



Michelle Guest lives in Kingswinford with her daughter, Niamh, ten, in Year 6.

Michelle is **appreciative** to Crestwood Park Primary School for the **pastoral care** they have given her daughter

Caring ethos

Through her employment in the education profession, when it came to choosing a school for her daughter, Michelle was already familiar and impressed with Crestwood Park Primary School.

"I'd been in the school professionally for some time and already knew the staff and the school's caring ethos. It's a small school which I thought would also benefit Niamh," says Michelle.

As a working mum, the excellent facilities for out of school care was another positive reason which influenced her choice.

Be the best you can be to achieve all that you deserve



Nurturing staff

Niamh can find it difficult to cope with changes in her environment and so it took some time for her to feel settled in the school environment. Michelle believes the staff at Crestwood Park Primary School have been instrumental in easing the transition into school life. "I believe all of the staff - the Breakfast Club staff, her class teachers, the after school club staff - have all played an important role in ensuring she is happy at school," says Michelle. "They've all shown genuine care and concern."

Supportive strategies

Niamh found the uncertainty of the daily schedule at school difficult to adapt to, but Michelle has been really pleased with the support and strategies the school have put in place to ease her anxieties. "To prevent her worrying about what was coming next, the teachers adopted a visual timetable so that she could see her daily schedule."

Michelle believes this was helpful in reassuring Niamh about the day ahead. "Being able to see what was planned for her gave her an element of predictability," adds Michelle. "As she's progressed through school, they've continued to use the visual timetable but they've also incorporated other things like a 'worry book' and a 'worry box'."

Approachable staff

Once Niamh was able to write, Michelle found the 'worry book' and the 'worry box' were really helpful ways for Niamh to communicate her concerns with the teachers. "Whilst Niamh has used these methods to express how she's feeling, staff have always been happy for me to approach them directly about any concerns; the door is always open for parents at Crestwood Park Primary School, which is reassuring for a parent."

"I don't think Niamh would be where she is now if it weren't for the brilliant support the school has given to her; I'm incredibly grateful."

Time to listen

As part of extended learning the school offers some wonderful trips to pupils, but for Niamh the prospect of visiting a new environment can sometimes be daunting. "Any initial worries Niamh experiences are met with genuine concern from teachers; they always have time to listen to her and talk through any worries."

Growing in confidence

Thinking ahead for Niamh's transition to secondary school, the staff are already putting in place strategies to help prepare her for the next step in her education. "I know the school will do everything they can to ease her anxieties about moving up to

secondary school. I have regular conversations with the class teacher and the school SENCO and I think there will be lots of preparation, which I know will help Niamh."

For Michelle, the caring nature is a real strength of the school. "I feel certain their encouragement and care has played a major role in the way Niamh's confidence has grown. She's a happy child who has gained a lovely group of friends."

Best interests

Michelle adds: "Crestwood Park Primary School is a truly caring school, which has the best interests of each child at heart. We will really miss it!"

Children say:

Niamh says: "I can speak to the teachers about my worries and I know they will take them seriously. I always feel like the teachers listen to me."



Crestwood Park Primary School
Lapwood Avenue
Kingswinford
DY6 8RP

Telephone: 01384 818315

Fax: 01384 818316

E-mail: info@crestwood-p.dudley.sch.uk

www.crestwood-p.dudley.sch.uk



Be the best you can be to achieve all that you deserve