

Gillian's son wanted to play rather than learn but now he's happy doing both at St Luke's Primary School



Gillian Quarashi-Holt lives in Newham with her husband and their sons David, thirteen, and Nathan who is eight.

A matter of priorities

Although St Luke's is a good twenty minute walk from where they live and by no means the closest primary school, Gillian has personal reasons to favour it over the alternatives. Having worshipped at St Luke's Church for many years, she felt it right to send her sons to the school with which her church is affiliated. "I have no reason to doubt that the other local schools are fine but it was important to me that David and Nathan should attend a dedicated Church school," she explains. "Although their academic achievement is obviously important, I wanted to combine that with the faith which is a part of our lives."



St. Luke's
C. of E.
Voluntary Aided
Primary and
Nursery School

Gillian feels fortunate that in St Luke's she was able to find what she was looking for. "David and Nathan are very different in nature and therefore have different academic needs. Whilst David is a keen learner, Nathan's take on education is a bit less enthusiastic! So it was encouraging that St Luke's has been able to take the challenge on board."

Opportunity to shine

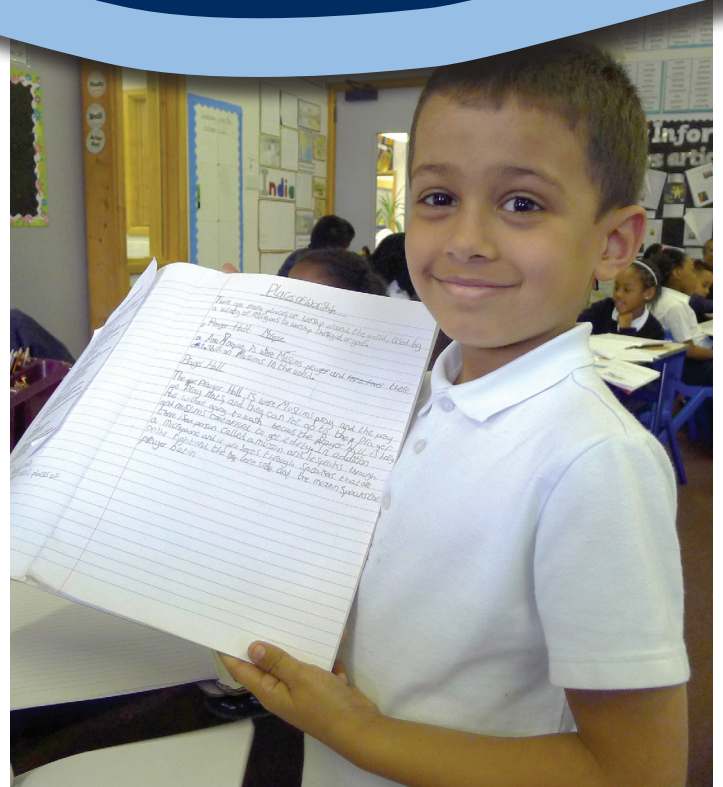
There seems little doubt that Nathan is a very capable student and has the ability to achieve; however, both his parents and his teachers were concerned that he was not sufficiently engaged with his school work. "Nathan is a very sociable and active child and is prepared to give everything a go," says Gillian. "He absolutely loves his after-school clubs which include sports and crafts as well as more challenging things like chess and Scrabble, and it's great that St Luke's gives him the chance to try such a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities."

Commitment and encouragement

Nevertheless, Gillian was obviously concerned that Nathan should keep up with his academic targets and has been impressed with the commitment his teachers have shown, "We have always been kept closely in touch with how he is doing and given guidance in how to support him at home," she says. "We have regular meetings with the school in order to keep everything on track and so far things are looking very positive. What is very clear is that Nathan loves it when he achieves good marks so it's a case of keeping up the encouragement and making sure he doesn't get sidelined by his other interests. Thankfully, St Luke's understands that he is worth that extra effort and is prepared to make sure he lives up to his potential."

Help for working parents

As both Gillian and her husband largely work full-time they are very thankful for the facility of St Luke's Breakfast Club which Nathan attends each morning.



"This is another resource that we all appreciate; it's convenient for us and something which Nathan really enjoys, giving him additional social interaction as well as opportunities for hobbies and fun. For working parents like us it is a huge asset and of benefit to the children, too."

High hopes

Like any parent, Gillian wants the very best early educational experience for her children and this includes not only the quality of education they receive but their happiness as well. "I couldn't really say whether Nathan would do better or worse academically at another school but what I do know is that he is being supported as well as I could wish and that he is happy at St Luke's. The school's approach to his individual needs seems to be working and I have high hopes that when he transfers to secondary school he will be up there with his peers. As long as he continues to enjoy school as he is doing now I am sure he will do very well. I genuinely believe that no other school could do any more than St Luke's is doing for us."



St Lukes Primary and Nursery School

Ruscoe Road
London
E16 1JB

Telephone: 020 7476 3559

Fax: 0207 473 0880

Email: info@st-lukes.newham.sch.uk

Web: <http://www.st-lukes.newham.sch.uk>

Children say:

Nathan: "It's a wonderful school, and the teachers want me to learn a lot. I am trying my best."

David: "I got a lot of help and support with my work and I was pleased with my grades at the end of year 6. I got on really well with the teachers and I enjoyed all my time there."