

Kaine has turned his life round and now has a bright future thanks to the staff at Bristol Gateway School



Sue Nuttall lives with her sons, Kaine, aged 13, and Marshall-Jay, aged six, and daughter, Nicole, aged five, in the Sea Mills district of Bristol. Kaine has severe ADHD and ODD. He left his mainstream primary school to attend Woodstock School and joined Bristol Gateway School in Year Seven.



Good move

Kaine loves going to Bristol Gateway and enjoys his lessons and taking part in sport at the school. His Mum, Sue, says: "He is now the complete opposite of what he used to be and I never dreamed we would ever get to this stage. Starting at Bristol Gateway was definitely a turning point for him. Kaine has been a different child since going up into Year Seven."

Fresh start

Kaine did not get on at all well in the mainstream primary school he was sent to first. Sue says: "He was too difficult to handle for the staff and was being sent home all the time. After he joined Woodstock in Year Five, I noticed a slight improvement in him. He wasn't being sent home early any more but his behaviour at home was still difficult for me to deal with."

Helpful teachers

She said Woodstock staff were always very supportive to her. "They came to the house to help me if I couldn't get him into the taxi in the morning. Once I couldn't get him dressed and he went to school in his pyjamas. A member of staff came to the house later to collect his clothes from me."

Walking to school

"When he started at Bristol Gateway I thought I was going to have problems getting him there in the mornings but he seemed to settle in well straight away. Now he loves going to school and walks there on his own. It takes him about 30 minutes but I never have a problem getting him to go. He is always very keen to go to school now," Sue says.

Working hard

"He works very hard at school and never loses points for bad behaviour. He has caught up with his Maths and English and is now never violent. He loves all the teachers and particularly enjoys PE and History. Kaine has grown in confidence and I believe he now has a bright future ahead of him. He says he wants to be a teacher when he grows up. I never thought we would ever get to this stage," she says.

Taking part

Sue thinks it is amazing how Kaine's confidence has improved since he started attending Bristol Gateway. She says. "He would never do PE or take part in sports when he was in mainstream schooling. But now he is at Bristol Gateway he is in the school football team and also plays basketball and has gone horse riding after school. I think being in small classes and having very supportive teachers has made all the difference to him."

Reaping rewards

Sue says the points system operated by Bristol Gateway has worked really well for Kaine. "He has been taken on trips and done activities he would never have had the chance to do in a mainstream school, such as quad biking and rock climbing, to reward him for his good behaviour. It has been a really good incentive for him to do well."

Help for parents

"Kaine respects all the teachers and they respect him. They are firm but fair and treat all the pupils as individuals," Sue says. "The staff are also very supportive to the parents and it is great to know I can always go in there and talk to them when I need advice. I would recommend Bristol Gateway School to anyone."

Children say

Kaine says: "I like going to Bristol Gateway. It's like having a second family."



Bristol Gateway School
Long Cross
Lawrence Weston
Bristol
BS11 0QA

Tel: 0117 377 2275

Email: bristol.gateway.school@bristol.gov.uk

Web site: www.bristolgateway.bristol.sch.uk



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