



Amanda and Edward Foster live in Watford with their children Ella, seven, Charlie, five and William who is three.

Amanda believes that Kingsway Infant School has the right balance between learning and fun

Fond childhood memories

Amanda has always had very fond memories of Kingsway Infant School, having been there herself as a child and where her father was a Governor. "My most abiding memory is of feeling safe and happy there," she says, "and that is what I want for my own children in their early years. Whatever else may have changed about the school, it maintains that atmosphere and to me that is one of the most important aspects of a child's education."

Active enjoyment

There's no doubt, believes Amanda, that Kingsway's approach to education is effective, and Amanda likes the way that both Ella and Charlie are treated according to their own individual personalities. "Ella is fairly studious and more of a thinker, and Charlie likes to get stuck in in a more physical way so whilst Ella enjoys being given a bit of an extra challenge with her reading, for example, Charlie finds practical, hands-on lessons more fun. Both are actively enjoying learning and to me that is invaluable - school shouldn't be a chore, especially at this stage."

Community spirit

Amanda feels strongly that an early school environment should be a platform from which to make friendships, and to learn social and life skills and has been pleased to find that the friendly, community spirit of Kingsway encourages this. "It's not just the children who are making friends but the parents, too, and that is so important," she says. "Most of the families live close by and the school is the hub which brings us together. Being a parent can be a lonely experience but Kingsway has such a lovely, welcoming feel to it and we often socialise with other parents, some of whom are teachers there themselves."

Positive role models

With their caring attitude and great enthusiasm, Amanda says the teachers are not only approachable but that they command the respect of the children. "They are passionate about what they are doing and that encourages the children to do their best. They are great role models: professionals to look up to but also kind, so the children are keen to please and praise from their teachers is as valued as a sticker on the reward chart!"



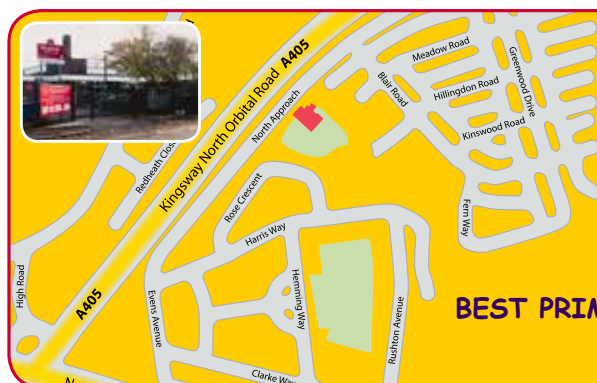
Learning through play

Whereas some children may wish to forget about school during the evenings and weekends, Ella and her friends are often to be found playing 'schools' at home and this, says Amanda, proves how much she loves Kingsway. "It's obviously a very enjoyable part of her life and the games they play are very positive, featuring praise and rewards just like the real thing. This is exactly what I was looking for - a school with an emphasis on fun as well as achievement."

Children say

Ella: "I love Kingsway because it is fun and we get to have 'golden time' if we do well during the week. All my teachers are really nice and I enjoy going to school"

Charlie: "I love having 'golden time'; we get to play with whatever we want. I love playtime too."



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