

Colin believes The Oaks is providing excellent pastoral care and education as well as teaching children the importance of an active lifestyle

Colin Youngs lives in Ipswich with his three children, Lermæ 16, Lonarra, 13 and Jervel, eight in Year 3.



No reason to choose any other school

The Oaks Primary School was the catchment school when it came to choosing a school for Lermæ. It seemed the obvious choice being close to home and convenient. Now that both of Colin's daughters have been through The Oaks, he saw no reason to choose any other school for Jervel. "It's a school that has the best interests of the children at heart. They always look for new ways of teaching and innovative approaches to education and I really like that ethos."

Valuable support

There are many strengths to The Oaks for Colin but he is particularly grateful to them for their ongoing support. His partner, Deborah, sadly passed away in 2009 and Lermæ and Lonarra received support through the school's Sunshine Group, a nurturing group, which Colin feels is a valuable asset. "It offers much needed support for families who have suffered loss or are experiencing difficulties. It gave our girls the opportunity of speaking to someone outside of the family. I think it really helped them to understand how they were feeling and to talk about those emotions."



Striving for Excellence

Promoting sports and an active lifestyle

The support available at The Oaks is definitely a key strength for Colin, but he is also impressed with the school's renewed focus on healthy living and the way they encourage children to participate in an active lifestyle. "Since becoming an Academy there's a real focus on developing sports. They have a dedicated member of staff who is doing a great job of coordinating and promoting sport. It's very clear the school feels there's a strong connection between an active lifestyle and its ability to assist learning."

Creating an early love of keeping fit

All of Colin's children are enthusiastic about sports and he believes school played a role in igniting their passion. "Jervel gets a lot of enjoyment from the sporting opportunities available. The sports clubs are incredibly popular but the school tries to ensure that everyone gets an opportunity to participate. There's a real variety of sports and other clubs available, so there's something for everyone to enjoy."

"My girls' love of sport certainly started at The Oaks. I think it's a really positive ethos to have within a school and I'm pleased to see a focus on promoting healthy living in children at this young age."

Rewards and incentives for good attendance

To recognise good attendance and to provide an incentive, children are rewarded with a council sports pass for the local sports centres. "The children love receiving rewards and I think this is a great way of encouraging attendance at school, an active lifestyle and a love of sport."

Creating positive community links

Since becoming an Academy, Colin has also been impressed with how the school has created positive links within the community by introducing a community room. "The after school club is held here but it's also used for



Lonarra, Suffolk Quadkids Athlete of the Year in 2014

different activities and social events involving parents, which is a nice idea. It's good to see a link between school and the community rather than them remaining separate. It's like one big family."

Bringing the best education to children

Colin adds: "I think The Oaks Primary School is an excellent school which is always searching for ways to better the children's educational experiences."

"They've certainly helped to support me and I am extremely proud of my children. They're polite, kind and caring young people - values the school encourages in all of their children. I am very grateful to them for all that they have done for our family."

Children say:

Jervel says: "I really like my teachers at The Oaks. They're friendly, approachable and really good at making lessons enjoyable!"



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