

Ruby and Oliver are thriving spiritually and academically in the cosy atmosphere of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Claire Ward and John Simpson live at Walesby with their children, Ruby, aged ten, and Oliver, aged eight.

Learning good values

Claire and John both like the strong Catholic ethos of St Joseph's. "The staff do incredibly well to keep that running through the school, considering many of the children who attend are not Catholics, and we love the way the children are not only taught about faith but also about good values," Claire says.



Good report

The family moved to live in the area four years ago and chose St Joseph's because it was a Catholic school with a good Ofsted report. "The children were moving from an outstanding Catholic school and, having looked at other schools, we decided St Joseph's was the best in the area," Claire says. "Ruby started in Year Two and Oliver in the reception class part way through the year. They had moved from a larger, predominantly Catholic but ethnically diverse school to a smaller school, but settled in quickly. They have done well academically and are both in the top sets for English and Mathematics."

Communion classes

Claire and John are pleased many school activities start with prayers and that children can be prepared for their first Holy Communion with classes at school. "We chose to have Ruby prepared for her first Holy Communion in the parish where we attended church and the school were very supportive of this. But when the other children took their first Holy Communion they invited Ruby to attend the Mass so she felt included," Claire says.

Church events

Oliver studied for his first Holy Communion at St Joseph's. "I was impressed with the way they were prepared in association with the local church, which we have now started to attend," Claire says. "The school often take the children to events at the local church and the parish priest comes in to take Mass at the school. The school make sure non Catholic children don't feel excluded and that everyone feels part of the same community."

Supportive school

Out of school, both children have drama lessons and enjoy singing, dancing and acting. "Last year Ruby had a part in a Warner Brothers film. The school were very supportive about this," Claire says. "Oliver has just been chosen to be in a pantomime. Again the school have been supportive. I am glad they recognise that education doesn't just happen in the classroom."

Music tuition

Both children enjoy the after school drama club run by the staff that culminates in a show at the school. They also like doing Athletics after school. "I am very impressed the after school clubs are free," Claire says. "Both children

have keyboard lessons once a week during the school day, which we pay for, but it is great that there are opportunities for both drama and music at the school." All children in Years 4-6 benefit from whole class music tuition, with a different instrument each term.

Faith governor

"I became a School Governor at the end of last year, appointed through the Church. I am interested in education and pleased to be able to use my skills to help the school. I have a background in law, politics and business and can provide support and guidance with the running of the school."

Supportive staff

"I would wholeheartedly recommend St Joseph's to other families. The school have fantastic teachers, who cope extremely well with the different challenges they face and support the children, not just with academic progress, but also with social development."

Children say

Ruby says: "I love school and was proud to be chosen as head girl this year."

Oliver says: "The teachers are really helpful. They encourage everyone to do their best, whatever group they are in."



How to find us

Contact Us

St Joseph's Catholic Primary and Nursery School
Main Rd.
Boughton,
Nr. Newark
Nottinghamshire
NG22 9JE

Email: office@st.joseph-pri.notts.sch.uk
Telephone: (01623) 860392
www.stjosephsschool.net