

A sense of pride

Visiting New North Academy is a real joy for Sandra; "You walk into the building and immediately there's a whole array of art work splashed across the walls. It adds vibrancy to the school and there's a real sense of pride in the children's progress and their achievements."

Children matter

Sandra really likes how child-focused the school is and believes this helps to grow confidence in the children. "Each child really does matter at New north Academy."

"Spencer sits on the School Parliament as Shadow Minister for Culture and Climate Change, which he loves! The children are able to put ideas forward and vote on them. I think it's a fantastic way to get the children involved, to let them know that their opinion is important and to show them they can make a difference to the school."

Drawing on staff strengths

Sandra believes the way teachers individual skills are utilised makes New North Academy stand out. "Each morning the older children have literacy and maths with their class teacher; they then move between classrooms for other subjects, to different teachers. Each teacher has a lead subject and I think the school utilises their individual skills well to ensure it is getting the best from the staff and the children."

"I think it's a great way of structuring teaching for lots of reasons; it's gets the children outside of their own classroom and seeing other children's work displayed. Most importantly though, I think working with different adults is really beneficial for the children. It's builds a confidence in working with and communicating with different adults, which is an important life skill. The children feel each member of staff is approachable and as a parent, you feel each teacher knows your child well."

Focused learning

Sandra also believes the way a learning theme is followed through in each of the subjects is a great way of getting the best from each child. "Themes are used as a basis throughout the curriculum. For example, children were learning about deforestation recently and it was used to underpin learning in each of the subjects from art to science. It's a really good way of developing a child's interest and understanding in a subject and catering to different learning styles."

Developing independence

Sandra likes the emphasis New North Academy places on instilling trust, confidence and independence in its children. "The Headteacher really believes these things are important and I think so too. The children make their own way into the school building on a morning from Year 1 which places a lot of trust in them, and moving around the school for lessons all adds to their sense of independence. There's a real sense it's the children's school and I think that's a good thing."

Discovering greatness

Just over a year ago, Sandra opted to be a parent governor "It's a great opportunity to learn more about how the school works, to really understand it and to be involved in shaping it. I love the fact New North Academy is different. It's a school that believes every child has greatness within them. If you want a school where your child will grow as an individual, this is the school for you."

Children say:

Spencer says "The school dinners are yummy!
Fridays are brilliant because we get to visit places and mum can come too!"

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they are needed," says Yassine.

Excellent engagement with parents

A real strength of the school for Yassine is the level of engagement that takes place with parents. "The opinions of parents are valued and considered important. The school has introduced a parent and teachers association to help organise events in the school with the aim of bringing everyone together. It's a great idea and is working well."

Parent involvement

Yassine adds; "There are lots clubs for the children in and out of school hours and many for parents too. We feel our children's education is being enriched by these and as parents, it's good to have opportunities to get involved. Children can attend clubs ranging from computer coding to Japanese; there's a whole variety and something to cater for every child."

"As a parent, I've enjoyed attending a yoga class, something I probably wouldn't have tried had it not been available at the school. There are also classes where parents and children can attend together, and workshops for parents to attend which provide guidance on supporting children with social media or emotional well-being for example, so there is lots to get involved with."

Approachable and open

Yassine and Suzana believe the Headteacher genuinely has the best interests of the school at heart. "Changes like these have been very welcomed. The Headteacher is very approachable and very honest. We feel we know well the direction in which she is taking the school and we've been impressed with the initiatives she has introduced. She has a good energy and enthusiasm for New North Academy and we like that."

Shaping personalities

Yassine believes this enthusiasm runs throughout the teaching team and passes to the children. "The school is shaping our daughters' personalities. Hana was quite introverted in the way she dealt with any problems, but

the school has encouraged her to speak out if she has any concerns or anxieties. We really welcome this and she's become a very expressive girl. The teaching team is very responsive, which I think has really helped Hana to grow in confidence."

Holistic approach

Yassine likes the emphasis placed on teaching values to children. "It's a school that works hard to demonstrate the importance of values such as sharing, respect and tolerance. They are not only providing a good education but are teaching important life lessons which are having a positive impact on my daughters."

