

Jodie believes New North Academy is a special place for the whole family. She's grateful to the school for the amazing support her family has received through some difficult times.



Jodie and Dermott Dalmeida live in Highgate Hill. Their sons, Aidain, nine and Aarron, four, are in Year 5 and FS1 at New North Academy.



The right school for my children

When Aidain started school, New North Academy was brand new. "There had been two previous schools which closed and New North Academy opened in their place. As a child, I had been to one of those schools and lots of the teachers moved to New North Academy. Although it was a bit further for us to travel, I knew it was the school I wanted my children to attend," says Jodie.

An enjoyable place with strong parent-teacher bonds

When your children love going to school, life is much easier. "My children have never said they don't want to go to school. They enjoy their time there because learning is made fun. Aaron hadn't seen his teacher in a little while and when he saw her recently, he gave her a big hug. To see your children are happy at school is very reassuring!"

One big family

One of the key strengths of the school for Jodie is the relationship she and her children have formed with school staff. "It offers a really friendly environment with a happy atmosphere. The staff are very approachable and always offer a warm welcome in the playground. I like that the teachers are very visible; it feels very personal, like one big family," says Jodie.

Amazing support

Jodie and Dermott's second son, Eoghan, sadly passed away aged six. "Eoghan was receiving treatment for a year before he passed away; the school and the teachers were incredibly supportive to the whole family throughout what was obviously a very difficult time for us all," explains Jodie. "They kindly put some school counselling in place for Aidain whilst Eoghan was sick, which we feel has benefited him. He also a school diary which he can write in if he's feeling sad at all. He's not under any stress to continue in the classroom or in the playground and he knows he can take himself off if he feels he wants to. Everyone's aware that he might prefer some time on his own or need a hug. They've been very understanding and supportive, which we've all really appreciated."

Developing individual strengths

According to Jodie, Aidain is doing very well at school. "He has always been bright and done well at school. The teachers have been very good at recognising his

strengths and helping to develop them. He's been nominated to participate in a Royal Institution Maths Masterclass, which is wonderful. We've never felt that he's been held back in any way; we feel the staff are excellent at identifying individual strengths and talents and working to really develop those."

Bringing families together

One of Jodie's favourite aspects of family involvement at the school is the parent and child clubs they offer. "I did a photography club with Aidain, which involved little trips out of school and learning new skills, which was a brilliant opportunity for us both and a lovely way to spend time together.

"I also did sewing classes at the school last year, which was a really good way to socialise with other parents and a great way to bring families together."

A wonderful place for the whole family

Jodie adds: "I'm definitely glad I chose New North Academy as my children's school. We can't thank them enough for the support they have shown to us. They are an amazing team of supportive people who have made the school a wonderful place for the whole family."



Children say:

Aidain says: "I love the way the Headteacher's door is always open and I can always go in and speak to her."



The New North Academy

32 Popham Road
London N1 8SJ
Tel: 020 7704 3900

Email: admin@newnorthacademy.com
Web: <http://www.newnorthacademy.com>

