

Peter believes that it is only St Luke's Primary School which could have given his children the individual attention he values so much



Peter and Sandy Akenzua have four children who have all been to St Luke's Primary School. Olivia, Tyrese and Alisha have now moved on to secondary school and Jada, 10, is currently in Year 5.

Good experience all round

St Luke's Primary school was recommended to Peter and Sandy by friends. A school with a Christian ethos and with smaller classes than some others they had seen, it seemed to be exactly what they had been looking for and they have not been disappointed.

"All of our three older children have had a very good experience at St Luke's," says Peter. "They have made a smooth transition to secondary school and I think that is mainly because they were prepared so well, both academically and socially. As far as we can tell, Jada is going to benefit equally well and we are more than happy."



St. Luke's
C. of E.
Voluntary Aided
Primary and
Nursery School

Putting the child first

Naturally, all four of Peter and Sandy's children have different personalities, different strengths and different weakness, like children from most families. The ethos at St Luke's is to embrace those differences and to support each child in the most appropriate way according to his or her individual needs. This might mean supplementary or one-to-one tuition with a Learning Mentor or Support Assistant to bring a struggling child up to a higher standard, or extra homework to challenge a more able student. In every case, it is the child's needs which are put first.

Support for families

It is not only in the classroom that pupils are so well supported, but in their family life and their pastoral care, too. Realising that children will perform better in school if they have boundaries to conform to at school and at home, the staff work closely with parents and encourage them to become actively involved in their children's learning process. "If a child is experiencing problems at home for any reason that might well impact on their behaviour at school," explains the Headteacher. "We will make it a priority to address those issues, help to solve them where possible, encourage good attendance, and to make sure parents know we are on their side."

Peter would agree that the school's policy on behaviour is a very positive one. "St Luke's is excellent at encouraging good behaviour and as parents we are always welcomed into the school to talk about anything which may be worrying us," he says. "If we have ever had any concerns we know we can talk to the Head or to the other teachers and we will be listened to and taken seriously."



Broadening horizons

Whilst Peter is more than happy with the academic provision his children have received, he also appreciates the wide range of extra-curricular activities in which they have the opportunity to take part. "Between the four of them, they have had art and craft clubs, drama, music, t'ai chi and lots of other sports and they have also gone on many trips to places like St Paul's and the London museums. If we had had to do all these things for them it would have cost an absolute fortune! It's wonderful that St Luke's gives them the chance to broaden their horizons, and in such an enjoyable way."

First hand experience gives a first class start in life

The parents of children who attend St Luke's are made aware that the school has their interests at heart; that the staff are sensitive in their approach and that they will never be judged in any way. "Most teachers are parents so we know at first hand how challenging children can sometimes be," says the Headteacher. "Our job is to help families to help their children, and to make sure those children have the best possible start in life that we can give them."



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