

Carolyn believes the success of St. Helen's Primary School lies in its love of teaching and providing a creative learning environment

Carolyn Turner lives in Ipswich with her children Emily, 18 and Florence, 11 in Year 6.



Florence joined St. Helen's in Year 3. "We moved into the catchment area when Florence was about to start school. I knew it had a great reputation but they didn't have any places, so she didn't start there until Year 3.

The children are well taught and obviously valued. It feels a very vibrant school with lots of interesting things happening. It had a good energy about it!"

A good energy

"I think it was the sense of community at the school that really stood out for me. It was very obvious that there is a very good relationship between the teachers and the children.

Everyone is valued

When Florence first started, Carolyn found the transition went well in terms of being welcomed by the teachers. "She immediately felt part of the school but there were some initial teething problems with friendships; the teachers were extremely receptive and really listened to how Florence and I felt. They were great at finding ways to help her feel more settled and talked to the class as a whole about how important it is to value everyone and to ensure no one feels left out. I liked how no one singled out and it worked really well."

A vibrant, imaginative school

According to Carolyn, she has no regrets in moving Florence to St. Helen's. "It has a brilliant reputation for being such a vibrant imaginative school and I know Florence certainly feels it is. She is very happy and settled and I know she will miss it when she leaves for High School. The range of clubs available outside of the curriculum is excellent and there really is something for everyone. Florence enjoys football, basketball, philosophy, debating and books in the batcave. There's a real variety!"

Teachers who go that extra mile

"We'd never felt that Florence had previously been at a bad school, but when she came to St. Helen's it was very obvious that teachers go that extra mile. The Maths Surgery is a good example; if a child hasn't understood something, they can make an appointment in the maths surgery where they're given additional support in a stimulating, playful way. Florence chooses to go along because she likes the creative way help is given."

An enthusiasm for teaching

Carolyn feels one of the key strengths of the school is the teaching team. "They have a real enthusiasm for teaching and want the children to enjoy learning. We've been lucky that Florence has always had a love of learning but the teachers at St. Helen's have really fed that. The lessons are creative and the children are communicated with in a positive way."

Encouragement and confidence building

"Teachers are very good at ensuring children feel valued. I know sometimes Florence can lack confidence but the school are very good at encouraging her and ensuring her she can do things. The teachers are very confidence-building and are very good at creating an awareness within the children of other people's feelings. I think they're doing a great job of preparing Florence for the next stage in education."

Children blossom at St. Helen's

Carolyn adds: "I would encourage anybody to place their child at St. Helen's Primary School; it provides such a nurturing environment for children with staff who have a real love of teaching and a passion for creating an imaginative learning environment for all children."

"It's also very multi-cultural and provides children with an awareness of diversity. I feel Florence has really blossomed at St. Helen's."

Children say:

Florence says: "I love that St. Helen's is an encouraging school with lots of imaginative teachers and lessons. Our Headteacher and Deputy Headteachers are always very interesting in assemblies and the range of lessons is amazing! I love St. Helen's!"




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