



Jo and Richard Phillips live in Norwich with their three daughters, Eleanor, nine, Lotte, seven and Jess, four. Eleanor is in Year 5 and attended Colman Infant School before starting at Colman Junior School two years ago.

Jo believes Colman Junior School has **strong leadership** and is **really** going places

Safe and secure

Choosing Colman Junior School felt like a natural progression for Jo and Richard after Eleanor had such a positive experience at Colman Infant School. However according to Jo, Eleanor initially found the change a struggle, missing the familiarity of her old school and teachers. "Eleanor doesn't always find change easy," says Jo. "She would get quite anxious during that first year at Junior School. There was also a change in Headteacher, which meant more changing faces at school. It was then that I decided to become a Parent Governor and get more involved. It took some time for Eleanor to feel comfortable in her new environment but I am very grateful to the new Headteacher who has definitely been instrumental in helping Eleanor feel more settled and secure and now she is blossoming."



A warm and friendly atmosphere

For Jo, the warm and friendly atmosphere is a real strength of the school: "When you walk into Colman Junior School, you immediately sense it's a happy place to be. The children behave really well, which I think is great - it all helps to create a good learning environment."

Strong leadership and teamwork

In her role as parent governor, Jo has witnessed strong leadership from the Headteacher. "There have been a lot of very positive changes in the last 18 months and all the staff seem to be pulling together to make them work. It's clear how much the staff care about the progress of the school and its pupils," says Jo.

A caring environment

Jo believes the school has a very nurturing environment. "As a parent, I can vouch for the pastoral care and support on offer at the school. Eleanor has really benefited from one to one time with a dedicated member of staff. It's been wonderful to see her confidence and self-esteem grow since Year 3 and it feels like you can't hold her back now."

Praising and rewarding individual achievement

Jo adds: "Eleanor is achieving well at school which has also helped boost her confidence. I feel she's being taught very well."

She has noticed that Eleanor is very enthusiastic about what she's learning and is often keen to go the extra mile. "I've been impressed by the culture of rewarding effort and recognising hard work," says Jo. "Eleanor had a piece of homework to do recently and decided to do a little bit more than was required of her. Straight away this was picked up by her class teacher and she was rewarded for her efforts, which was really nice to see."

Parental involvement

As a parent governor, Jo has enjoyed learning about the 'bigger picture' of how the school works. "It's been very reassuring to see how dedicated the staff and leadership team are and

how hard they're working to benefit the children," she says. "For example, there is now a very strong writing culture in the school and it was interesting to see how that change was brought about and the impact it's having."

A school going places

Jo adds: "I think all the parent governors feel that Colman Junior School is gaining momentum. There have been some really positive changes recently. I think we all generally consider this is a school which is really going somewhere!"

Children say:

Eleanor says: "My favourite thing about school is the lessons because the teachers make them really interesting."



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