

Our girls have become confident and secure

Sarah Holgate loves the Christian values, vibrant learning, warmth and care offered by West Meon C of E Primary School

Who am I? I'm Sarah, married to Tom. Our daughter Hermione thrives in Year 5 at West Meon Primary, while our older twins, Lucy and Sophie, left last year to attend Perins in Alresford. I'm not just a parent; I also serve as one of the school governors.

What school are you part of?

West Meon C of E Primary School, a small, rural school in the heart of the close-knit community of West Meon, right next to the church.

Why did your children start going there?

We're a military family. In 2019, we moved from Oxfordshire to Corhampton to establish our family roots. During this transition, we researched and visited several schools, including West Meon.

What truly sealed the deal for us was the warmth and genuine care we encountered during our visit to the school, particularly from Julie Kelly, the headteacher. She passionately and comprehensively walked us through the academic and extracurricular offerings, the opportunities for our children, and the strong sense of community.

It was the school's embodiment of Christian values in everyday life that resonated deeply with our own family values. We knew West Meon would not only nurture our children's academic growth but also support their development into well-rounded, compassionate individuals. Visiting the school made



Tom and Sarah Holgate with their daughters Lucy (left), Hermione and Sophie

clear it was the natural choice for our family. West Meon CE Primary School has become an integral part of our lives, and we couldn't be happier with our decision.

What do you love about the school? This school is a remarkable choice for parents who are looking for an experience that transcends normal school life. It's a vibrant learning environment, where respect, courage and creativity are the foundation for the school's vision.

The small size of the school – just 50 or so pupils – isn't a limitation, but a strength. It offers small mixed-age classes, which means that the children forge deep bonds with each other, and that teachers can tailor learning to each child's needs. From day one, the school becomes a second home, where each child is

valued and cherished. I know that our girls have become confident, secure learners because of the school's input.

And it's not just about what happens in the classrooms. There are positive partnerships with the local community and church, including leading services for Remembrance Day and running stalls for the annual summer fete.

They also make sure they support children's wellbeing, helping them to navigate their own emotions and to prepare to thrive in their next chapter at secondary school. They have a 'buddy' system, which helps to foster camaraderie and confidence.

My three girls (and I) have loved being there, and I'd recommend it to anyone.