

# Respect for each child and strong multicultural values are the **key strengths** of St. Helen's Primary School for Roushanara and Noman

Roushanara Begum and Noman Siddiqui live in Ipswich with their three children Nurhan, 15, Mahfuza, 12 and Burhan, 10 in Year 6.



## A positive ethos

"We'd heard good things about St. Helen's Primary School from family members and it appealed because of how multicultural it is. It's also our catchment school, so there were lots of good reasons for choosing it for our family," says Roushanara.

## Respectful for different cultures

As a bilingual mother, whose first language is Bengali, Roushanara has been impressed with the support offered to families where English is an additional language.

"We've always felt informed regarding the contents of the syllabus, particularly in terms of Personal, Social and Health Education (PHSE) in the curriculum. They approached me, and ensured we felt comfortable with what was included in the lessons. It shows a good level of respect and understanding for different religions and cultures and we were really happy with how it was handled."

## Close relationships

Roushanara adds; "I believe there are over twenty different languages spoken amongst the families of St. Helen's Primary School. The school has close relationships with the different local religious buildings and takes the children on visits to them, which I think is brilliant. Teachers not only have close relationships with children, but with parents as well, through parent's evenings and homework books. This gives us good insight into our child's learning and an opportunity to ensure our child is progressing well."

Noman finds the 'share days' interactive and informative, feeling they provide him with insight into how the children are working in school. "It's a very inclusive school and we know the children have all felt settled there."

## Specific support where English is an additional language

Whilst all lessons are taught in English, some of the support staff speak other languages, "I think this is very useful if children are struggling with English. Right from the very beginning, we've felt supported with English as an additional language."

Roushanara adds; "There's a supplementary school on a Saturday especially for the bilingual children to receive support with their homework. It's run free of charge by the Bangladeshi Support Centre at the school and all of my children have utilised it. We've been very grateful to have it available to our children."

## One-to-one support

Roushanara also likes the support offered inside the classroom. "Burhan received some specialist one-to-one support in Years 1 and 2. He was incredibly shy and would talk very quietly, so these sessions were important for him and really helped increase his self-confidence."

## A sense of pride

Noman adds: "We feel the teaching staff want each child to achieve the best they can. The school's motto, "Be The Best You Can Be", gives the children a source of pride, confidence and determination to put into their work. We are proud to be part of St. Helen's Primary School."

Roushanara is equally positive about the family's experience at St. Helen's Primary School; "It's a friendly, welcoming school that is very respectful of people from different backgrounds and people with other beliefs. They have prepared all of our children really well for life at Secondary School. We've absolutely no regrets in choosing it for our children."

## Children say:

**Burhan says: "I really like PE at St. Helen's Primary School. It's fun and helps me to be more active and healthy."**

**Mahfuza says: "St. Helen's helped me to believe in myself more. They taught me that giving things a try was more important than getting them right first time. I felt welcomed and valued and enjoyed every moment at St. Helen's."**

**Nurhan says: "I believe St. Helen's prepared me well for secondary school; I felt welcome and it made me a hard-working and determined student."**



**St.Helen's**  
Nursery and Primary School

St. Helen's Primary School  
Woodbridge Road  
Ipswich  
IP4 2LT

Email: [admin@sthelensprimary.net](mailto:admin@sthelensprimary.net)

Tel: 01473 251333

Web: [www.sthelensprimary.net](http://www.sthelensprimary.net)

