



**ST ALOYSIUS'
COLLEGE**

Arrupe Reflection - Evie of S5

Prior to this year I had never been involved in anything like Arrupe so I was a bit nervous about it but I now realise that the fact it is so different and challenging at times actually helps to make it special.

I spent the first term at St Albert's primary school helping in a primary one class. This involved lots of painting, reading, singing and playing. It was a lot of fun and really made me wish I could go back to primary one!

The children were so friendly and never failed to make me smile. I love how they didn't care who you were and would just chat away to you without any judgement or expectation.

The pupils came from very diverse backgrounds so seeing them all working, playing and laughing together makes you realise that although each of us is different and unique, we are all equal and should try our best to put our differences aside and support each other.

At the moment I'm at Eastpark, a school for children with additional support needs. I spend my time in a class with two boys, Graham and Aaron, two of the most friendly, funny and energetic boys I have ever met. Although they are around my age, they find it very difficult to focus and are non-verbal so it's much harder for them to work and to learn. However, with the school's help, along with the eagerness and determination of the boys, they focus on what they can do rather than what they can't.

They love running around, singing, looking through books, tasting new foods, and just last week made beautiful mother's day cards for their mums. Their lives are filled with so much fun, so much joy and such great passion.

They really are inspirational and have taught me the importance of living your life fully. We should make the most of every opportunity and even if things aren't easy or don't go to plan, we should try our best to stay positive. Having a loving support network around you can really help with this, and this is exactly what the staff at Eastpark is.

It isn't easy for their teachers but they somehow always manage to remain patient and persistent. I really admire how they are able to put other people's needs before their own. Eastpark School is such a wonderful, loving place and I feel privileged to have experienced this.

Arrupe has taught me so many things: to be accepting, to be determined, to be grateful, to be positive, and to be caring. Above all it has made me see how much love and goodness there is around us, and how important this is. I really enjoy participating in Arrupe and would like to thank everyone that makes it possible each week.