

Lindsay believes St. Helen's Primary School is a nurturing school which strives for excellence in each of its pupils happy

Lindsay Barker lives in Ipswich with her two children, Oscar, 12 and Amelie, 10 in Year 6.



Whilst Oscar is now at Secondary School, Lindsay's two children both started at St. Helen's Primary School in Reception. "When it came to choosing a school we'd heard great things from other people about St. Helen's. Parents were really impressed with the arts and culture focus and I have been too.

really well and they learn about each other's backgrounds and religions. They take it for granted that people have different approaches to life and that, for me, is a really important lesson."

A united approach

"I particularly like how multicultural the school is; it's really important to me that my children grow up in an environment which teaches the importance of living with people from all different backgrounds and cultures. The children integrate



Striving for excellence

"For me, it's a school that seeks to strive for excellence. It has high expectations and aspirations for the children, which is really great."

According to Lindsay, her two children are quite different in personality. "Oscar is bright at maths and quite literal in his thinking. He devours books. He's very scientific with a logical brain. Amelie is delightfully creative and always busy. She's emotionally intelligent, very organised and she works really hard. The teachers have identified these traits in my children and adapted their teaching in ways which appeal to their individual strengths so they've been able to get the best from them both."

Adapting learning styles

Being naturally more gifted in maths and science, English is a subject Oscar needed a little more encouragement to enjoy. "His teacher knew he preferred more logical learning. She somehow taught him English through the lens of maths, in a way that really appealed to him."

"She challenged him with his reading and gave him lots of tasks to adapt his writing style. In Year 4, she chose him for a poetry workshop, which he surprisingly enjoyed. He continued to write poetry and ended up in the top twenty finalists in a poetry competition. He came out with a highly commended award and, I believe, had it not been for the way the teacher adapted the teaching style to Oscar's learning style, he would never have enjoyed English or got as much from it as he did."

Healthy challenge

Lindsay adds; "In Oscar's year, there were four children who excelled at maths. The teacher identified their strengths and grouped them together. They were given more advanced work so that they were constantly stretched. It was lovely to see; they learned to work together and would support and challenge one another. Oscar thrived on it and consequently did incredibly well in maths."

Supportive, responsive teachers

According to Lindsay, Amelie suffered a loss of confidence in Year 3. "The teacher really listened to my concerns and nurtured Amelie, gently encouraging and motivating her. Amelie was made a maths mentor for the younger children, which I feel really helped to build her confidence. She loved the additional responsibility and it really helped her to progress her own understanding and learning. I thought it was a clever tactic on behalf of the teachers."

"Amelie has commented how able she feels to voice if she doesn't understand something; it shows how comfortable she feels in her learning environment and that she's confident teachers will listen. It's a joy to watch her now in Year 6."

A fantastic experience

Lindsay adds: "Attending St. Helen's Primary School has been a fantastic experience for both of my children. I've watched them thrive and grow in its nurturing environment. I think the teaching is excellent. Importantly, I've always had confidence in St. Helen's and I know Amelie and Oscar have both enjoyed their time there. I've absolutely no hesitation in recommending it!"

Children say:

Amelie says: "School feels like one big family and there is always someone to help you."

Oscar says: "I really enjoyed St. Helen's; being stretched in maths was really good."



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