

Sarah has discovered that at Kingston Park Primary School every child is an individual



Sarah and Matthew Cave live in Kingston Park with their four children. Aidan is eight, Edward seven, Penelope three and baby George is one year old. The three older children all attend Kingston Park Primary School.

An impressive start

Although Kingston Park Primary is their closest school there are several others nearby and Aidan was offered a place at two. However, it was Sarah's gut feeling that led her and Matthew to choose Kingston Park and they have never had any cause to question their decision. "I fell in love with the modern, open-plan design and then again with the overall friendly and caring atmosphere," says Sarah. "What particularly impressed me was that the Headteacher knew all the children by name so I immediately felt that my child would not be swallowed up and become just one of a crowd. I felt I could trust the school to treat him almost as I would myself, and that has proved to be the case ever since."

Small changes, huge benefits

Sarah's only concern was that Aidan, whilst bright, was a fairly quiet child and might be overlooked in favour of the more outgoing pupils but this worry was soon dispelled. "I noticed how the children were supported in various ways, with none being left to their own devices whatever their ability or personality. This became even more obvious when Aidan's teacher approached me to say that she felt he might have a mild degree of dyslexia and this was at precisely the same time that I, too, was wondering the same thing. It was very reassuring that Aidan's teacher knew him so well that she had picked up his difficulties even though they were not especially obvious, and also that she recognised the fact that his confidence would suffer if he felt he was slipping behind."

Aidan was assessed in school and diagnosed with dyslexia, with measures subsequently put in place to address his issues with reading and spelling. "They only needed to make small adjustments for him but that was all it took and his learning has not been affected at all," explains Sarah. "Little changes made a huge difference, especially as Aidan cares a great deal about his work and his teacher understood this. It showed me how much the school cares about the psychological and emotional welfare of the children, as well as about their education."

A different approach for a different child

With Aidan settled and progressing well, Sarah's next challenge was to tackle Edward's lack of interest in learning to read and write. "Edward is a totally different kettle of fish and I struggled to get him to even pick up a pencil!" she says. "He would much rather be running around outside or kicking a ball so I thought he would need a completely different approach and, amazingly, this happened. He had the same teacher as Aidan but there were quite a few children in Edward's class who were equally as boisterous and she played to their strengths, encouraging them to learn in a more pro-active way which worked brilliantly. Edward has now completely engaged with his school work and is thoroughly enjoying it."

Children say:

Aidan: "I like my school because it teaches me great and interesting things so I can become clever enough to be an inventor when I grow up. I want to design things that will make life easier for people. My teachers all make me feel happy by making my lessons fun and interesting! Kingston Park is really cool."

Edward: "The best part of Year 2 so far was learning to play the African bongo drums. I was really good and was a drummer when we did a show for our parents. I can't wait to be in year 5 so I can be my baby brother George's 'buddy' at school so I can look after him."

Penny: "I like everything in my school; they have dressy ups and fairies that make me happy. We do a story time in the story corner which is my favourite because it's super comfy. My school is the best school in all the world."

Tuning in to the children

Penelope is Sarah's third child at Kingston Park Primary and has, believes Sarah, blossomed equally well. "My three very different children have had the same teachers but been treated as individuals in their own right and appropriately for their personalities. I am delighted that they have all been nurtured according to their needs and that they are genuinely cared for by teachers who obviously enjoy their work and who take an interest in every child. Every day when I collect Penelope, her teacher always has something to tell me and seems to take pride in any of my daughter's achievements. That attitude means a lot to me."

No room for doubt

There is little doubt that George will be joining his siblings at Kingston Park Primary when the time comes and so Sarah will have four children at the same school. From her experience she is quite certain that the last one to fly the nest will be cared for just as effectively as the others. "We have been so fortunate in that our chosen school is not just close by but offers exactly what we wanted in every way. Like any parent I want the best for my children and I believe we have found it."



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

