



ST ALOYSIUS' COLLEGE

Arrupe Reflection - Olivia of S6

This year I volunteered at the Strathclyde University nursery. I've been going there every Wednesday throughout the year and I've loved almost every moment of it. Before this experience, I was apprehensive and rather anxious that the children would not like me and that I wouldn't be able to do a good job. But my worries were misplaced as the ladies who work there were very welcoming and lovely and that was a huge encouragement to me. As time went on, I started to learn everyone's names and personalities and the older children in particular seemed to enjoy having me there.

Like I said, I never thought I was very good with children, but my time working with them at the nursery helped me to realise that I was wrong. It is a wonderful feeling to know that some of them felt comfortable enough around me to sit on my knee, pick them up or want me to give them a hug. And by my third week I had been asked to come to at least six birthday parties. I loved playing with them and –judging by the amount of times I was asked to play hide and seek- I think they enjoyed it too.

Over the weeks I have been asked if I was:

- A fairy because I wear glittery eyeshadow
- A superhero because I can pick up the nursery's bikes and tuck them under my arms
- An angel because I can jump higher than them
- A vampire because I once said I stay up late at night
- Able to see through walls because I know where they are hiding at hide and seek
- And a witch because I can do that finger decapitation trick

And to all of those questions I answered... "Shh, don't tell anybody!"

While I have loved almost every Wednesday I spent at the nursery, there is one day that stood out and will probably stick with me for a while. I was helping one of the girls with her ponytail and she was telling me about her family and I started telling her about mine. At one point she asked me if I had grandparents. I told her that I have two grans but my grandpa died when I was ten.

She then asked me "is your grandpa an angel?" And I told her "Yes, I think he is." She then asked me, "Do you believe in angels? Or God?" I said "I do, but sometimes I'm not sure." She then said something that I wasn't expecting, "You don't have to but I do." "Why?" I asked her. "Because my mum told me that God makes flowers and I like flowers."

And with that in typical three year old fashion, the previous conversation was totally forgotten and she started telling me about all her favourite flowers. But I was still quite stunned by her answer and I don't think that it will leave me for some time.

I love all the children that I have been working with over the last months and I've loved getting to know them and their personalities and really enjoy interacting with them. They probably aren't aware of it, but they have really helped me mature and learn that I am capable of more than I initially thought I was and I'm upset that these next few weeks with them will be my last and I would definitely continue to work there if I had the chance.