

Soodesh and Valee are thrilled that son Micah is happy at St Aidan's Catholic Primary Academy, their number one choice

Soodesh and Valee Chocken live in Newbury Park, Ilford with their children, Micah, five, Iravian, two, and Vaahini, seven months.



St Aidan's top the list

Soodesh and Valee carefully studied the Ofsted reports of several schools when looking for a primary school for their son, Micah. "St Aidan's came out top of the list for us," says Soodesh. "So you can imagine how elated we were when we knew Micah had been given a place at the school. Since he started he has been very happy and we are confident that we made the right decision."

Tracking progress

Soodesh finds the assessment days held by St Aidan's very useful for parents. "You get a sheet at the end of the assessment telling you the strengths and weaknesses of your child. Parents are expected to put in educational support at home and



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Catholic Primary Academy**

because of speaking to his teachers, I am comfortable that I am doing the right thing at home and that Micah is going at the right pace. We know exactly how he's doing and what he needs to do to move forward."

Encouraging good reading

Micah loves reading at home and Soodesh likes the fact St Aidan's gives him a book for a week so he is really able to familiarise himself with it. "The school rewards the children for good behaviour and doing well with their reading. When Micah comes home and is excited because he got a gold star, you want to build on it." Soodesh is also pleased the school invites parents in to run through the syllabus with them. "It is useful for us to know exactly what is going to come up."

Problem solving

One of Micah's favourite activities is being asked to think about how to resolve an issue. Soodesh says: "A teacher dresses up as Buddy the Elf and creates some kind of situation and the children have to think about how to resolve it. Micah often talks about how much he enjoys thinking about things and working them out, until he arrives at a solution that might work. He enjoys leading the team and getting others to buy into his ideas."

Comforting atmosphere

Soodesh likens St Aidan's to a security blanket because the school feels so comfortable. "It is like walking into my child's second home. The head teacher knows every child and every parent. There is always a friendly member of staff greeting you at the main entrance and providing a warm welcome to the school. I feel confident because the school has an open door policy for parents and will address every issue the child may have."

Good communications

St Aidan's routinely contacts parents by text message. "It is great that the school uses modern technology to let us know what's going on," Soodesh says. "On one occasion the heating system was down. We were sent a text on the Sunday to let us know that the school would be closed the next day and to ask us to keep looking at the website for updated information. We were also updated by text about the school reopening."

Catholic ethos

"I wanted to send my child to a Catholic school because of the discipline and educational methods they use and because I wanted Micah to develop a humble and giving attitude," Soodesh says. "The school has really lived up to my expectations and I am now very keen for Micah's younger brother and sister to follow him to St Aidan's."

"To any parent considering sending their child to St Aidan's, I would say that they can feel absolutely confident that the child will be in safe hands and get a head start in life. They won't just be taught to add up and read, they will be taught how to solve problems and use their creativity."



Children say

Micah says: "I love playing in the garden outside the classroom and when I am inside I love making models."



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