



Sam feels children at Crossways become well-rounded individuals. They thrive from the very beginning of their journey at Crossways.



**The Crossways
Schools**

Sam McDowall has three children at Crossways School, Erin in Year 1, Isaac in Year 4 and Jacob in Year 5.

Nurturing community

Sam is delighted that her children are excited to head into school each day and she values the supportive and caring environment created by all the teachers and staff.

"The children love going to school. It's a nurturing environment, the staff are great, you feel valued, and the children feel valued. We trust school and feel well cared for, the children walk through the gates each morning no problem at all," says Sam.

Opportunities to grow

The launch of a new "Enrichment" scheme has introduced a variety of activities and Sam's children have loved trying them all. "They have a new initiative called "Enrichment" which my children all love. It's across the school and children are taught by different teachers. For example, Erin has done Sewing and Recorder. Isaac has enjoyed Comic, Guitar and Chess. Jacob has loved 3D and Illusion Art. Everyone gets a fair chance to opt for an activity they would like to do. All staff are involved in providing a range of opportunities where the children can experience something new and potentially find a new hobby or interest," says Sam.

Supportive network

There is a dedicated Pastoral Team and SENCO at Crossways and Sam feels this provision reflects how school listens to the needs of the children and parents. "There is a solid, approachable, pastoral team who are welcoming and friendly. The SENCO is very active, she's offering SEND Coffee mornings which aren't just for SEND pupils it's open to any parent. The staff are actively making links with parents and take an interest and care about the children," comments Sam.

Brilliant teachers

"The teachers are all supportive, good teachers with high standards in all areas. I think the children from Crossways are courteous and well-rounded individuals. My children have a strong friendship base and the children at Crossways really care for each other. The children have that genuine love for learning and so much of that is down to the teaching team's approach," says Sam.

School trips

Covid put a stop to many things, so Sam is pleased to see the return of school trips and witness how the children take their classroom learning into the wider world. "The PTA fundraise and do a great job. They support the school to enrich the pupils school experience for example, they subsidise the school trips which creates opportunities for children to develop holistically in all areas and really connect their learning to real life experiences," says Sam.

Listening to parents

From engaging the children with art projects that reflect school values to hosting Parent Forum meetings, Sam feels the school is making special effort to listen and take on board what children and parents have to say.

"They've done a great job at listening to parents and taking their opinions on board, they're trying their absolute best to live by their vision which in part is "To inspire a love of learning." My children live and breathe that, they love to learn new things. They're not afraid of challenges and that's clearly down to the environment they're taught in. Mistakes are valued and accepted. My children continue to thrive within the school community at Crossways," says Sam.

Children say

Erin says: "I have loads of kind friends at school."

Isaac says: "Learning how to play the Ukulele this year, has been really fun."

Jacob says: "There are always people to talk to when you need help. All the teachers are great."



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