

Paul cannot put a price on his son's happiness and security, which is why he trusts Kingston Park Primary School



Paul Callender lives in the Kingston Park area of Newcastle with his son, James, who is nine years old and in Year 5 at Kingston Park Primary School.

### **A change of circumstances**

For various personal reasons Kingston Park Primary School was not Paul's first choice for his son, but when their circumstances changed he believes that it was a blessing in disguise. "I had chosen another school which was further away but as things turned out it wasn't practical," he explains. "Now that James is so settled at Kingston Park I could not be more pleased; I don't believe that he could have been happier or better supported anywhere else."

## Keeping in touch

As a single, self-employed dad, Paul rarely has the opportunity to take James to school or to collect him at the end of the day and so he has limited face-to-face communication with his son's teachers. For this reason he greatly appreciates the school's policy of keeping parents constantly in touch by means of text, email and the website, as well as the written record James brings home each day. "The notebook is mainly to let me know about James's reading progress but his teachers often add comments on other relevant issues, and I can send my own comments back as well," Paul says. "As a fairly typical young lad, James doesn't always tell me everything but I am confident that if there is anything I need to know, the school will keep me informed."

## Celebrating achievement

Whilst Paul is more than happy with his son's academic progress, the pastoral support he receives is, he believes, equally as valuable. "I like the fact that James's teachers are not afraid to challenge him and to push him that bit further when they feel he is capable of just a bit more, and he certainly responds very positively to that challenge. However, James is also a talented sportsman and although he doesn't represent the school, his achievements are celebrated there and he is encouraged to bring in the swimming medals he has won and to take pride in his skills. For me, this shows how much the school cares about the child as a whole person."

## Getting the right balance

Paul believes in maintaining a balance between work and play, and that Kingston Park Primary has got it exactly right. "As I see it, James brings home enough work to challenge him but not too much to put him off, and he has ample opportunity to take part in creative subjects as well. The teachers seem to make learning fun and certainly, James has never once had anything bad to say about his school. He might be a boy of few words, but none of them have been negative as far as Kingston Park is concerned!"

## Safety, security and happiness

Any parent would want the best possible school experience for their child but for a single parent with limited free time on his hands, Paul values Kingston Park Primary for the all-round support. "I try to get to all James's assemblies and parents' evenings but as I can't be

at the school gates every morning and afternoon I really appreciate the fact that I can trust his teachers to keep him safe, secure and happy. I can have peace of mind knowing that he is being taken care of in every way and that is hugely important to me. I will never be able to get this time back with my son and I want to make the most of every minute in whatever way I can; Kingston Park Primary is helping to make it possible."



## Children say:

James: "Kingston Park School is a fun place to learn and make friends."

Mrs. Jayne Evans  
Kingston Park Primary School  
Cranleigh Avenue  
Kingston Park  
Newcastle  
NE3 2EL

(0191) 214 0363  
admin@kingstonpk.newcastle.sch.uk  
www.kingstonpk.newcastle.sch.uk

