



Sophie and Paul McCarthy live in Malmesbury with their sons, Ciaren, aged eight, and Ewan, aged six.

Ciaren and Ewan are both thriving in the friendly environment of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Special Educational Needs support

Ciaren and Ewan are both happy and are making good progress, thanks to the caring staff at St Joseph's. Their Mum, Sophie, says: "Ciaren has ADHD and autism but since he started at the school he has come on in leaps and bounds. The teachers have been really good with him and helped him with his issues. He is still behind the other children but now he is doing well and he will soon have a one to one Teaching Assistant working with him and helping him."

Positive environment

Although they are not a Catholic family, the McCarthys chose St Joseph's for their sons because it is a small school and they were impressed with the behaviour of the children who go there. "We thought it would be a good environment for Ciaren as we didn't think he would have coped well with a big school," Sophie says.

Creative learning

"Ciaren is a happy child now and he loves St Joseph's. I have never had a problem with him not wanting to go to school," Sophie says. "He likes making things at school. He loves seeing the end product. Recently he has been enjoying making robots out of metal. He also really enjoyed a project where they made models of the internal organs of the body and he made the intestines."

Developing characters

Ewan is in Year One and is also getting on well at St Joseph's. "He is a very different personality from Ciaren and is a lot more happy-go-lucky. He loves drawing and playing football at school. He has also had support from his teacher as he is a little bit behind in some subjects. Sophie says.

Helpful advice

"The Parent Support Advisor allocated to us by the school has been very helpful. I met up with her in a café and we had a

really nice chat. Ciaren wasn't on the right medication at the time so she helped with that and she also gave me strategies for how to cope with him at home. Her suggestions worked well and I have since found him easier to deal with at home," Sophie says.

Inclusive environment

"St Joseph's is very much a family school. The children respect the teachers and there is good discipline throughout the school. Although we are not Catholics we have been made to feel very welcome by everyone at the school.. It is a good environment for them to be educated in and I am pleased they are getting the benefits of being at a faith school."

Welcoming

"The staff know all the children really well and the office staff are very helpful to the parents. It is a friendly, welcoming atmosphere when you go into the school and they keep you up to date with what is going on with regular newsletters and emails. I am confident both boys are getting a good education and being given a good start in life."

Children say

Ciaren says: "I like doing art."

Ewan says: "I like doing PE and playing football outside."



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