

Zainab Kudami and her husband, Mohammed, live in Harrow with their children Adel, eight and Amira, who is nearly four years old and has just finished Salam Nursery at Harrow Primary School.



Zainab wanted an Islamic Faith school which would **uphold her standards of care** and academic achievement, and that is why her daughter attends Salam Nursery at Harrow Primary School

Parent's priorities

Every parent has their own reasons for choosing a particular school for their children, and for Zainab and Mohammed their priority was for Adel and Amira to attend a specifically Islamic setting. Initially, they had intended Amira to follow her brother to the school he currently attends after she had finished her year at the Salam Nursery, but they have been so happy with the provision that they have completely reassessed their opinion.



Children say

Amira: "I like going to school because I like writing and playing outside. And I like drawing."

"Amira is very definite in her likes and dislikes and she absolutely loved going to Nursery," says Zainab. "If I am completely honest, I was a little concerned at first about the resources which could be available in a school which was so new, not purpose-built and so small; however, I have been extremely pleased and any fears I may have had have been put to rest, so that even though I have a nightmare of a school run every day it is well worth letting Amira stay at Salam Nursery!"

Amazing improvement

Amira will be joining the Reception Class in September and Zainab has no reason to believe that the high quality of education she has observed so far will not continue. "I have great respect for the Nursery teachers, who have effected a great and positive change in Amira," she explains. "Amira was the rather spoiled baby of the family and not used to sharing, for example, and when she started at Nursery she didn't really know her numbers or letters. I am amazed by how she has come on in just one year; her social skills are greatly improved and she can tell me what an octagon is – not bad for a four-year-old!"

A careful balance

Zainab believes that the combination of pastoral care and high teaching standards are key to Amira's enjoyment of school, and to her current level of achievement. "Her teachers are very maternal but extremely professional at the same time. At one time I had wondered if I should send Amira to Nursery at all as I felt my daughter needed to be with her mother but seeing how she has been treated so well at Harrow Primary I now know I made the right decision. She has learned through play, academically as well as socially, and I couldn't have wished for more."

Acceptance and inclusion

Although it was very important to Zainab that her children attended Islamic schools, she is also very much in favour of the accepting and inclusive attitude of Harrow Primary. "I have lived, been educated and worked in countries around the world and I know how vital it is that children should be exposed to everything other faiths and cultures have to offer," she says. "I like that fact that Amira is being taught about Christmas and other faith celebrations – even things like Mother's Day amongst others are acknowledged. This is the real world that we live in, and learning about other cultures promotes tolerance and respect for others."

Making the very most of childhood

Zainab believes strongly that early childhood should be a time of both enjoyment and learning, and that it is the period when a child's future emotional maturity is established. This is why she has decided to leave her daughter at the Salam Nursery at Harrow Primary School. "Amira is getting a wonderful early education, is learning about the society she lives in and is safe and happy in an environment which holds values very close to my own. If that means I have to make two school runs in two different directions every day – it's worth it!"



Harrow Primary School
80-82 Gayton Road
Harrow HA1 2LS
020 3397 7997
info@harrowprimary.org.uk
www.harrowprimary.org.uk

