

# Leaving children with strangers for the first time is a daunting prospect, but Dave has discovered friends amongst strangers at King's Hedges Educational Federation



Dave and Myra Kennington live in Cambridge with their sons Joshua, nine and Alexander, five.

## Implicit trust

Dave and Myra both have jobs which take them away from home for long hours of each day and long distances. Uppermost in their minds when choosing a school for their boys, therefore, was the childrens' safety just as much as their education, and King's Hedges Educational Federation is the school which has amply addressed both these issues. "We have often had to leave the children at school from 8am until 5pm so we need to know that they are happy and well cared-for," says Dave. "What is comes down to is being able to trust the people who are looking after your children during the day a hundred per cent and at King's Hedges we know we can."



*Excellence achieved through care, creativity and challenge*

## Friends not strangers

Another reason for Dave's concerns was that, with few close friends and no extended family in the City, neither Joshua nor Alexander were used to socialising with other people, so he was not surprised that it took both boys a few weeks to feel completely settled at the Nursery. "We did have a few tears to begin with and it wasn't easy for us, either, to leave them with strangers as we had never done so before. However, the Nursery teachers were so friendly and caring that they didn't feel like strangers at all and we were confident that they would take good care of our children."

## Tapping into imagination

It is the caring ethos of the school which Dave particularly likes and he has seen this not only from a parent's point of view but as a Parent Governor, too. "Taking part in Governor's meetings gave me the chance to see how genuinely enthusiastic the teachers are and how they all really care about the children," he explains. "It was wonderful to see how they make a huge effort to bring out the best in their pupils and how they put in so much work and thought into developing and interpreting the curriculum. They seem to be able to tap into what fires each child's interest and use that as a learning tool."

## Step towards independent thinking

Dave has also been impressed by the way the children are taught not just facts but how to think independently, even from a very young age. "It's very much a case of stretching their imagination and their abstract thinking and encouraging them to ask questions. So, they won't just be told that something is right or wrong, or that the sky is blue - they are taught to consider why this should be. It's an excellent and philosophical approach, one which underpins what we try to do with the boys at home. It is reassuring to know that even when we can't be with them, they are being treated and educated as we would do ourselves."

## Respect

Children at King's Hedges soon understand that good behaviour is expected in all aspects of school life and high standards are upheld from the Headteacher down. "The Head expects a high level of behaviour and performance but is very fair and the children have great respect for her. In some ways it is an old-fashioned approach but all the teachers are also very open to new ideas and to feedback from parents. That is the perfect combination."



## No holding back

Although both Joshua and Alexander were somewhat reticent at first, they have now integrated very well both socially and academically. "They both read superbly and their slow start hasn't held them back at all. Although it was daunting for us to send them to nursery after a fairly sheltered early life it was unquestionably the right decision to send them to King's Hedges."

## Children say

Alex: "I like after school club & ERR (English, reading and writing)."

Joshua: "I think that King's Hedges is an amazing school! I love the art club and doing philosophy. I would highly recommend this school for any fun-loving children!"

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If you are interested in enrolling or, would like to look around, please feel free to call us on 01223 518330 and arrange an appointment.

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