

Zara Taher and her husband Basil Mashkour have three children the youngest of whom, Mohamed, is five years old and has recently joined Harrow Primary School.



For Zara's son, Harrow Primary School is doing **what it does best** – educating, caring and endorsing her broad faith principles

### A question of choice

Mohamed has only been at Harrow Primary for a few weeks but already Zara is convinced she has made the right choice for him. "I wanted to move him because I thought he would benefit from a smaller class which could offer a much greater level of individual attention," she explains. "Every child is different and although I would love to enrol my daughter there, too, it seemed to me that Mohamed would benefit particularly. My daughter was unwilling to leave her existing school friends and as she is receiving a good standard of education where she is, I agreed to leave her at her present school, but I would send her to Harrow Primary in a heartbeat if she changed her mind."



## The perfect setting

It is true to say that Mohamed was reluctant at first but this lasted only a very short time. "The first week was difficult but I was so sure that it was right for him we persevered and within days he was happy and completely settled. It is perhaps too early to say whether his work is improving but I am quite sure that it cannot fail to do so; with one-on-one support from teachers who are both passionate about what they are doing and genuinely caring towards the children, and with a fresh approach to teaching which I admire, this is definitely the perfect setting for Mohamed."

## Ethical values

One thing which Zara particularly appreciates is the style of teaching which, she believes, reflects new innovations and a contemporary outlook. "As far as I am concerned, children are at school to learn and Harrow Primary offers a very effective approach whilst maintaining the ethical and open values which are important to me. I would consider only a faith school as our religion is a central part of our family life and I can feel confident that the ethos of Harrow Primary is absolutely in line with my own."

## Good things come in small packages

The fact that the small size of the site means that some facilities are limited has never posed a problem for Zara as she has seen how the children are able to access virtually everything available in other schools by efficient out-sourcing. "One of Mohamed's few early complaints was that the playground wasn't as big as he was used to!" she says. "But now he knows they can use the grounds of the attached Salam nursery he's quite happy, and there is nothing else which has a negative impact on the teaching provision. Given that, to me, education is all-important, there is nothing about Harrow Primary that I would change."

## The right place for the right child

It is clear that Zara believes she has found the right school for her youngest child and she would, she says, recommend it highly to anyone. She does, however, appreciate that every child is different and that one size does not necessarily fit all. "From my perspective, Harrow Primary offers everything I would look for and it is well worth the challenge of delivering two children to two different schools each day! I believe that moving Mohamed there was the best thing I could possibly have done for him."

## Preparation for the future

There is only one other thing that Mohamed takes minor issue with – the fact that he would rather like it if there were a few more boys in his class! "At this stage, he would probably like a bit more male company but the boys in his year are friendly and they get on well. For me, I am aware that Harrow Primary is doing for my son what it does best – teaching, caring and preparing him for his future."



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