According to her delighted parents, Sara too is doing very well at New North Academy. "Sara is achieving very well in her classes and we feel she is stretched and encouraged to ensure she is reaching her potential. She interacts well with teachers and she enjoys school. As a parent, it's reassuring to know our children are happy in their learning environment."

Delighted

Yassine adds: "We believe New North is thriving in its academy status. We're delighted with the progress our children are making, academically and in terms of developing comprehensive values important for their future."



Children say:

Hana says, "I really enjoyed cooking club!"

Sara says, "The camera club was a lot of fun and I really enjoy my music lessons!"

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A place where children want to be

Right from the beginning, Leighann noticed how eager and happy Juelz was to go to school. "It's a really welcoming school and I know Juelz immediately felt comfortable. He settled in very quickly and has never once complained about going. Both of my children enjoy their time at school."

A fun learning environment

Leighann feels this enthusiasm has lots to do with the fun learning environment at New North Academy. "There's always lots of activities for the children to get involved with and different things going on. I think being an Academy means they're able to offer a whole host of different opportunities to the children that perhaps they wouldn't get offered at other schools. The array of after school clubs for the children is impressive and they also offer clubs for parents to get involved with too, which is a nice touch."

Leighann adds "My children look forward to their lessons and I think that's a really important part of building an enthusiasm for learning."

Individual support

According to Leighann, she is very happy with the progress her children are making at New North Academy. "I've been really pleased," she says. "For me, I think one of the strengths of the teaching staff is their ability to identify where children may need some extra support. For example, Juelz has struggled a little with his writing; things like holding the pencil correctly, keeping his writing neat and tidy and writing enough words during lessons. I feel the teachers have been very good at supporting and encouraging him. They've given him a diary to use each day at home, to practise his writing in and to encourage him to write, which I think is a good idea."

Leighann adds; "School has noticed that Remie too is having some difficulties with her writing. Teachers have given her some additional activities to help with her letter formation, which I'm pleased with. I can't fault the teaching team."

Strong communication

Knowing how your child is progressing and behaving at school is important. Leighann feels New North Academy is very good at communicating with parents. "They have good systems in place and will use a variety of ways to contact you. If anything happens, they will call you up or send you a text; or they'll come and speak to you and are very good at ensuring you're kept updated. The teachers are very approachable, for both parents and for children."

Happy and content

Leighann adds "I'm really happy I chose New North Academy for my children. I believe the teachers are very good at identifying areas of need and working to develop these. My children are settled at school and focused on their work and importantly they want to be there. As a parent, knowing your children are happy and content in their school environment is very reassuring."

Children say:

Juelz says "I like maths and ICT lessons, and the school clubs. The teachers are really nice and will help you with any problems."

