

Chantelle knows her children are two in a million – and that Carlton Primary Academy is one in a million, too.

Chantelle Dockerty lives in Athersley with her son Louis, 10 and daughter Casey, who is 5.



Passionate about school

Carlton Primary School is a 45-minute walk away from her home but neither Chantelle, who does not drive, nor her children have any complaints. So eager are they to get to school in the morning they are even happy to wrap themselves up against rain and snow in order to arrive in time. Chantelle is passionate about her children's welfare and happiness and that is why she is equally passionate about Carlton School.

"Carlton has done so much for me and my children, in all sorts of ways," she says. "What a lovely, caring and nurturing place it has turned out to be and there is nothing I can say that is not in its favour. I have had a few difficult things to deal with over the last few years but I've always known that the school is there for us."

Together we can do anything



Addressing different needs

Casey and Louis are very different to each other, with Casey being outgoing and sporty and Louis, until recently, reserved, quiet and lacking in confidence. Both have, to Chantelle's great pleasure, been supported in their strengths and weaknesses and have flourished under the care of the teachers and support staff. "Casey can't wait to get to school and will race up to hold hands with her teacher in the playground every day. She loves having homework and wants to go in on Saturdays, so something's going right there! Louis is the opposite and although he enjoys school, he found it difficult to speak up in class and could be tearful if something upset him, but that is now all in the past."

Flying high

Louis was found to be behind in literacy and until Year 2 was struggling with his reading and writing ability. This was picked up by his teacher and he was given one-to-one support to bring him up to speed. "It made a huge difference and now he's flying," Chantelle says. "I think it was because I am dyslexic so I couldn't help him at home when he was younger but with the input he had at school he's more than caught up. Now he is helping Casey with her reading and is even able to correct me when I get words wrong sometimes. It's helped him to feel much better about himself and is part of the reason he is so much more confident than he was before."

Credit where it is due

Where Louis's great strength lies is in maths and computer literacy and these are his favourite school subjects. However, Chantelle was a bit concerned that computer games were taking up a bit more of his time than she would like so when he was persuaded to go away on a three-day residential trip with the school she was delighted. "I didn't think he would be happy but he absolutely loved it. He actively volunteered to help wherever he could and can't wait for the next time. His teachers have been very clever in gently encouraging

him to be more confident in his abilities and he really is a changed boy, prepared to stand up for himself but politely and with good manners, and I entirely credit the school for that."

High standards

Chantelle has high standards of behaviour and is pleased that Carlton supports her views. "Bullying or any form of bad behaviour is not tolerated and the teachers are always on alert for anything like that. They encourage the children to sort things out between them in a sensible way, with advice and guidance, and I'm happy with how they have handled anything I've had to ask about. When Louis broke his arm, the staff could not have more helpful or accommodating – I was impressed."

Giving something back

As a keen runner, Chantelle has undertaken endurance events just for fun. She is now planning to do another under sponsorship to raise funds for the school. "I love the way that Carlton does so much to provide such great facilities for the children and I want to contribute to that. I see this as teamwork – the school has done a great deal for my children and I want to do something for the school in turn."

Children say

Casey: "I love to play with my friends and to learn together."



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