

Azahara has found nothing but support and reassurance with her daughter's health and welfare at St Ursula's Catholic Junior School



Language barrier

Azahara brought her children to the UK from Spain in order to join her husband who works here. As neither she nor any of the children were able to speak English it was fortunate that a Spanish friend was able to recommend the school for the three oldest children, one which had also been recommended by neighbours, and that was St Ursula's Catholic Junior School.

"We are Catholics so it was important to us to send the children to a Catholic school but I had much to worry about wherever they went," Azahara explains. "Not only did the children not speak English, as Ada is diabetic I needed to know that she would be safe at school, but how would she be able to communicate? I was very anxious because of this, and because she had left all her friends behind in Spain I didn't know how she would cope."

Azahara and Kingsley Nwajere live in Romford with their children Ada, 9, Chidimma, 8, Destiny, 6 and baby Ikechukwu who is nearly one year old.



**ST URSULA'S CATHOLIC
JUNIOR SCHOOL**
Diocese of Brentwood

We celebrate God in all we do!

Problem solved

When Azahara explained her concerns to the Headteacher she started to feel reassured. "The first thing the Head said was 'there is no problem', and that they had staff who were trained and could help. She set up a meeting with the school Nurse who was great, and who helped me to make appointments with the local hospital which I wouldn't have known how to do. Everything was so different in Spain: I had no idea how the medical system worked here and I had been used to having to go into school every day to test Ada's blood sugar levels. I had had no idea that the staff at St Ursula's could do this for us instead."

Engaging children's interest

On Ada's first day at school, Azahara could see that she was, understandably, very nervous but her worries were dispelled quite quickly and Ada has settled in well and is happy. "The education system at St Ursula's is so different to what we were used to in Spain, where the children are made to sit at their desks most of day. They often got tired of having to learn in this way so I like it that the approach at St Ursula's is very different. The children are shown things which interest them, things outside the classroom in the bigger world. In her first year, Ada's teachers helped her with everything."

Independence

Azahara also appreciates the fact that the school encourages independence and has gradually enabled Ada to manage her own condition. "She had been dependent on me 24 hours a day but she is now competent and confident enough to look after herself, which is a great step forward. The support from the school has been wonderful."

Anything is possible

Any worries Azahara may have had about picking up English are now in the past. "It is difficult for the school to receive a child who can't speak the language but they made us so welcome and the Headteacher made me see that anything is possible. She made me feel like my daughter would succeed and she was right - Ada is now virtually fluent and she corrects me when I get words wrong! She is doing very well, and is happy, and that makes me happy, too."



Children say:

Ada: "All the people in our school look after us really well, even if you have a condition like me, and they don't treat me any differently. The teachers teach really well, we have good fun, and I like doing hard maths!"



**ST URSULA'S CATHOLIC
JUNIOR SCHOOL**
Diocese of Brentwood

We celebrate God in all we do!

St Ursula's Catholic Junior School, Straight Road,
Harold Hill, Essex, RM3 7JS

Email: office@st-ursulas-rc-jun.havering.sch.uk

Telephone: 01708 343170

Fax: 01708 379590