



David and Caroline Houghton live in Norwich with their children Isaac, eleven, in Year 6 and twins Tallulah and Reuben, eight in Year 3.

David and Caroline believe Colman Junior School is providing a **positive learning experience** which is **encouraging independence** and **confidence** in their children

So many good things

Colman Junior School is not David and Caroline's local school but they knew parents with children already there and had heard very good things. After visiting they felt reassured it was the right school to support their family. "We saw so many of the good things that we were looking for; a calm, organised atmosphere with a good retention of staff and a positive ethos. We've not been disappointed," says David.



Positive leadership

He adds: "We've been impressed with the leadership. The Headteacher is very genuine and approachable." For David and Caroline, the leadership at Colman Junior School is something they consider a particular strength. "These are qualities you always hope for and we have been very happy to see that they have continued throughout the Head's time in the role."

Developing confidence and pride

Increasing confidence is a trait David and Caroline have noticed developing in all of their children. "The School has thoroughly supported and respected our wishes about placing the twins in separate classes right from the beginning. We believe this is encouraging a strong sense of autonomy," explains David.

David adds: "Isaac's become a real leader. He's been chosen to show people around the school and act as an ambassador which has been great for his self-esteem. He represents the school in sport and he thrives academically. He's very comfortable at the school and it shows in his confidence."

Rewarding hard work and achievement

David believes this is supported by the reward systems in place which allow children to develop a sense of pride in their achievements. "They're very good at praising children. This has definitely helped my children to feel proud of their achievements and it has certainly contributed to Isaac's increased confidence."

To mark individual achievements, children are rewarded with star awards and house points. "Staff will highlight successes in assemblies, which I think really helps to develop a sense of achievement and confidence," adds David.

Time with the Headteacher

A star shaped badge is given to mark children receiving a number of stars and special one off achievements are honoured with a 'superstar award'. Children are then invited for afternoon tea and cake with Mrs Sandford, the Headteacher, for 'Superstar Friday'. "Tallulah and Reuben absolutely loved this experience and felt very grown up! It's a great way of rewarding their efforts but there's also a certain expectation on how to behave in this situation which I think is really good for them."

Dedicated, supportive staff

David and Caroline are also impressed with the level of dedication shown by teaching staff. "We've always been very reassured by their knowledge. They're very clear on what it is they're trying to achieve. The staff talk in terms of the milestones each child has reached and their next steps," explains David. "All three are achieving well academically. Isaac has been put forward for an inter-school maths assessment. It's a way of having a standard to aim for which is above and beyond where he needs to be. We certainly feel our children are supported and appropriately challenged and always made to feel comfortable."

David adds: "When you get inside Colman Junior School you can feel what a positive environment it is. You're left with no doubt about the uplifting learning experience every child is having."

Children say:

Isaac says: "I like Colman Junior School because the teachers are friendly, the children are very friendly and you feel like you can't fail."

Tallulah says: "When you're in the classroom you feel like you're in a family!"

Reuben says: "My favourite thing about school is the rewards. They give you house points, star awards and Superstar Fridays!"



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