



Kerry and Stewart Lowther live in Margate with their children Sadie, 13, Reuben, 11 and seven-year-old Saul.

In spite of their very different personalities, Callis Grange Nursery and Infant School has given every one of Kerry's children the best possible start to education

"Everything happens for a reason"

Looking back, Kerry is amazed to remember that she put Callis Grange Nursery and Infant School down as only third choice for Sadie. Knowing what she knows now she feels how fortunate she was that her first and second choices were unable to offer Sadie a place, and that that was the only reason she discovered the school which has turned out to be the perfect one for each of her three children.

"If I were to have more children I wouldn't even consider another school," she says with certainty. "We have been absolutely delighted with everything about Callis Grange since day one and I am so glad that we got there by default. I believe that everything happens for a reason and that my children were meant to be at Callis Grange."

Each child an individual

Kerry has nothing negative to say about the other schools, just that she is quite sure that nowhere else could have so effectively addressed the very different needs of her very different children. "Sadie is bright and studious, Saul is quite quirky and a real chatterbox and Reuben is clever and sporty; Callis Grange has completely embraced their personalities, accepted each for what they are and allowed them to be themselves whilst actively encouraging them all to achieve their potential."

High standards

With a background in education herself and currently a Support Worker at the Children's Centre attached to the school, Kerry knows exactly what she is looking for in an educational setting. "The constant encouragement and the nurturing environment are what make Callis Grange so special," she says. "The school is very well-managed, the teachers know every child by name and the standards of teaching are very high. I also like the fact that there is an emphasis on good behaviour. I felt so strongly about Saul going there that I managed to get permission to defer his education for six months until there was a place for him, and I wouldn't hesitate to do so again."

Nurturing talent

A child's enjoyment of school is an important factor in their academic performance and Kerry has seen for herself the truth of this: "From the perspective of both a parent and a professional, it's clear that the children are very happy at Callis Grange. The school has close links with the Children's Centre so I can observe the pupils' day to day behaviour and there is always laughter in the playground and smiling faces. All my children have enjoyed the school for various reasons and that shows in their achievements; Sadie's talents were nurtured by her teachers to the extent that she was accepted into Grammar School, and although Saul's life used to revolve around sport to the exclusion of everything else, measures were put into place to bring him up to speed in the classroom. Reuben was inclined to be a bit lazy at times but gentle encouragement put him up at the top of his class. I have absolutely nothing negative to say about this school on any level."

Familiar and comforting

Kerry has seen little change in how the school is run during the eight years her children have been there and this is

another aspect of Callis Grange she likes. "The continuity of the provision means that we know what to expect and that familiarity makes the children feel comfortable," she explains. "Saul doesn't particularly like a change in his routine but because he knew the school through Sadie and Reuben he was able to settle in really well, with no nasty surprises!"

No other choice

If she had to pick just one reason for sending any child to Callis Grange, Kerry says it would be that it doesn't have an Excellent rating for nothing. "As far as I am concerned, there is no other choice. It has been the right school for all of my children, despite their differences, and I couldn't have wished for better."

Children say

Sadie: "I made lots of great friends at Callis."

Reuben: "I like the fact that each year group has their own playground!"

Saul: "I love my teacher and I will miss her."



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