

Penny believes Ellison Primary School is approachable and encouraging, with a great ability to recognise individual strengths

Penny and Trevor Swancott live in Wolstanton with their children Megan, ten in Year 5 and George, eight in Year 3.



The right feel

When the Swancott family moved to Wolstanton it meant a new school for Megan and George. They visited Ellison Primary School and found that, just like their new house, it felt right. "We came away from that first visit knowing we'd made the right choice. It's like finding your new home - you just know when it's right."

Patient and caring

According to Penny, Megan and George have very different personalities. George found the new experience, alongside a house move, a little overwhelming. Penny spent some time working with the teaching staff to reassure George about the school environment. "George's personality is more reserved so I was expecting some issues, but the teaching staff were really good - very calming reassuring and patient with him," explains Penny. "George had a lot of anxiety about being left but the caring manner of the staff really helped. Within a couple of weeks George was happy to go into school without any problems."

Fantastic opportunities

Penny and Trevor have been impressed with how the school recognises individual strengths and uses these to support each child to reach their full potential. "Megan has always been a confident girl but through the school she's found new skills and talents. She got a part in a local theatre production," explains Penny. "She'd never done anything like it but the school recognised she was confident and enthusiastic. They suggested her for it and she was selected. It's done wonders for her self-esteem. She's now done solo music recitals and taken a lead part in the school production of Annie! It's incredible really to see how she's grown, and it's all down to the school!"

Recognising each child's unique strengths

Ellison Primary School offers a number of different clubs to provide new opportunities for the children. "Megan was keen to try Glee Club, which has helped boost her confidence and self-assurance. We're so happy with what they offer the children. These are things Megan probably wouldn't have experienced otherwise," says Penny. "Because they spend time getting to know each individual child, I feel the school does a great job at tailoring opportunities to their own unique strengths."

Easy to talk to

Through Ellison Primary School's ability to get to know each child, Penny has found her own children have always

felt comfortable about approaching their teachers with any concerns. "George, like Megan, also enjoys creative activities but he really loves maths. He's doing very well at school, but if there's ever anything he's ever struggling with, I know he feels able to ask his teachers for help," explains Penny. "I think it's so important that they can do this. It makes the whole learning process less of a struggle."

Support that goes that extra mile

Penny too has found the staff approachable. "George sometimes has difficulties getting all his thoughts and ideas down on paper. I went and spoke to his teacher about how we could help him," explains Penny. "She suggested they gave George a dictaphone so he could vocalise his thoughts and not forget them. I just feel they go that extra mile. Any concerns and you can always pick up the phone and speak to someone."

"The Headteacher seems to know every child by name," adds Penny. "What I love about Ellison Primary School is the little things they do to ensure each child feels special. There's not an unhappy child at the school. It has a wonderful, friendly environment."



Children say

Megan says: "My favourite thing about Ellison Primary School is Glee Club. I love it!"

George says: "I really like maths at Ellison Primary School. My teacher always tells me when I've done well!"



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