

Kelly and Laurie appreciate the way Whitton Primary School is **effectively** and **sensitively supporting** their family's needs



Kelly Waters and Laurie Scowen live in Ipswich with their children Louie, 5 in Reception and Mia, 11 in Year 6.

## Immediately impressed

Kelly and Laurie moved to Ipswich two years ago and were immediately impressed by Whitton Primary School. "It was so green with great facilities and looked really child friendly. As you came into the school, it had a very nice feeling and was welcoming. The fact it was the closest to us was a bonus. We couldn't have asked for a nicer school for Louie and Mia," says Kelly.



## Attentive to children's needs

Kelly has found the teachers very attentive to her children's needs. "They linked Mia up with another girl so she had someone to spend time with at break time, which really helped her to settle. Within a week, Mia loved school and was glad we had moved, which was great."

Kelly has also been impressed with the dedicated staff and their caring, patient nature. Louie is on the autistic spectrum and when he first started in nursery at Whitton Primary School he wasn't speaking at all. "He started talking within the first six months and has really come out of his shell during the short time he's been at the school. They're always looking at ways of getting around Louie's struggles, which I really like."

## Dedicated staff

According to Kelly, Louie has created strong bonds with some of the teaching staff. "One of his old nursery teachers gives up her lunch time voluntarily to help Louie with the lunchtime routine. I think it's wonderful she wants to support him through his Reception year."

## Identifying needs

Louie is high functioning so the school is working on building his confidence without a full time one-to-one teaching assistant. "It would be wrong to go down that route with Louie because he doesn't need it and he would become dependent on that person, so I feel the school are working in his best interests."

"Louie has sensory issues and will have emotional outbursts; the school has a room which contains lots of soft things like bean bags and soft toys and is a safe, calming place where he can go. Staff have worked very closely with me so that they know what he likes most and how to work with him to calm him down."

## Excellent support

Kelly adds; "We've seen some really positive changes in Louie whilst at Whitton. His teacher is excellent in supporting the work of the speech language therapist and his speech is now progressing."

"I feel they're very good at staying one step ahead of Louie in terms of his needs and his behaviour, which is exactly what he needs."

## Someone to talk to

Laurie was diagnosed with Leukemia shortly after moving to Ipswich. To help support Mia, Kelly asked the school for someone Mia could speak to. "Without family close by, I felt it was important for her to have an adult outside of the family that she could talk to about how she was feeling. They were very approachable and Mia visits a dedicated staff member each week. I think it's a friendly, relaxed, supportive environment which is helping her to deal with and to understand the emotions she has surrounding her dad's health."

## Working together

Regular Common Assessment Framework (CAF) meetings are held at the school to support the family. "We get together and talk about the children and what we can do to make their lives better. A lot of communication takes place, which I love. I think it's so important because you're handing the care of your children over to the school each day."

## A school you can trust

Kelly adds; "We're incredibly grateful to the school for the time they have set aside for us. I trust them with my children, which is a reassuring and a lovely feeling."

## Children say:

**Mia says:** "I was impressed by the way I was integrated into the school. I felt at ease within a week! I also like how school tries to make every child feel equal and how very quickly they recognise bullying and act upon it."



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