



# St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School

*Let God's love shine in our lives, as we care, share and learn together*



Ambrose and Natalie King live in Balby with their daughter, Alisha, aged nine, and son, Ambrose, aged six.

## Ambrose and Natalie are **pleased** with the way their children's lifestyle has been **embraced** by St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School

### Staying in touch

Ambrose and Natalie are pleased with the understanding shown by staff at St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School about the way they live their lives. Ambrose says: "We are Romany gypsies and take the children with us when we travel to other places to work but the school have always been really good about it. The year before last we went to Australia for six months and the school kept us updated by email and sent homework. Alisha and Ambrose were able to catch up with their classmates by Skyping them at the beginning and end of classes."

### Keeping up with work

"Last year we worked away for a large part of the summer in the London area and the children were able to take their school work with them to do. We have to fill forms in and get permission to take the children out of school but the staff realise it isn't just for a holiday, it is our way of life, and they are always very understanding about it," Ambrose says.

## Memories of school

Ambrose started in the nursery at St Francis Xavier and Alisha joined the school in Year Two at the age of six. "We had been living on the East Coast but we moved back to Doncaster to be near my wife's parents. My wife and her family are Catholic and wanted the children to attend a Catholic school. She attended St Francis Xavier herself and has happy memories of it."

## Building confidence

Ambrose says both children have had their confidence built up by the school. "They recently appeared on a television programme and the school got them up in assembly to tell the other children about it. The school are always proud of their pupils' achievements."

## Enjoying Maths

"Alisha has liked and respected all her teachers. She is extremely keen on languages and has learnt a few words of French and Spanish and is a big fan of Maths."

"She loves swimming and is in the top group in the class. Ambrose is a very sociable little boy and has a good mix of friends. He also loves Maths and he likes reading, playing football and the social side of school," Ambrose says.

## Good mix of families

"The school is a very friendly place, attended by children from many nationalities," Ambrose says. "We are the only Romany gypsy family in the school but it's never been a problem. We are very open with the school about our lifestyle. They communicate well with us and will always ask us about things rather than just assume something. When it comes to homework, if we have a problem with it, we only have to ask and the teachers will help us with it from start to finish."

## Making friends

"We like our children to mix with everyone and they both have a nice circle of friends that they play with regularly. They also enjoy going to the after school clubs. Alisha is starting crafts soon and has done baking and fun with food. Ambrose is now doing mixed sport after school. The school has a big playground for the children to play in and there is a large playing field for sports just a short walk away. Ambrose has always been very sporty and also plays golf, cricket and football in the evenings and at the weekends outside school."

## Open to all

"I am not a Catholic myself, but I would recommend St Francis Xavier to both Catholic and non-Catholic families because it is such a good school," Ambrose says.



*Alisha says: "I like going to school and enjoy swimming and seeing my friends."*

*Ambrose says: "I like learning new things and playing football."*



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**Catholic Primary School**

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