



Charlotte Widdowson and her partner Daren Capon live in Norwich with their children, Georgina, eleven and Harrison eight, in Year 3.

Charlotte **believes** that the **friendly**, **welcoming** and **dedicated** teachers at Colman Junior School are providing the **perfect** learning environment

A good reputation

Harrison joined Colman Junior School from a non-feeder infant school. Charlotte says it was the positive feedback she had heard from other parents about the atmosphere and its academic reputation which left her in no doubt that it was the school she wanted for her son. "I knew the school had a good reputation and although others did too, there was something about Colman Junior School that felt right. And thinking ahead, we felt it complemented our choice of secondary school for Harrison too," says Charlotte.



No looking back

And she has not been disappointed. "It's very welcoming and friendly. The children are well behaved and polite. We felt immediately that Harrison was going to fit in," says Charlotte. Despite some initial reservations from Harrison about starting a new school, he came home from his trial day very happy. "I asked him if he'd made some new friends and Harrison's reply was that the whole class were his friends! There was no looking back after that!"

Welcoming and focused on learning

For Charlotte, a real strength of the school is its ability to welcome the children into a happy atmosphere that encourages a focus on learning. "There are always smiley faces at Colman Junior School. The staff and the children all look happy to be there and I think that's a real positive when it comes to learning. To know your children are happy in their environment goes a long way to ensuring they want to learn," says Charlotte. "They are a lovely group of teachers, children and parents at Colman Junior School and the Headteacher always has time to say hello to children and to parents, which is really nice to see."

Getting the best from children

Charlotte has first hand experience of the fun the teachers bring to learning having volunteered for an Egyptian themed day to support the curriculum. "It was a really great experience. The teachers all dressed in costume and threw themselves into the role. It was a very theatrical day with lots of encouragement for the children," explains Charlotte. "I was really impressed to see how involved the teachers were in the whole role play aspect. It was brilliant to see! The children really felt that Egypt was right there in the classroom. Harrison loved all the different learning experiences it involved like crushing olives and hieroglyphics. I really think the enthusiasm of the teachers shines through and helps to get the best from the children; and the activities on offer were a great way of encouraging learning."

Flourishing academically

Harrison, according to his parents, has always been quietly confident but they have noticed that he is flourishing academically since joining Colman Junior School: "His ability to focus on his writing has improved greatly," says Charlotte. "His teacher has really encouraged him to strive for success and has given him some focused targets to work on in the areas that need developing, so Harrison is clear about what it is he's aiming for. His teacher has taught him to have a real sense of pride in his work," says Charlotte. "When I read with him, I can see some real progress there too. We're very pleased indeed."

Charlotte's enthusiasm for the school is clear: "Harrison is very happy at Colman Junior School. It's a friendly, welcoming school which is academically high achieving. We have no regrets in choosing it for Harrison and believe it is providing him with a really positive learning experience. We have no hesitation in recommending it to others."

Children say:

Harrison says: "My favourite thing about school is playing with my friends outside!"



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