

A welcoming school at the heart of the community – Lindsey values Carlton Primary School for more than just academic education

Lindsey lives in Carlton with her sons Kyan, 10 and Liam, seven.



Listen to the locals

It can't be a co-incidence that so many people comment on the friendly and welcoming atmosphere of Carlton Primary School. Lindsey is another parent who finds much to praise about it and many reasons to be glad she lives so close. "I've lived nearby all my life and Carlton School has always maintained a very good reputation," she says. "I know a lot of people whose children have been there and have an aunt who works there, and having looked at other local schools I saw no reason to consider anywhere else."

Together we can do anything



New confidence

Lindsey describes Carlton as a place she can always feel comfortable in approaching the staff if she ever has any concerns. "It's important to be able to have a good relationship with your children's teachers and if ever I've needed to talk to them about anything they listen and take action." A particular example of this is in the difficulties Liam experienced when he first joined the school. "Liam had to have an operation on his ear and afterwards had some hearing loss. As a result, not only was his speech affected but because he couldn't hear properly he sometimes got cross and frustrated in class. As soon as the school realised the problem, they arranged for him to receive speech and language therapy at school and offered lessons in a small-group setting, and it made a big difference. His speech is absolutely fine now and he's caught up to where he should be and I'm so grateful that he had such good support when he needed it. The deafness had affected his confidence but you certainly wouldn't know that now!"

Encouragement and reassurance

Kyan also suffered with shyness to a degree and was unwilling to speak up in class because of an unfounded fear of being made fun of. However, his Year 2 teacher understood Kyan's reserve and through constant encouragement and reassurance brought about a positive change. "He really came out of his shell that year," says Lindsey. "Even though he still prefers not to be the centre of attention he is much more confident and self-assured. Going to school should be about more than academic education and Carlton has certainly given both my boys a boost in many ways."

Emphasis on a healthy lifestyle

Lindsey is also pleased that Kyan's sporty nature is catered for at school and he enjoys dodgeball and rounders as well as taking part in the after-school cross-country club. "The sport facilities are excellent and in fact the school places a lot of emphasis on health and fitness.

They arrange for people to come in and give talks and cookery demonstrations in which the children take part, and each class has the opportunity to grow produce in the poly-tunnel which is then sold to parents. This is something they start from Nursery and it's lovely that the children are learning early that fresh food does not start life on a supermarket shelf!"

Community spirit

As a fairly small village school where many parents have grown up together, Carlton Primary is an important part of the local community and the children are encouraged to appreciate their part in it. "They take the children on walks around the village to study the buildings and the environment, and they have helped to tidy up and to plant flowers in the park. They also attend services at the church at Christmas and other special occasions and all these things add to the community spirit."

Children say

Liam: "School is awesome and maths is cool. I really enjoy after-school cooking club and especially PE and dancing."

Kyan: "I think school is epic, especially ICT, maths and hanging around with my mates at playtime. I'll be sad to leave as I'm in my final year and I have really enjoyed going to this school."



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