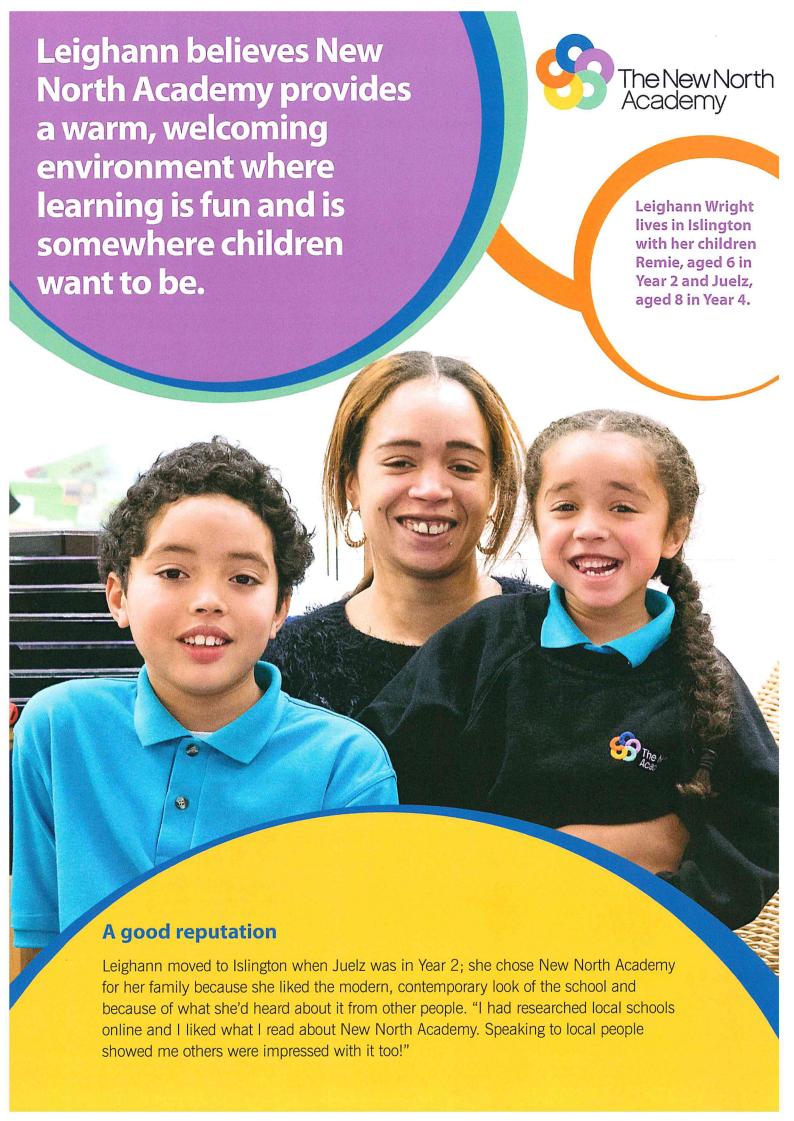
Remie says "I like my teacher and my friends, and lunches on Fridays are my favourite!"



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Supporting individual needs

Three of Bibina's children have additional needs. Josiah is on the autistic spectrum and when he first started school he displayed some aggressive behaviour. "The school put in place some one-to-one support, which made great changes to Josiah's behaviour. He's a much calmer child now. I'm very grateful to New North for the support and understanding they have shown."

"As he is in Year 5 now they are already thinking ahead about his secondary education and which school may suit his needs best."

Patience and understanding

Jordan too has additional needs due to Global Development Delay (GDD). Bibina found he was struggling with his concentration levels and his reading. "He's a very physical boy who would struggle to sit still and focus. He would like to play on the floor with small cars. He has had one-to-one support since nursery to help him to focus on the tasks he has in front of him. His teacher's patience has really helped him to learn to listen and his reading is now very good."

Progress through specialist support

Steven is also diagnosed with GDD. "The teachers at New North Academy have known Steven since nursery and they ensured one-to-one support was in place for Reception. Steven was very focused on things like computer games and music but the one-to-one support provided by the school has seen him move away from these and become more interested in school work. He's reading now which is lovely to see."

Approachable teaching staff who care

Bibina believes New North Academy are responsible for many of the improvements she has seen in her boys. "I know they feel much supported. I've noticed a difference in Jordan's ability to learn independently because he knows he can ask for help when necessary."

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Email: admin@newnorthacademy.com Web: http://www.newnorthacademy.com Bibina always finds the staff at the school approachable. "With three of my children having additional needs, I perhaps speak to the teachers more often than most parents. My children are all very different, but I find the teachers very approachable and helpful. We work together so they have some consistency in the way their behaviour is managed."

The best place for the children to learn

According to Bibina, Katie has settled into school life well. "She's working hard and enjoys school. She really likes her teacher and has developed some good relationships."

Bibina adds: "I feel The New North Academy is the best place for my children to learn. It works hard to teach the children to be independent and the staff are dedicated and focused on the children. They will make sure each child is on the right track from the start."



Children say:

Josiah says: "I like ICT and the way the teachers help me."

Jordan says: "I like to go to school to work hard!"

Steven says: "I enjoy painting, reading and writing at school."

Katie says: "I really like my teacher!"

