



Karen McDermott is coming to the end of her journey with her boys at St White's School and she has nothing but praise for everything her family has experienced

Karen is mum to Daniel in Year 6 and her eldest boy William, joined the school in Year 3 in 2014 and has just completed his A 'Levels.

A wonderful school experience

Karen and her husband have nothing but praise for St White's as they reflect on their time with the school. "Both our boys have thrived at St White's. As a school, it's warm and welcoming, Mrs Tilling is an amazing Head Teacher and she and her team make the children and parents feel supported and well cared for. If ever I've had a query, it's been answered quickly and they're always asking for feedback and running surveys so that parents can share their thoughts," says Karen.

Linking with the wider community

St White's introduce the children to the world outside of school in a variety of ways. "There are amazing opportunities for the children. Trips and events are always happening. They had "Aspiration Day" recently where parents could visit and talk about their careers; they've had the police come in on police horses and the fire service have been in to visit and brought the fire engines. People have come in who work in medical surgeries and writers who write

children's books. It's a great way to link with the community," says Karen.

Learning with your child

Parents are given lots of opportunities to come into school and see what's going on. "St White's runs a session called "Learn alongside your child" where parents can come into school and see what the children are learning. Sometimes these are Maths topics; sometimes it's English, but parents are encouraged to come in and sit next to their child and take part in their learning," says Karen.

Feeling safe and secure

In today's world, it's important for children and parents to feel safe; it's an unfortunate reality and one that St White's takes seriously. "They practise things like "Lockdowns." The encouragement St White's offers is amazing; the children feel secure and as a parent I feel the children are kept safe. Alongside this there is a sense of nurturing, so they work hard to get the balance right. Children feel comfortable and that goes a long way to help with their learning," says Karen.

Confidence building

"Daniel has always tried hard at PE but it's never been his favourite lesson.

School have been brilliant at boosting his confidence by encouraging him to take part in the sports that he's suited to and what he likes doing. As much as he doesn't like certain parts of PE, he still says one of the best things about school is the sport. He was really worried about going swimming but he got a certificate for how well he'd done and that encouragement is just fantastic. School really concentrates on how the children feel about certain things and work with them to reach their full potential. I'll be so sad when it's time for him to go," says Karen.

Staying part of the school family

As Karen looks ahead to Daniel leaving, she's so pleased that she can stay connected to school which has been a big part of her family's life.

"To encourage praise for the children is just wonderful. I think it's a brilliant school and when we moved, I was concerned about changing William's school but it's the best thing we could have done. School now runs a photography competition during the summer holidays for the children and as a photographer, I get to be part of it by judging the entries. I'm so happy Mrs Tilling has asked me to continue this once Daniel leaves as St White's is such a valuable part of our lives," says Karen..

Children say:

Daniel says: "I like getting to go to different sports events."



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