

A great education and staff who really care - Joanne couldn't ask for more at Scholes Village Primary School



New confidence

Joanne has lived in the village for a number of years. She was always aware of Scholes Village School and its good reputation. Whilst other schools in the locality also have good reputations, when you have something so great on your doorstep, why look elsewhere?

Nathan's first contact with the school was when he started in the nursery's Foundation class, aged three. Whilst he was initially anxious about being left, he soon found the confidence to go and play. "As one of the youngest in his year, Nathan was lacking in confidence compared to the other children. But the staff at the nursery were fantastic and so friendly with him," explains Joanne. "He was raring to go in no time! He's in Year three now and couldn't be happier!"

Joanne Mcguire and her husband, James live in Scholes with their two children Nathan and Declan who are seven and three years old.

Support for additional needs

Nathan's younger brother, Declan has additional needs and started Foundation in September. To help him settle, the nursery staff encouraged Joanne to come in and stay with Declan for a few hours a week the term before he was due to start. "This helped Declan massively," says Joanne. "The fact I could come in and play with him helped to familiarise Declan with his new surroundings and helped him to settle in quickly."

To help with communication, the staff have a trained Makaton teacher who works one-to-one with Declan. "It's made such a big difference to us and to Declan," says Joanne. "We can now communicate with him about his time at nursery and he can sign to the staff about his time at home. We also have a home-school diary to communicate with the staff. The school has been absolutely fantastic with him! They've helped us so much!"

Friendly and welcoming

Declan gets very excited about going to nursery on a morning and Joanne feels this has a lot to do with the friendly and welcoming atmosphere at Scholes Village Primary School. "It's always the same," says Joanne. "The staff are always so friendly and welcoming to the children and to the parents."

Nathan, too is always keen to start his day. Joanne feels the attitude of the staff has really helped Nathan to conquer his initial fears about school life.



"They never got frustrated. They were always just really caring and patient with him," says Joanne.

Achievements and celebrations

The quality of the teaching staff has also impressed Joanne. "Nathan loves spelling and maths. They're his favourite things to do at school," explains Joanne. "The children in his class are doing so well with their spelling that the teachers are going to start teaching them spellings intended for older children, which is great for Nathan's development. He's doing so well!"

There is a weekly assembly to mark special achievements which parents can attend. Joanne feels the children get a lot from this and that it really helps to build their self esteem and their motivation to learn. "Nathan got a certificate recently for his spelling. It's lovely having the opportunity to watch him being rewarded for his achievements and he was thrilled!"

Always approachable

"I have absolutely no concerns about Nathan. He is doing fantastically well at Scholes Village Primary School," says Joanne. The care and support given to the family has delighted Joanne. "They're always welcoming and always willing to help, which is so important," explains Joanne. "Nothing is ever too much trouble. The support we have had with Declan's additional needs has been brilliant!"

Children say:

Nathan says: "I really like going to Scholes Village Primary School. My favourite part of the school day is maths. I love it! And spelling is great fun too. I got a certificate recently for doing fantastic spelling! We also get certificates for attendance. My class got the certificate for 100 per cent attendance at school again last week!"

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