



Samantha believes it is the teachers who make a **good school**, and that the teachers at Bursar Primary Academy make it such a **great one**

Samantha and Jonathan live in Cleethorpes with Samantha's daughters Louise, 10 and Lucy, six, and their own two, Larnaca and Willow, who are three years and six months old respectively.

Close-knit and friendly

Samantha had enrolled both Louise and Lucy at the Bursar Primary Academy when the family lived close by, not so much because of the location of the school but because it was the small setting which she had set her heart on for the girls. "I felt that they would benefit from the more intimate and personal environment which a smaller school can offer," she explains. "It is a very close-knit and friendly place and that was especially appropriate for Louise who was fairly shy, and that is why I decided to leave them there when we moved house and further away."



Helping parents to help children

This was a decision which Samantha has never had cause to regret. "I never once considered changing the school because Bursar Academy has been absolutely great, in all sorts of ways. Academically, the girls have flourished: whilst Louise used to struggle with maths, she is now doing fantastically well and it's the same with Lucy and her reading – she comes out with words even I'm not sure about! Their teachers are really good about identifying any weaknesses and letting us know the best way to help at home, and I am more than pleased with the progress the girls are making."

Personal support

Samantha is also very appreciative of the support she and her family have had on a personal level. Following her divorce from Louise and Lucy's father, she was reassured to know that the children's teachers were aware of the situation and understanding when the girls sometimes appeared upset. "Obviously things were difficult for a while but everyone at school rallied round and made sure we were looked after. They have also been very helpful throughout my two subsequent pregnancies, even offering to collect the children from home if I was stuck, and putting Louise and Lucy's minds at rest when they were worried about me."

Excellent communication

Happily, Samantha's ex-husband is still very much a hands-on dad, frequently taking and collecting the girls to and from school, attending parent's evenings and other events, and Samantha is pleased that he is still included by the school as a parent. "He gets copies of reports, newsletters and emails just as I do so he's always up to date. The home/school communication is excellent in this way and it's another good example of how the school is prepared to accommodate the family as a whole."

A strong relationship

Larnaca has recently joined the school's Nursery and despite a few tears to begin with, is now completely settled. "Like a lot of children she was a bit nervous at first but the teachers were very good with her, offering to let me stay for half an hour or so or finding things to distract her with when I left her in the morning. They eased her in very kindly and effectively and now she loves being there."

In fact all three girls thoroughly enjoy school and have a good circle of friends, but it's not only they who have benefitted from the social aspect of school life. "I knew hardly any other parents when Louise joined Bursar Academy but now I have loads of new friends. We and the children go to each other's parties and help each other out with lifts or babysitting, and

that's especially useful now I have a new baby! There is a generally strong relationship between staff and parents which is an added bonus to everything else the school offers."

Following in family footsteps

It seems certain that Samantha will be maintaining this relationship for some years to come as she has no plans to send little Willow elsewhere else when the time comes. "When you see your children happy and laughing in the playground before school starts you know they are in the right place," she says. "They love their teachers and I believe that it's teachers who really make a school."

Children say

Louise: "I love everything about my school and I enjoy seeing my friends."

Lucy: "I enjoy learning so I love the school, and all my teachers are nice."



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