



Candy Jones lives in Malmesbury with her children, Jake, aged seventeen, Emily, aged thirteen, Isabelle, aged eight, and Finley, aged five.

Candy and her family are flourishing thanks to the support of caring staff at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Supportive

Candy says she couldn't wish for a better school for Isabelle and Finley, and is grateful her elder daughter, Emily, also benefited from three years at St Joseph's. "Staff at the school have also supported me, both as a single parent and as a student with a dream of working in Education myself."

Challenged

Isabelle, who is now in Year Three is thriving at St Joseph's. "She is smart, super confident and has lots of spirit, but the school manage her well," Candy says. "She is pushed, kept on task and never allowed to get bored. She is in a mixed ability class, but she is really academic and the school are helping her to achieve."

Enrichment opportunities

Thanks to pupil premium support, St Joseph's are giving Isabelle the chance to learn the piano and to take part in jazz dance lessons. "I couldn't afford to pay for these things myself so it is good that the school are able to support her with this. Isabelle absolutely loves school and is very enthusiastic. They have just changed the tables in her classroom and she couldn't wait to get to school the next morning to try her new desk," Candy says.

Extra support

St Joseph's have been very supportive with Finley, who is in Reception/Year One. Candy says: "He was struggling to learn to read and write whilst he was in reception.

Finley has speech and language difficulties and was recently diagnosed with mild dyspraxia. Both difficulties have caused a barrier to his learning."

Individual needs

"In the reception class there is a specialist Teaching Assistant trained in speech and language therapy. This has allowed the school to work closely with the speech and language therapist. Finley has received 20 minutes three times a week 1:1 language therapy. It has made an amazing difference to him. He has now been discharged from needing support, but will continue to receive in-school support until the end of the academic year.

"Due to the disparities between Finley's attainment and the expected attainment required for his age, he was given extra tuition in English and Maths by the class teacher after school for an hour each week. Finley is now working at the national age related expectations. He is a completely different child, excited, confident and ready to move into Year Two."

Confidence building

When Emily joined St Joseph's in Year Three she was given a lot of support by the staff, which helped her become more

confident. "She absolutely loved her time at the school and now she is in Year Eight at secondary school she still misses St Joseph's," Candy says.

Career opportunities

The school have also helped Candy while studying. "I have completed my level two and three teaching assistant courses and the school have supported me with a placement. I have been fortunate and worked in the different year groups right from reception up to Year Six, giving me a valuable insight into school life. I am now studying a degree in Education at the University of Gloucester. Not only am I working on a voluntary basis at St Joseph's, I'm also able to study here and use the facilities. The head teacher and staff have helped me with providing evidence, collecting data and sharing ideas and experiences."

Parent support

"I have also benefited from being able to access the school's parent support worker. She has helped me handle difficult situations in my private life. She is a very kind and considerate lady who will happily email, call or visit you at home. Having such a busy home life, I have found this valuable."

Children say

Isabelle says: "I enjoy everything about St Joseph's."

Finley says: "I like going to school and learning new things."



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