

# Natalie was so happy when she went to Parkside Academy she would not consider anything less for her daughter

Natalie and Ryan Wassell live in Royston with their children Miley, seven and baby Bernie, who is just a year old.



## Like mother, like daughter

There was absolutely no doubt in Natalie's mind about which school she was going to send her daughter to. Parkside Academy had been her own primary school, where she had spent several very happy years, and it was the only one she considered for Miley. "I loved Parkside when I went there and it felt right to give Miley the same opportunity," she says. "What's so lovely is that it still felt familiar and homely when I went back there with Miley and even some of my own teachers are still there. Several things have changed, of course, but it's still very much the same as it was and still just as good."



## Better and better

Whilst the school still occupies the same main building as before, recent additions include a new IT Suite and a Cookery and Science department, something Miley is especially looking forward to trying out. "The facilities are really good and the outside space is especially nice, with a big field for the children to run about in and the Trim Trail, with climbing frames and stepping stones, as well as a little hut to shelter in. As far as I'm concerned, I couldn't wish for anything better."

## Getting it right

Miley enjoys school so much that she cries if she's unwell and not able to go. "They are obviously doing something right if a child would rather go to school than stay at home!" laughs Natalie. "Even when she occasionally falls out with one of her friends it doesn't bother her – she knows she can tell her teacher if she's upset about anything and that any problems will be sorted out. It doesn't happen very often but when it does, the staff are quick to put things right."

## Safe, happy and achieving

In terms of Miley's classwork, Natalie is very pleased with her progress. "She loves reading and is above average for her age, coming home with new and more advanced books all the time. She's also doing well with her writing and in maths so I have no concerns on that front, either. It's good to know that if I do ever need to speak to anyone or have any questions, all the teachers are approachable and happy to listen but fortunately, there are few times when I've had anything particular to be concerned about. Basically, Miley is safe, happy and achieving and that's all I care about."

## A family affair

Parkside runs a range of out-of-school clubs, several with fitness in mind, and Miley attends Boot Camp once a week. There are also opportunities for parents to involve themselves in school life such as charity Coffee

Mornings and by attending the weekly assemblies. "At the Assemblies, children who have done well in one way or another receive a Certificate and the chance to sit on a special chair instead of on the floor, and Miley was so excited when she won the Pupil of the Week award! She is also going to give a short demonstration of her Majorette performance to the rest of the class and it's great that her teachers will allow her to compete, even though it's not something she does through school."

## Looking to the next generation

Natalie's family has a long history with Parkside, many of them having been educated there, and she hopes the tradition will carry on. "I can't wait to put Bernie's name down for a place. Walking to school with my children, my sister and her son and the friends I made when I was there, I hope that Miley and Bernie will be doing the same in years to come."

## Children say

**Miley: "My favourite subject is science, and reading and writing. All my teachers are nice and I love my school!"**



## Learning With Pride

Parkside Primary Academy  
Midland Rd  
Royston  
Barnsley  
S71 4QP

Tel: 01226 722416

Email: [parkside@pioneeract.org.uk](mailto:parkside@pioneeract.org.uk)

Web: <http://www.parksideacademy.co.uk>

