



## Everything that Harnam wanted from his daughter's school he has found at Church Hill Infant School



Harnam and Yamini Raikmo live in Leicester with their daughter, Prithi, who is six.

### A good transition

Prithi had spent her Reception year at a school in Watford so when the family moved to Leicester she had no friends at her new school, Church Hill Infants. Fortunately, explains Harnam, Church Hill was the right place for Prithi in the circumstances as the teachers handled her transition very well indeed.

"Not knowing anyone was difficult for her for a couple of weeks and she came home a few times and said how sad she was not to have any friends in her class," he says. "We mentioned this to her teacher who made an extra effort to encourage some of the other children to play with her and get to know her, and very shortly afterwards Prithi had a whole new friendship



group. She settled very quickly after that and has been very happy at school."

### Learning from other cultures

Harnam and Yamini chose Church Hill mainly because of the wide mix of ethnicities and cultures it embraces, something which Harnam feels is an important part of a child's education. "We had the choice of another highly rated school but we liked Church Hill because of its friendly and inclusive ethos. There are children there from every background and who speak many different languages - it's lovely when Prtithi comes home and tells us words she has learned in Chinese and Polish!"

### Appropriate support for each child

Another reason why Harnam is so pleased with Church Hill is that the teachers take account of each child's abilities, ensuring that bright children are not held back and that the less academic are supported appropriately. "Prtithi is a very capable child and is given work to challenge her so she doesn't become bored. This approach means that every child has the chance to reach their own potential and it is important to start at an early age."

### Emphasis on behavioural standards

One of the things that Harnam and Yamini particularly noticed on their first visit to Church Hill was the politeness and good manners of the children they met. "Good behaviour and respect for both teachers and each other is prioritised and that makes such a difference to the atmosphere of a school," Harnam says. "I also like the way the teachers are so well-spoken because that helps children to pick up proper English rather than slang; it is a good grounding for them, especially those for whom English is a second language."

### Outstanding

With extra-curricular activities such as cheerleading, tennis, recorder lessons and swimming to take part in, it is not surprising that Prtithi thoroughly enjoys her school days. "They have at least two PE lessons a week as part of encouraging health and fitness and Church Hill Infants is fortunate to be able to use the Junior School's swimming pool. In every way, Church Hill has been an excellent school for Prtithi and I believe it will achieve Outstanding status before too long; as far as I am concerned, it is outstanding already."



### Children say

Prtithi: "I really like Church Hill Infants because we all get a chance to take responsibility over activities in the class room or at play time. We are also encouraged to share knowledge within the class, so we are always learning something new."

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