

The care for my girls was outstanding

Katie Wallace was impressed with the pastoral care for her two children at The Bay C of E School in Sandown

Who are you? I'm Katie Wallace and I'm married to Lewis. We have two daughters, Livie-Mai, aged 16, and Darcey, who is 14.

Which school are you part of? My daughters are both at The Bay C of E School in Sandown, which is also where I work in the special needs team.

Why did your children start going there?

We actually lived on the mainland and decided to move to the Isle of Wight after coming on holiday here. So we moved when Livie-Mai was in Year 6.

I started a job in the kitchen at The Bay School and she went to Broadlea Primary initially. But I immediately wanted her to join The Bay when it came to applying for secondary school. And there was no question about whether Darcey would come here too.

It was actually the staff that made a huge difference for me. They were so welcoming and friendly. And even though it's a church school, nothing about faith is forced on people. After three years in the canteen, I became part of the SEN team, and that has been such a good thing too.

What do you love about the school?

Our girls are so happy here, and



The Bay C of E School in Sandown

they are doing so well. The staff do everything they can to make sure that they are learning. Even if I didn't work here, I would have no qualms about sending them here.

It feels as though they want to learn, which is a good thing when it comes to teenagers. Sometimes I have to prise it out of them, but our girls always have good things to say about the school, and they have plenty of good friends.

The students also go into the community and do things for the local community. We take food to the local Foodbank and learn about what they do. The school has

a good reputation locally, and all four of the school's houses support different charities.

Livie-Mai had an opportunity to go to the Taizé Community in France with the bishop, which was an amazing thing. Not every school would give students the chance to do something like that.

And then she did really well in her GCSEs – she's at the Isle of Wight College now studying Performing Arts.

And the personal care from the tutors is amazing – the staff know all the pupils well. The Christian ethos really helps.