



Charlotte Rice moved her girls Willow Grace and Briar Rose to St White's School two years ago and there's been no looking back

Charlotte is mum to Willow Grace who is in Year 5 age 10 and Briar Rose who is in Year 1 age 5.

Moving house and moving school

Charlotte moved house two years ago and St White's became the closest primary school meaning Willow Grace switched primary schools at age 8. "Willow Grace has settled and the last couple of terms have been brilliant. She's always suffered from anxiety but since joining St White's she's being doing well. Briar Rose started at St White's in reception and her reception teacher was amazing at helping her settle," says Charlotte.

Quick to offer support

Briar Rose enjoyed coming to school and her teachers noticed she needed extra help with her learning. "We noticed she was struggling a little academically and following school's interventions she's done fantastically. She's been to morning groups to help with her reading and spelling. It's great that school recognised she needed the help. Briar Rose is one of the youngest in her class and she started the year on reading level 8 and she's now on level 18 with the top level being 20 so she's done fantastically well. Her confidence has soared," says Charlotte.

Support in and out of the classroom

"Willow Grace moved aged 8 and leaving her friends was difficult. The new girls in her class have been lovely at welcoming her. She's very hard on herself and we have struggled getting her to school at times in the past. St White's family support worker came to visit us and helped so much; school always offered time and patience which was such a relief. Something has clicked recently and now she's flying. She's joined school council and she's getting involved with everything. St White's family support worker has worked wonders, she's just wonderful.

I do think Willow Grace has come on so much because there's always someone there looking out for the children, whether it's their teacher, the head teacher or the family support worker, there's always someone there to listen," says Charlotte.

A bigger school

Charlotte was a little worried at first at moving the girls to a larger school but St White's' community feel soon put her at ease. "The school has a close knit, community feel despite being quite big. The classes are blended across the year groups so they get to interact with children older and younger than them. I was initially worried as it was a lot bigger than their previous school but it's honestly like being part of a family, it's lovely," says Charlotte.

Poems every Friday

"Every Friday there is school assembly and each class takes it in turns to present a poem that they have learnt. Parents are welcomed to watch. It's such a lovely idea. Awards are presented; it's lovely to see the children's reactions. You can also "learn alongside" so you can go in and see what they're learning for half an hour on a morning and then on Fridays you can go in and read with them. There's always lots going on and it's all very well organised," says Charlotte.

Next steps

"Willow Grace is starting to look towards high school. She's seeing the older pupils go for their "bump up" days and so she's getting excited at the prospect of moving on. Being in a mixed class of Year 5 and Year 6 children helps with the transition," says Charlotte.

Advice for new parents

Charlotte is very proud of how well her children have settled in at St White's and she can't wait for her younger girls to enjoy their school journey. "Nothing is ever too much trouble and if you want to be part of your child's school journey I'd recommend St White's," says Charlotte.

Children say:

Willow Grace says: "I've made lots of friends."

Briar Rose: "My classroom is named after a bird and I love it."



St White's School

Sneyd Wood Road, Cinderford,
Gloucestershire, GL14 3GD

Tel: 01594 822311

Email: admin@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk

Website: www.st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk