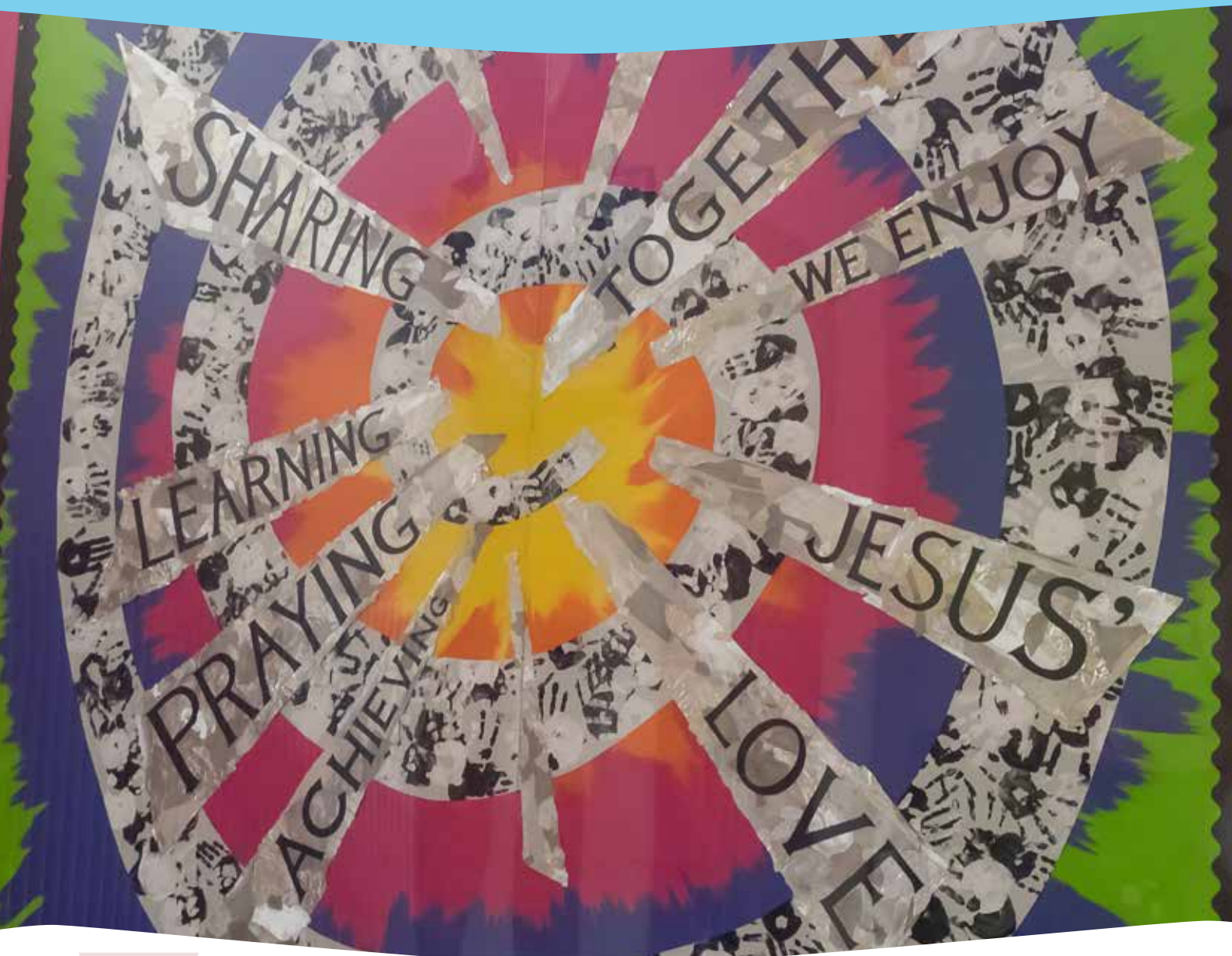


Mum Antoinette knows Alexandra will be loved, nurtured and well educated at St Aidan's Catholic Primary Academy

Antoinette Potter lives in Chigwell, Essex, with her daughters, Alexandra, six, and Isabella, two.



Teachers interact well with pupils

As soon as Antoinette went to look round St Aidan's Catholic Primary Academy, she knew it was the right school for her daughter. "I chose St Aidan's because I saw how happy the kids were and how well the teachers interacted with them," she says.

It was a big decision to make because the nursery Alexandra attended in Chigwell was preparing the youngsters to move on to a primary school nearby. But Antoinette firmly believed it would be worth travelling a bit further to have the best school for her daughter.



**St Aidan's
Catholic Primary Academy**

Making good progress

Now that Alexandra is six years old, Antoinette is confident that she made the right decision. "Alexandra was reading above her age level when she first started in the reception class at the school, and I was worried that she might have to mark time. However, St Aidan's carried on her progress and she is bringing home books that are way beyond what I thought she would be reading at this age." Alexandra is also continually acquiring new skills. "She was recently taken by the school on a visit to the Redbridge Drama Centre. As a teacher of drama myself, I was amazed by the range of skills she had picked up afterwards."

School like a small village

"I love the cosy atmosphere of St Aidan's. It feels a bit like a village with different-sized buildings surrounding the playground. The hall is new, but there are older buildings as well and it is nice to be able to step into the smaller, more intimate areas of the school."

Caring staff

"There was a time when Alexandra was unwell, but all the staff were brilliant and made sure she got her medication," says Antoinette. "They kept a close eye on her and kept me up to date and let me know that she was fine."

Uplifting assemblies and activities for parents

Not everyone who attends St Aidan's is Catholic. Many of the children are from different religions, but they all say their prayers together. "All the parents get on well together at social events, there is a real community spirit," says Antoinette. "Alexandra comes home with lots of books on different religions, and I feel the religious education the children receive is very inclusive. The Catholic ethos of the school works well with other religions. They have fantastic, uplifting school assemblies that are always well attended by parents. There are lots of creative activities for the kids to become involved with, too, for example, the school puts on a marvellous musical show each year. And there are loads of activities for parents as well, such as pamper evenings, different classes and a book club."

Active kids

Antoinette is also pleased St Aidan's do plenty to keep the children active, including PE, football, netball and dancing. "Any glimpse of sunshine and they do activities outside," she says. "I also like the way that kids from the local secondary school come back to their old school to help the younger ones and encourage them with sports. I love to see former pupils helping to run events on Sports Day."



High academic standards

"I couldn't ask for more from the school, I will have no hesitation in sending my two-year-old daughter, Isabella, to St Aidan's when her time comes," Antoinette says. "My message to any parent considering the school is to go for it, 100 per cent. St Aidan's is a small community school that cares about individual children and your child is going to feel loved and educated well."



St Aidan's
Catholic Primary Academy

St Aidan's Catholic Primary Academy
Benton Rd
Ilford
IG1 4AS
London

Phone: 020 8590 5223
email: admin@st-aidans.redbridge.sch.uk
www.staidansacademy.org

Children say

Alexandra says: "My favourite lesson is English, because my teacher makes learning really funny."