

Alison and Michael Monaghan live two miles from Bassingham with their children, Will, aged 14, Eleanor, aged 12, Niamh, aged nine, Harriet, aged seven, and Florence aged four.



The Monaghans wanted all their children to experience the happy atmosphere at Bassingham Primary School

Adventurous trips

Will and Eleanor had such a great time at Bassingham that even though the family moved out of the village, the Monaghans were keen to send the rest of their children to the school as well. Their Mum, Alison, says: "There is a school closer to where we live but we all love Bassingham and we wanted the younger ones to go there because the eldest two enjoyed it so much. Will and Eleanor both had wonderful experiences and particularly enjoyed all the school trips and adventure holidays they went on with the school."



Good start

"When Will started he settled in straight away. He said goodbye to us at the school gate and was off. The reception teacher is wonderful. Her classroom is like an Aladdin's cave for the children and she makes all the lessons fun," Alison says. "They quickly realised Will was very bright and pushed him to try to get the best out of him. He is doing amazingly well at secondary school but I am aware it was Bassingham that gave him such a good grounding."

Sports fun

"Eleanor loved sports and so she also had a fantastic time at Bassingham. She now represents the county at cross country and athletics. She is also doing extremely well academically, but again Bassingham played a big part in this," Alison says. "Niamh, who is currently in Year Five, loves going to school each day. She is also extremely sporty and represents Bassingham at cross country, swimming and netball. She particularly enjoys going to the netball after school club, which is marvellous."



Kind teachers

"Harriet, who is now in Year Three, is also very happy at the school. She loves all her teachers and feels confident because they are all so kind to her. She has also made lots of friends and enjoys going to school each day so she can play with them in the playground. One of the highlights of her time at school was when she made a model of a volcano with her teacher, Miss Watson. She was really proud of it when she brought it home," Alison says.

Dedicated staff

The youngest Monaghan, four-year-old Florence, has enjoyed attending pre school at Bassingham and is looking forward to going into the reception class in September. Alison says: "Although I will be very sad to see her growing up and starting school, I know she will have a wonderful time there. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend Bassingham to other parents looking for a good primary school. I would tell them that their children will have some wonderful experiences at the school. It is a very happy and welcoming atmosphere, the staff are all caring and dedicated and will always find the time to speak to you. The head teacher is very approachable and the wonderful ladies on reception are always helpful."

Caring pupils

"Many of the parents are dedicated to the school's success. It's a pretty tight knit community. All the children play with each other in the playground and are like one big happy family. I've noticed the older children love looking after the younger ones and the Year Six girls and boys are very caring towards small children. The children come out of school in the afternoon beaming and happy, eager to show their parents what they have made during the day. It is a lovely atmosphere. We are very lucky to have a school as good as Bassingham."

Children say

Niamh says: "I love my school and feel very safe there. It's a great place to be."

Harriet says: "The teachers are all very kind and I have lots of lovely friends to play with at school."



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