

Corinne believes St. Helen's Primary School offers a caring environment where children are well behaved, polite and eager to learn

Corinne and Chris Payne live in Ipswich with their children Josh, 25 and Rosie, 11 in Year 6.



A positive ethos

Rosie started at St. Helen's Primary School in nursery, aged three. Chris and Corinne chose the school because Josh had been there some years earlier. Originally they came from outside the area and what initially struck them about the school was how polite the children were. "It's still something that really impresses us. The teaching team and the children are all very polite and friendly. The ethos of politeness, hard work and good behaviour in a pleasant atmosphere is still central to the school," says Corinne.

In good hands

Corinne also believes the pastoral care available is excellent. "I feel it's equally as good as the academic standard; they achieve a very good balance. I feel Rosie is in very good hands and I trust the people she is with. The breakfast club and the after school clubs are great for working parents and Rosie has good relationships with the staff. I think St. Helen's covers it all very well."

A caring approach

According to her delighted parents, Rosie is progressing very well at St. Helen's Primary School. "Rosie has always progressed at a good rate at St. Helen's. I know if, now and again, Rosie has had time off with illness, the teaching assistant has always taken her aside and made sure she feels up to speed with class work, which I know she has appreciated."

An effective behaviour policy

Corinne believes the underlying reason why children enjoy their time at St. Helen's has much to do with the effective behaviour policy in place. "I personally think that because the behaviour of the children is so good, it has an enormously positive impact on all other areas of teaching. The children aren't disrupted in class and can focus on their lessons and the teachers have the opportunity to spend more time working with smaller groups."

Fond memories

Corinne can say with confidence that her children have been happy and

content at St. Helen's. "Josh has very fond memories of his time at St. Helen's and was keen for Rosie to go there too. I know Rosie is happy there too; she likes school and often comments about the supportive, friendly atmosphere and how able she feels to ask for help should she need it, which I think is important. The teaching team come across as a team who genuinely care about the children and their education."

A sense of pride

"As parents, they're very good at involving us too. They hold 'shared sessions' where parents are invited in for an afternoon to see work and socialise. There was an exhibition of artwork recently, which was excellent. You can really see how much effort has gone into these sessions and how much pride the school and the teachers have in the children's work."

Great links with the local High School

As Rosie nears the end of her time at St. Helen's, Corinne feels she is being well prepared for the next step in her education. "I think they spend a good amount of time preparing them for the

transition into secondary education. There appears to be very good links with the local High School and there's been visits to help get them used to staff and new surroundings. There's a residential trip coming up in Year 6 too, which I'm sure will be great for Rosie and will help with developing independence ready for moving on from St. Helen's."

Amongst people who care

Corinne adds: "We will miss St. Helen's! You can be sure your child will progress at St. Helen's Primary School and that they will be amongst people who genuinely care."

Children say:

Rosie says: "I like how enjoyable lessons are; they're never boring! I also like that you know that if you ask for help, you will always get it!"



St. Helen's
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