



Clare and Gary Beveridge live in Norwich with their children Ardan, eleven, Ellis, nine and Darby, seven. Ardan is in Year 6 and Ellis is in Year 4.

A **great** education and a **nurturing community environment** - Clare couldn't ask for more than she has found at Colman Junior School

A strong community feel

What really stood out about Colman Junior School for Clare and Gary was the strong community feel. "I really like the varied catchment it has. We moved from London so it was important for us to choose somewhere that was as mixed as possible," explains Clare.

"When we were shown around we got a very nice feel. The children all had very good manners. You want to know that your children are not only going to be very well educated but that they're going to be well-rounded children when they leave."



The whole child is important

Clare feels this desire for well-rounded children leaving in Year 6 is one of the strengths of the school. "They do seem to look at the whole child, not just the child's academic ability. I think that's really important," says Clare. "They value effort and behaviour as well as academic achievement."

A real knowledge of your child

Clare has always found the staff to be incredibly approachable and loves how when she attends parents' evenings she has a real sense that teachers know her children: "Even at the first parents' evening in October, they already know my child. As a parent, it's so reassuring."

Nurturing

Both Clare and Gary are pleased with their children's academic progress at Colman Junior School. "Both Ellis and Ardan are doing very well. Both children have received support through booster groups and we feel the teaching staff cater very well for different needs; they're very good at giving extra support when it's needed and offering extra challenges to ensure children are reaching their full potential," says Clare. "We really liked the incentives used with Ellis in Year 3. There was a big reward system in place involving sticker charts which Ellis enjoyed. Things like this really help to motivate the children and it's a great way to recognise their hard work," explains Clare.

Pastoral care

Ellis has also benefited from some focused pastoral care from the school. Clare explains: "Ellis worked on a one to one basis with a member of staff where they did activities which Ellis was able to choose. He seemed to enjoy the experience. It feels like a nurturing environment and you do get a strong sense that the staff care about your children."

"And both of my children have commented how visible the Headteacher is around the school. I like that she knows my name too - she has no reason to, but she does!"

A chance for all children to shine

Clare feels the positive reward systems in place at Colman Junior School are really effective. She loves how the emphasis is not just on academic achievement.

Star charts, house points and afternoon tea with the Headteacher all contribute to the children's enthusiasm to try their best and assist in developing confident children. "My children's strengths are quite different, but we feel both are equally recognised by staff," says Clare. "They're very good at rewarding all kinds of achievements, not just academic ones, which is fantastic. The opportunities on offer allow all children a chance to shine and for their individual skills to be highlighted."

Clare adds: "Colman Junior School is a very nurturing community school with very good academic and pastoral support. We have a real sense that they care for our children. For us, it achieves just the right balance. It's exactly what we hoped for our children."

Children say:

Ardan says: "The gardening club was great! The teacher was brilliant and being outdoors was fun!"

Ellis says: "I love the outdoor space at Colman Junior School! There's an enormous field!"



Colman Junior School

South Park Avenue
Norwich, Norfolk, NR4 7AU

Tel: 01603 508530

Fax: 01603 508539

Web: www.colmanjunior.norfolk.sch.uk

Email: office@colmanjunior.norfolk.sch.uk