

Brendan believes St. Helen's Primary School has an outstanding team of teachers with a genuine enthusiasm for education

Brendan Keaney and Dr Magdalene Rosairo live in Ipswich with their two daughters, Saoirse, 10, in Year 5, and Caoimhe, eight, in Year 3.



A real sense of pride

Brendan and Maggie moved to Ipswich in 2013; having viewed a number of schools they decided St. Helen's was the right choice for their family. "We moved from London, and felt it was important to choose a school that really celebrated diversity. What struck us about St. Helen's was that air of industry and hard work, but in a relaxed and comfortable environment. The teachers we met impressed us too. They were incredibly committed and we felt a real sense of pride in the school," says Brendan.

"The other children were welcoming and friendly and that's something else that really stands out. Our eldest daughter has developed friendships across the years which we've not really experienced before and she is enjoying school life at St. Helen's." there is a real sense of older children looking after the younger ones.

Extraordinary teaching team

For Brendan, an outstanding aspect of the school is the teaching team. "I think the school has an extraordinary team of teachers. Both of our girls consistently find their teacher inspirational. Saoirse always comments how she would like to be a teacher and we're sure this is down to the role models they have in their own teachers. Both girls have respect for their teachers; they feel listened to and that's really important. The teachers go that extra mile for the children and the children feel valued."

Support for individual needs

Brendan feels that in spite of Saoirse having dyslexia, she is progressing incredibly well at St. Helen's Primary School. "She's a very bright child and the school are very aware of her issues with spelling and we feel they look after her needs really well. She's had some one-to-one support and she has a spell checker she can use; they are really helping to build her confidence and liaising with home as well, to support the transfer of learning outside of the school environment. Her spelling is coming on well and we can see a huge change in her self-confidence."

A dynamic environment

Brendan believes the many different initiatives available at St. Helen's also help to grow self-confidence. "They make learning diverse, fun and exciting. St. Helen's are part of the 'Be The Best You Can Be' initiative which really had a resonance for our children. The school provides an exciting environment and the children always have something to report. It feels like a really dynamic environment at St. Helen's and our children love that."

Happy and content

According to their delighted parents, both children are very happy and content in their school environment. "They love, respect and rate their school. We believe they feel they're at a good school and we think that's important; it alters their view on the world."

Brendan adds, "Since joining St. Helen's their critical awareness of the world and their ability to articulate that has grown enormously. Both girls are on the school council so I feel there is an opportunity to contribute really strong sense of discussion and debate within St. Helen's; I think that freedom to discuss and debate reinforces a sense of value in the children."

A school that genuinely loves education

Brendan and Maggie believe St. Helen's Primary School is a great school with a great culture of learning and respect. Brendan says; "It's a place where I feel learning and children are at the centre of its ethos. There's always this strong sense that they're working hard, but they will work harder. 'Be the Best You Can Be' really sums up the school and the staff are an extraordinary asset; they have such an enthusiasm for teaching. The staff at St. Helen's love education, there's no doubt about it!"

Children say:

Caoimhe and Saoirse say: "We really like our school because it's a really friendly place. We really enjoy it and feel there's a real respect for learning."

Caoimhe says: "There's a real bond between the teachers and the children."



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