before, but the new Headteacher is very attentive and acts on what she hears from parents. I believe that's important. Parents want to feel listened to, they want to be part of the school community. After Covid school felt isolated but things are much better now."

Special feeling

"There is something different about The Rosary, you get a special feeling when you go into school and I remember it being there when we first looked around. I'm glad the girls are there, it's a good school," says Micaela.

Children say:

Isabella says: "I like drawing pictures."

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

