

Emily believes The Oaks Primary School offers a holistic approach to education in an environment which creates confident children

Emily Collison lives in Ipswich with her partner Adam Bradshaw and their children, Benjamin, 10 in Year 5 and Oliver, 7 in Year 2.



The Oaks Primary School was not Emily and Adam's catchment school but they chose it for their boys because they liked the whole package. "The Oaks offers a lot of space and the building is new and modern. What really stood out for us was that it was a school that was warm, friendly and welcoming."

Education and more

One of Emily's favourite things about the school is the approach they take with the children. "The teachers make you feel very welcome in school and you get a sense that all of the staff really care about the children, can relate to them and are interested in their whole lives, not just their education. Nothing ever feels too much trouble."



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Approachable and understanding staff

Emily had some concerns that Ben may be dyslexic and approached the school for guidance. "We had a good discussion and they were very understanding and helpful with arranging a dyslexia assessment. Ben's reading is above average and his comprehension is very good, but he has more difficulties with spelling. Having the test done was reassuring and Ben's not dyslexic, but I feel the school is supporting him very well with booster sessions and I know he receives lots of encouragement."

Rewarding hard work and achievements

According to Emily, The Oaks are very good at marking children's hard work and achievements. "The children receive Collaboration Awards in weekly assemblies in front of the other pupils for any individual hard work and achievements, which they really enjoy."

"There is also a really good incentive scheme where the children are given raffle tickets for the things they achieve throughout the school day, for example, if they complete a particularly good piece of work or answer a question correctly. At the end of the week a ticket is drawn for a prize. Obviously the more tickets they have in the pot, the more chance they have of winning and I know this works well at motivating the children."

Excellent opportunities

Emily likes how the school offers extracurricular activities and opportunities which cater to so many different individual interests and strengths. "Ben has recently participated in a choral speaking competition at the Sudbury Arts Festival which was a great experience for him. The school is very good at encouraging public speaking performances throughout the different school years, and I think it's a really important life skill for the future. Even though my children are quite different in terms of their personalities, they have both done so much, that public speaking feels normal to them. I think that can only be a positive thing for their futures."

Enriching experiences

Not only does the school do lots to build confidence in the children, they offer wide ranging activities and trips to enhance learning and confidence outside of the school setting. "A variety of trips take place to encourage learning and to make it more fun and interesting. The Natural History Museum and Dinosaur Land have been particular favourites in our family and I think they're a great way of enhancing the curriculum and the children's learning experience, as well as teaching them to be independent and to feel confident away from home."

"There are also regular opportunities for the children to win tickets to Ipswich Town Football Club, which they think is really exciting."

A school preparing children for their future

Emily adds: "The Oaks Primary School is friendly, warm and welcoming with approachable staff who actively listen to, and value, both children and their parents. We believe The Oaks Primary School is helping our boys grow into confident, self-assured children; and as well as providing a good education, it's also teaching them important life skills in preparation for the next steps in their education."

Children say:

Both Oliver and Ben say; "We really like our school because of how friendly everyone is. The teachers are really nice and we've made some great friends."



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