



A visit to Holy Trinity C of E Primary School proved to Philippa just how much this friendly school has to offer



Philippa Newton lives in Darwen with her partner Paul Eccles and children Callum, four and Emily, 10 weeks.

First impressions

Although Holy Trinity C of E Primary School was not Philippa's first choice for Callum, it took just one visit to reassure her that the facilities and staff were able to provide everything that was needed in the crucial, formative years of a child's education.



"For various reasons Holy Trinity was our second choice of school for Callum," admits Philippa. "When we found out that Callum would be going there I was a little apprehensive, but we needn't have worried as the headmaster, Mr. Standen, invited us to a meeting to discuss any concerns we had and as soon as we looked around, I was very impressed.

"Mr. Standen is a very friendly and welcoming headmaster and was happy to answer all of our questions and address any concerns. As he showed us around I could see immediately that the school was up to date and modern and the facilities were the same, if not better, than any other schools in the area. I was particularly impressed with their fantastic IT facilities, and the fact that all of the children have access to iPads, which is great."

Outstanding team

At Holy Trinity all of the children are valued, and their unique qualities are recognised, nurtured and celebrated by the staff.

The quality of the teaching and attention to detail has delighted Philippa who says: "Callum's class teacher is absolutely outstanding, and when Mr. Standen walks around the school he stops and talks to all of the children individually. We are really pleased that Callum goes to Holy Trinity, which is the best primary school in Darwen."

Settling in

Young children can find the transition from nursery to primary school a little overwhelming, but staff at Holy Trinity make every effort to ensure they settle in as quickly as possible.

"In the first few months after Callum started at the school I was working and so I took him to the Breakfast Club," recalls Philippa. "Callum would become quite tearful and clingy when it was time for me to leave, but each morning Mr. Standen was sitting at the table talking with the children and as soon as he saw Callum he sent one of the older children over to help him settle. This worked really well and I was able to leave him and go to work without worrying."

Meeting a child's needs

Philippa is a childminder and therefore very aware of a child's educational requirements.

"Because of my job I know what is needed to ensure a child reaches his full potential," she says. "Young children need to learn through play so that they don't even realise they are learning. Holy Trinity provides exactly what I think a child needs to look after them and help them learn. The school even has an outdoor area called the Forest School where children can try out all kinds of fun activities and they recently held a weekend workshop where parents and children could enjoy doing things together.

"Because there is only one reception class at Holy Trinity the children get lots of time and attention from their teacher, which can only be beneficial to them. Callum is meeting his targets and I have no qualms about his development. He is also perfectly happy, and absolutely loves going to school, and that makes me, as a parent feel very happy too."



Children say:

Young Callum looks forward to going to school every day. "We've never had a day when Callum hasn't wanted to go to school," says Philippa. "He is always ready and raring to go. He's made lots of lovely friends and adores the teachers, so he is very happy."

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