

# Simon and Izabela have become confident with English thanks to the helpful staff at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Peter Hubka and Katarina Hubkova live in Ollerton with their children, Simon, aged eight, and Izabela, aged six.

## Learning English

Teaching Assistant Katarina Hubkova is delighted with the progress both her children have made with their English since starting at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

"Both children speak Slovak with us at home, the language of Slovakia. Simon had no English at all when he started in the nursery at St Joseph's but he has learnt it quickly and now he is in Year Four his English is really good," Katarina says.



## Helpful staff

Izabela had picked up some English from Simon before she started in the nursery so she had a slight advantage over him, Katarina says. "She is doing well with her English now she is in Year Two, although she's not as confident as Simon. The school have really supported them both and encouraged them to improve their English. The teachers have tried to get them to talk more by asking them to explain things using English words. They have never rushed Simon or Izabela when they have been trying to speak and have let them show them if they couldn't find the words. I am very happy with the help they have been given by the staff at St Joseph's."

## Respect for diversity

Izabela and Simon both started in the nursery at the school. "We originally chose St Joseph's because it is a Catholic School and we are a Catholic family but we have been very happy with all aspects of the school so far. We like the way the staff have also been supportive of the children speaking Slovak. They have told them to carry on speaking it at home and not to lose the Slovak they have learnt. The teachers like to sometimes bring in some Slovak in the classroom and ask my children to tell the others what the Slovak is for Good Morning and Good Afternoon and things like that. The other children are now picking up a few words from them and saying things in Slovak," Katarina says.

## Career support

"I have also had good support from the school while I have been training to become a Teaching Assistant. I started working at the school as a midday supervisor but when I decided I wanted to become a Teaching Assistant I asked if I could get a placement as a TA at the school. The school have been very supportive throughout all my training and now I have finished, the head teacher has offered me a job at the school as a Teaching Assistant providing support to a little boy who suffers from cerebral palsy."

## After school activities

Both the children love to go to the after school clubs at St Joseph's. "Simon does eco club and crafts club and plays board games after school and Izabela does dance club," Katarina says.

## Worshipping together

"I like the way all the children, whether they are Catholic or non Catholic, participate in worship at the school. They are taught good values, not just Catholic values, but good, basic British values at St Joseph's and they are all encouraged to be polite and well behaved," Katarina says.

## Parents welcomed

"I think everyone at the school is very welcoming and friendly towards the parents. The staff try to involve them in the life of the school and sometimes put on events for them. I would definitely recommend St Joseph's to families looking for a good primary school, whether they are Catholic or non Catholic."

## Children say

Simon says: "I love going to school and like all the teachers I have had."

Izabela says: "I love reading at school and enjoy listening to my teacher when she reads stories to the class at the end of the day."



## How to find us

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