

Changing schools can be a **big step**, but Kirsty and Julian have **no regrets** in moving their children to Whitton Primary School



Kirsty Smith and her partner Julian Elliss live in Ipswich with their children Imogen, 9 in Year 4 and Sienna, 5 in Year 1 and Rhys, 3

## The right school

Kirsty and Julian moved to the area in January 2015. Whilst a different school is closer to their home address, they chose Whitton Primary School for their family after doing lots of online research and receiving positive recommendations from family members. "The Ofsted report impressed us and we have nieces at the school who have both done very well. When we viewed the school, we were really impressed with it. It just felt like the right school for our children."



## Warm, welcoming and friendly

Whitton Primary School has shone for Kirsty from the very first day. "Both children have settled in very well. For Sienna, moving to a new school could have been very daunting but the staff at Whitton Primary School are very warm, welcoming and friendly. Imogen's teacher buddied her up with another girl on her very first day, so that she had someone who would take her under their wing, show her how everything worked in the school and look after her at break times. I think it really helped Imogen to feel welcome and for the environment to feel less intimidating," says Kirsty.

## A positive move

Delighted, Kirsty feels Imogen is thriving at Whitton Primary School. "Imogen had a large group of friends at her previous school so we always felt it was going to be a big move for her. We knew the school was what we were looking for, so we felt it was worth taking the risk and are thrilled at how well she has settled in. The children have the same caring ethos the teachers do and she felt welcomed immediately. It's been an incredibly positive move."

## A faultless teaching team

Kirsty believes the teachers at Whitton are brilliant. "I really can't fault them. You feel that they really care about their students and their education. Sienna was dipping a little in terms of where she should be with her phonics. They came and spoke to me about her progress and we've been given some extra work to do at home with some flashcards which have really helped. I think the staff have been excellent at identifying any possible issues early and addressing them quickly; we've really appreciated that. They guide the children and ensure they're heading in the right direction."

## A caring ethos

Kirsty believes the smaller class sizes at Whitton Primary School are a real positive of the school. "Imogen's class is much smaller than what she was used to. I think it gives teachers the chance to get to know the children really well. You get a real sense that they genuinely care about the children and their education. Smaller classes gives them a proper opportunity to identify individual strengths and to work with those. Imogen has been given extra homework to help stretch her further and to challenge her, which we think is really good."

## A receptive, approachable team

"If I've had any concerns about anything, I've always felt very able to discuss them. They're an approachable team who are very receptive to parent involvement and suggestion, which is really important when your children spend so much time at school."

## No regrets

Kirsty adds: "We've absolutely no regrets in moving to Whitton Primary School. It's such a friendly, welcoming school with an approachable team of staff. As a parent, I have felt welcomed into the school community in a way I've not experienced before. It's an inviting place for all of us and it really feels central to the local community. It's been a really positive experience for all of the family."

## Children say:

**Both Imogen and Sienna say:** "We really like our teachers. They're friendly and very caring."



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