

Heidar Hosseini and his wife live in Perivale with their children Mohammad, eight and Zahra, seven.



Heidar wanted his children to **achieve** both **academically** and **socially**, and found that Harrow Primary School was the answer

### Family values

As far as Heidar Hosseini is concerned, if anything is more important than a good quality academic education it is a firm grounding in social responsibility and behavioural standards. These are the values that his children are taught at home and ones which he and his wife wish to be endorsed by any school that Mohammad and Zahra attend.

Mohammad and Zahra initially attended a primary school within a few minutes walk of their house but it was not long before Heidar began to have doubts.



## Children say

**Mohammad:** "I have so much enjoyed the school's trips." **Zahra:** "I like EVERYTHING about the school!"

"My reservations were mainly to do with the fact that I wanted my children to be part of a community; one which upheld the principles we personally believe in. Any large school must naturally incorporate a wide socio-economic group and rightly so but our concern lay with the fact that we strongly believe in bringing up our children within a group of like-minded people. What I had heard about Harrow Primary School seemed to address this."

## A foundation for life

It was partly the small size of Harrow Primary which attracted Heidar, together with the ethos it embraced. "To me, the Islamic aspect of the school was a lesser issue than the fact that it is a faith school," he says. "We wanted a school which embraced a religious faith as it is the values which most religions adhere to that are important to us. We have found that Harrow Primary actively encourages the acceptance, respect for others and excellent standards of behaviour that we want for our children. These are the things which will give them the very best foundations on which to build their lives."

## Confidence and security

Of course, there are many other aspects of education than this to take into account but Heidar has few concerns as far as Mohammad and Zahra are concerned. "I wish for my children to be educated and for them to be happy, and I have no complaints on either account. What particularly appeals to me is that if I have ever had any worries, the school will listen to me and take action, and that applies not just to the parents but to the children, too. Both Mohammad and Zahra feel able to talk to their teachers about anything, whether it is their work or something else and that helps to give them confidence and security. It also helps greatly in their ability to absorb what they are being taught."

## Insight into learning

Heidar has been impressed by his children's learning. "When they come home and tell me about their lessons, they are able to explain in detail the science behind, for example, a chemistry experiment. It can be a very good thing to make learning fun but it is also important that children should have a real understanding of the whole process, and this is another reason why I appreciate the approach of Harrow Primary. If children learn to work hard, and to enjoy doing so, at an early stage in their lives it will stand them in very good stead for their future."

## Aiming high for the next generation

One particular thing which makes Harrow Primary stand out, believes Heidar, is the approachability of the staff and the Headteacher, all of whom are very closely involved with the students and their families. "Because the school's personnel show such a genuine interest in and concern for the children who attend, it feels like a close community," he explains. "We have a good connection with many of the other families whose children are there and we have much in common. We listen to each other, and the school listens to us; I want the very best for my children and to me, this is the way to achieve that goal."



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