



Florence is enjoying school life at Avonbourne Girls' Academy and is thriving in their disruption-free learning environment

Lucie and Steve live in Bournemouth with their daughter Florence, aged 11.

Natural progression

Avonbourne Girls' Academy was already well-known to the Barton-Ridges family as Florence's primary school was located next door. Lucie says: "With the close proximity of Avonbourne, we were already quite familiar with the school. We also attended open days and spoke to friends who have children at the school before we decided to give it a go. With the school now being owned by United Learning, they have made lots of positive changes and it really just felt like a natural progression for our daughter."

Learning environment

"It's still quite early in Florence's time at Avonbourne but she is settling in well," Lucie says: "The feedback we have had at parents' evening has been positive and the teachers have said she is doing really well. Florence enjoys the school's disruption-free learning environment as she is keen to learn. She enjoys all her subjects, and she also likes the structure of her lessons. We're really happy with how Florence is progressing."



Transitioning to secondary school

Moving from primary to secondary school is a big change for children but Florence is coping well with the transition. Lucie says: "She has settled into secondary school really well. But if we did have any concerns in terms of her adapting we know that we can contact the school's transition lead or the Assistant Principal, Miss Barr. We've found the school is very approachable and they are always happy to have a chat with you and work together to find a solution. Things are very different for the children when they go to secondary school so it's good to know there's always someone there to help if we need it."

After-school activities

"The variety of after-school clubs is such a great aspect of what the school offers," says Lucie. "There's so much Florence can do, and all activities are free to access too. Florence is happy to stay on and take part in the after-school programme. Her favourite activity is dancing, and she has already taken part in a show held by the school last term. She is so happy to be part of dance club and she loves being in the dance studio at school. I think they cover a different style of dance each term, for example, modern and street dancing. The school is great at encouraging the children to try different activities and they offer such an array of options. We were really pleased when we learned about the number of clubs that are open to the children after-school at Avonbourne."

Recognising daily achievements

The Reach Academy points system enables children to receive points for good behaviour such as having a positive attitude and being ready to learn. It's something that Florence is really enthusiastic about, explains her mum. "It's an initiative that encourages the children to do the best they can each day at school and it's a lovely way to acknowledge how well they have done. Throughout the school day, the children are awarded points for their achievements. My daughter gets excited every time she is awarded points, whether it's for her homework or for doing good work in class or for having a positive attitude. It's a great idea to recognise and reward their good behaviour via the points system as it really helps to motivate the children. It gives them something to aim for each day and leads to end-of-term awards for the children that have accumulated the most points. It's a great idea."

Florence says:

"I like having dance lessons and I enjoy having all the different clubs to choose from."



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