

**Greg Wilson, Avondale parent, 2009- 2017**

*“We are very pleased with the school and the fantastic progress our three 'Avondalers' have achieved throughout their time at Avondale. The school has superbly supported the different individual needs of each of our children and also developed their characters emotionally and socially, as well as educating them academically. It is easy to see that the staff are first rate and genuinely care about the pupils and their progress - all of our children have received great encouragement and excellent teaching. The small class sizes really helped nurture their talents and means that everyone gets great opportunities to thrive and experience different challenges such as acting, French, music, sports, presenting to the class and going on interesting school trips. Without doubt, Avondale gives its pupils confidence in their abilities. Our children have been extremely happy at Avondale and each of them enjoyed going to school, which is the strongest testimony any school can get.”*

**Tracey Glibbery, Avondale parent, 2003-2015**

*“Our three sons all attended Avondale from nursery through to Year 6. My husband was in the Army for much of that time and as he was often away for a long time, it was important for us to have a stable, caring school life for the boys. They were nurtured both academically and socially by a very dedicated and caring school team. As a working mum, the flexibility to place the boys in a safe environment early in the morning, and in after school club until late afternoon was an absolute life saver. Whilst I agonised about leaving them late, they didn't want to come home when I turned up to 'ruin their game of cricket' on the school playground! In essence, the school was like an extended part of our family.*

*The boys all thrived at Avondale, and achieved their goal of going to Bishop Wordsworth School. The school produces happy, polite, inquisitive children who are ready for the next stage of their education at senior school.*

*In the boys' words, here are some memories:*

- Dressing up on World Book day and laughing at the teachers' outfits.*

- *Really kind teachers who looked after you.*
- *Jumping off the trapeze at PGL camp in Year 6 and crawling through the mud in the dark.*
- *French Day and eating frites in the dining hall.*
- *Learning to play rugby on the school field for the first time, and running the wrong way.*
- *Extra maths lessons before our 11+ exams. It's not what we wanted to do - but it really helped.*
- *Losing a trainer on the school cross country run, but still carrying on with a soggy sock.*
- *Sports day and throwing myself across the line after crawling through the camouflage net.*
- *I was really happy there; I'm glad I went to Avondale."*

***Helen Morrison, Avondale pupil 1979-1983, parent 2004-2016***

*"As a past 'Avondaler' myself I have extremely fond and happy memories of my time at Avondale. We hoped the school would be able to offer the same experience to our children; I can honestly say our expectations were not just met but resoundingly exceeded.*

*The small classes paired with outstanding teaching offered both our children the opportunity to reach their potential in a nurturing environment. The staff were very approachable and always happy to discuss all aspects of the children's education.*

*As when I attended Avondale, children are encouraged to show respect and consideration for others. The older students are encouraged to help the younger children. My children enjoyed the responsibility of this role; they were often met at the school gate by a chorus of the younger children shouting their names and asking to play.*

*The school is very family orientated offering flexible and reliable care before and after school. Our children enjoyed the many after school clubs; even the homework club! The school provided a delicious and nutritious hot lunch every day; I was often told "It was better than yours!"*

*On their journey through the years at Avondale both children developed their love of sport which gave them the opportunity to develop and now play at a high level at local clubs and for their secondary school.*

*In Year 6 as Head boy our son was encouraged to take on new responsibilities; leadership roles both helped him to grow and develop his planning and organisational skills, which have proved to be invaluable at secondary level. The work ethic that was encouraged and developed at Avondale ensured they were both ready for 'Big School'.*

*Avondale may be small but this does not stop it thinking "BIG" the children have enjoyed participating in outstanding productions, music and sports events. The school trips have been very diverse including visiting the Houses of Parliament, climbing the Eiffel Tower and helping in the orphanages in Romania, which the school has close links with.*

*When you join Avondale you become a member of a very caring and nurturing family, which strives to find the potential in all children, ensuring they are ready for the next step in their education."*