

Emma believes that if you find a place like Paddock Nursery, Infant and Junior School for your children, you never want them to leave



Emma Buckle lives in Paddock with her four children. Keyon is eight, Cody five, Alisa three and baby Dilovan is six months old.



Nothing too much trouble

Emma cannot think of one single negative thing to say about Paddock School, in which her three eldest children are happily enrolled. Following various family and health problems, she has nothing but praise for the way she and her children have been supported: "It seems that there is nothing the staff won't do to help if there are ever any problems," she explains. "Ever since Keyon started there in Year 2 the teachers have all been amazingly welcoming and understanding, especially when we have experienced some difficult times."

Addressing the needs of each child

Keyon was born with a cleft lip and palate and has significant hearing loss which can make it hard for him to participate fully in some lessons, and can cause him frustration. "At one point, Keyon was being disruptive in class because he couldn't hear properly what was going on," says Emma. "What was so good was that his teacher fully understood why Keyon was acting up and made every effort to address the problem without making a big fuss. That is just one example of the sensitive approach of the school as a whole."

Cody, too, has had his share of difficulties, becoming very shy and withdrawn when he started in the school's Reception Class, as well as having a personality clash with another child. "Cody's teachers arranged for him to attend confidence-boosting sessions which really brought him out of his shell, and somehow he is now best friends with the boy he fell out with! He has done so well since starting at Paddock; within a few weeks he was starting to read and write and actively enjoying his work. What I like about the school is that the children are encouraged to achieve their best but not pushed outside their capabilities, and the system works extremely well."

Firm friends

All three children are, says Emma, very happy indeed at Paddock, and have made good friendships amongst children from a wide range of cultures and backgrounds. "Paddock is a very diverse, multi-cultural school and that is definitely a positive aspect as far as I am concerned. It is such a friendly place and because it takes children from Nursery age right up to 11 years, it means that the friends they make early on will stay with them throughout that time. It also helps with the transition years, as the younger children are familiar with the premises, making it easier to move from Nursery to Infant and then to Junior School."

Consideration, kindness and practical help

Before Dilovan's birth, Emma had a period of ill health which left her very weak and housebound for several days. As she was unable to take the children to school, a member of staff picked them up and brought them home later, and teachers have also arranged transport during the occasions when Dilovan has been in hospital. "I know that they have done this for other people as well," she says. "I really appreciated having someone on my side at that time when I was feeling so bad and when Dilovan was extremely poorly. We all have to cope with difficult things from time to time, but Paddock School has always shown consideration and offered practical help."

Staying put

Emma is shortly moving house and will be living further away, out of the catchment area but she is hoping that this will not mean she has to find other schools for her children. "Keyon, Cody and Alisa are so settled and so contented at Paddock that it would be awful to have to move them. Alisa comes home from Nursery every day telling me how much she loves her teachers and her friends, and I don't believe another school would suit them anything like as well. At Paddock, they are treated as individuals, with their own needs and their own personalities, and it is without doubt where I want them to stay."

Children say

Alisa: "I love my teachers!"

Cody: "I really like school, and my teachers and friends are very kind."

Keyon: "There's a lot of dinner choices and my teachers are really good!"



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