



Joan Ezigbo and her children Joshua, 12, Sarah, 10 and Cindy, nine, live in Greenwich.

## Joan's Christian faith and her dedication to her children are reflected in her choice of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

### Weighing up the options

High on Joan's list of priorities for her children's school was that it should be somewhere they would be happy and cared for, but her strong Christian faith meant that a Catholic school was also a very important consideration. With no previous experience of choosing schools, Joan wisely looked at several in the area, including secular ones to ensure her son had the best of all possible opportunities.

"Yes, I really wanted a Catholic faith school but I also needed to know that wherever he was he would be cherished so I was open-minded to a degree," she explains. I think I was so fortunate to find St Joseph's because it encompassed everything I was looking for, even though I hadn't really





considered its academic rating at first – which actually turned out to be an added bonus!”

## Helping parents to support their children

As it turns out, Joshua and his sisters have, believes Joan, academically excelled at St Joseph’s, with Joshua having been accepted at a Grammar school after passing the 11+ exams. “I hadn’t particularly looked into further education options but Joshua had done so well at St Joseph’s it meant that he had the chance to go to a very good secondary school. I am a very dedicated, hands-on mother but I couldn’t have done this all by myself – St Joseph’s has played a very important part in helping all my children to achieve as much as they have, and are still doing.”

## Tolerance and acceptance

Whilst Joan’s Christianity is very important to her, she is very pleased that her children are being taught about other faiths through the St Joseph’s curriculum. “My children have been brought up as Catholics but I would not want them to be narrow-minded about religion. I like that they come home and tell me what they have learned about other people’s religion and culture, and that they are accepting of other people’s beliefs because of what they are being taught. Whatever religious views you hold, tolerance and acceptance of other people’s point of view are very important and this is something which St Joseph’s promotes.”

## Social awareness and understanding

Religious views aside, the eclectic mix of culture and background at St Joseph’s offers a wealth of learning opportunities for the pupils in terms of geography, history and social awareness. All parents of St Joseph’s are often encouraged to participate in events involving their children such as helping with costumes or by showing up to support/ watch their children perform. Joan, as one of such parents, is a regular volunteer at school events such as the annual Nativity production and Multicultural Week and sees the way the school celebrates the diversity of its members in a very positive manner. “During Multicultural Week the children are encouraged to explore the traditions and cultures of other nationalities and so they dress up, try different foods and take part in activities around the topic, helping to make them all more aware of the heritage of many of their peers. So, as well as celebrating Christianity, they are learning to respect and understand the beliefs of others, people amongst whom they are growing up.”

## Passionate about music

Something else which Joan passionately appreciates is St Joseph’s dedication to music, both its appreciation and its tuition. “Giving all children the chance to learn an instrument is a wonderful thing,” she believes. “Being able to play the violin, as my son does, or any of a range of other instruments the school provides free of charge, is a valuable skill in itself but it also helps children in other ways. It teaches them discipline, concentration and how to work as a team through the choir or orchestra, and then when they give performances locally they appreciate how much pleasure they can give to others. I was so proud when Joshua won a Mayor’s Fund Music Scholarship; it is something which would not have happened had it not been for the opportunity provided by St Joseph’s. Now my daughters are also playing instruments, and this I will always be grateful for.”

## From the heart

Above all else, Joan’s priority is her children and she has little but praise for St Joseph’s where she knows they are nurtured and cared for. I can say from my heart that I feel happy to entrust my children to St Joseph’s. The values the school upholds are those which are also important to me and I am confident that there is nowhere else I would rather have chosen.”



## Children say:

Joshua: “I felt accepted in St. Joseph and was happy to be there. I also felt that the staff cared about us.”

Sarah: “I like that my school encourages us to be open minded about exploring new ideas and try out new things.”

Cindy: “I am happy that I can be as creative as I can in class during activities and also in the after-school clubs.”

St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, Commerell Street, East Greenwich, London, SE10 9AN

Tel: 020 8858 4182 Fax: 020 8305 9929

Email: [sao@stjosephs.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:sao@stjosephs.greenwich.sch.uk)

[www.stjosephs.greenwich.sch.uk](http://www.stjosephs.greenwich.sch.uk)

