



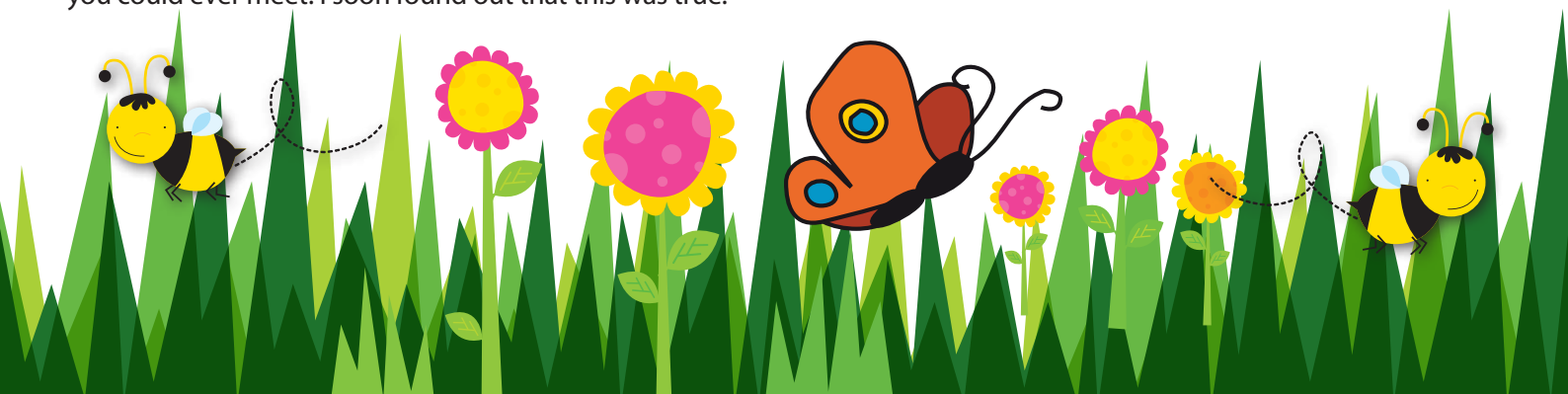
## Elaine recommends Holy Trinity School as the very best place for young children to learn

Elaine Barker lives in Darwen with her daughter Taryn, age five.

### Changing perceptions

Elaine admits that when her daughter was granted a place at Holy Trinity School she was initially unhappy. However, just one visit changed her perception completely and she realised that the facility, the staff and the educational ethos made it the perfect place to send Taryn.

"When I was younger Holy Trinity School didn't have the best reputation and I thought things were still the same," explains Elaine. "I am the head of education for a national children's charity and I was really concerned, but I was persuaded to go in and meet Mr. Standen, who I was told was one of the best and most forward thinking headmasters you could ever meet. I soon found out that this was true."



"I made an unannounced visit and Mr. Standen put everything to one side and spent two hours showing me around. He explained that all children are treated with respect and as individuals, and no child is ever held back or pushed forward for another. Education at Holy Trinity is an absolute partnership between the school and the parents. I was really impressed and decided to enrol Taryn. I'm so glad that I did."

### Values and empowerment

From their very first day at Holy Trinity School every child is valued and their unique qualities are recognised, nurtured and celebrated.

"All the teachers are really professional," says Elaine. "There are a few children that need a lot of support but the staff are very good at dealing with them. The whole school works together and they value the children and empower them to be the best that they can be."

"Every week Mr. Standen presents an award for the most impressive person and all the children want to win that. They strive to be polite and respectful and recognise the importance of good manners and looking after each other. It's brilliant."

### Pride in the school

Holy Trinity School has excellent facilities and equipment, as well as a unique outdoor forest area, which is a source of great fun and pride.

"The forest area is really great," says Elaine. "The school even has their own chickens and the children can enjoy being responsible for something. They care a great deal and you can tell that there is a lot of pride in the school from the children, the staff and the Governors."

### Communication and leadership

The headmaster produces a weekly newsletter and has also developed a new mobile phone app, which is something that Elaine values.

"The app and the weekly newsletters are very useful," she says. "Mr. Standen is an excellent leader and not afraid to share his vision for the future and making sure that everyone comes on board with it."

"Discipline is great because you don't see a lot of it. If any of the children do get into trouble the staff spot it early and deal with it quickly and efficiently, but they treat the children like little grown ups, talking them through what has happened so that they understand."

### First choice

Elaine's initial opinions about Holy Trinity School have completely changed and she recommends that parents visit the school to see for themselves.

"I've completely changed my perception and would recommend the school to anyone. A school that was my initial first choice recently informed that a place had become available but there is no way that I would move Taryn, as she is just so happy. When she leaves Holy Trinity School in Year Six I know she will be a better person, with good life skills that will be valuable to her in later life, and you cannot ask for more than that."



### Children say:

Taryn only has one thing to say about Holy Trinity School, and that's: "I absolutely love it!"

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