



Kimberley and Michael live in Illingworth with their three children. Amy is ten, Olivia, eight and Dylan, four

# Not just a new school but a whole new start - Kimberley's daughters are flourishing at Whitehill Community Academy



## From tears to smiles

Kimberley never expected that her two daughters would be rushing home from school each day eager to do their homework. Neither had she recently been used to smiles and keen anticipation from them at the start of the school day. However, that is now the situation which has convinced her that she made the right decision to move them to Whitehill Community Academy.

"Olivia had been bullied for a year or more at her last school but when I tried to take the matter up with her teachers it was clear that they were unable to adequately address the problem," says Kimberley. "I would not wish to blame anyone specifically as these things sometimes happen but I was uncomfortable with the fact that Olivia was in tears most mornings at the prospect of going to school. Matters came to a head when I raised another couple of issues with her teachers and I decided to look at other options, of which Whitehill was one."

## A fresh start

Kimberley took both the girls to look at Whitehill and gave them, individually, the choice. "Amy had been doing fine at the last school and would have been happy to stay there even without her sister, but after she had seen what Whitehill had to offer she made the decision to move there. Olivia was delighted to have the chance to make a fresh start and after the Transition Day they attended they came back beaming, and excited about their new school."

## No regrets

In any circumstances, moving schools can be a daunting prospect but neither the girls nor Kimberley have regretted it for a moment. "I was amazed how remarkably quickly they both settled in," Kimberley says. "It was almost instant, the way they fitted in and adapted. In many ways it has done them a world of good, both in terms of academic achievement and socially; at the end of each afternoon they are full of what they have done that day, the friends they have made and even the homework they have been given! Olivia in particular needs a lot of stimulation as she is quick to learn and keen to take up challenges and she has flourished in her first few weeks at Whitehill."

## New confidence

From a parent's point of view, Kimberley finds all the staff approachable and welcoming and has every reason to believe that any problems would be sympathetically and quickly addressed. "I am so confident in the way the school is run that I haven't even felt the need to investigate the anti-bullying policy, for example," she explains. "I am so pleased that both the girls are happy with every aspect of Whitehill and that I feel I can trust the school to take good care of them."

## A positive experience

Enjoyment of their new setting has encouraged both girls to join many of the after-schools clubs on offer including Theatre Group, Cookery, Cheerleading, Art and Craft and Wacky Science. "Overall, the improvement in their whole school experience has been a very positive one," Kimberley believes. "It may just be that Olivia was unfortunate at her last school but if it wasn't the right place for her then I am so glad that we have found somewhere which is right."

No mum wants to see her child unhappy at school, and because of Whitehill Community Academy I no longer have to do so."

## Children say

From Olivia: "Since moving schools I have been much happier, all our lessons are very fun! I have made lots of new friends and I really like my teachers, they are kind to me. I love playing in the playground with all my friends."

And from Amy: "I was very nervous about changing schools but once I met the people in my class they were very nice to me and made me feel better and very welcome. I really enjoy all my lessons especially science. I have made some really kind friends. My teacher is the nicest teacher I've ever had. I love the playground and the school dinners."



## Whitehill Community Academy

Occupation Lane - Illingworth - Halifax - HX2 9RL

Tel: 01422 244471 - Fax: 01422 249389

E-Mail: [admin@whitehillacademy.org](mailto:admin@whitehillacademy.org)

Website: [www.whitehillacademy.org](http://www.whitehillacademy.org)

