



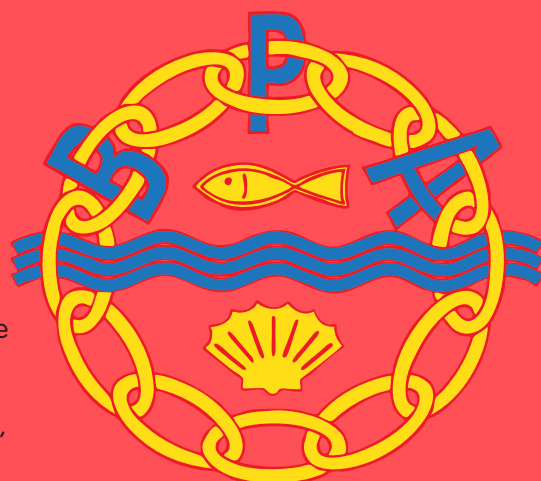
A good school offers even more than a **good education** – and lala could not be more **grateful** for what Bursar Primary Academy has done for her and her daughters

lala Love lives in Cleethorpes with her daughters Brooklyn, 12 and Jessica who is nine.

Intervention for children with special needs

Although a school is primarily a place of academic education for children, the best ones also have a significant role to play in the holistic welfare of the students. No-one knows this better than lala, who has greatly valued the extensive support she and her daughters have received from Bursar Primary Academy.

Brooklyn attended the school from Year 1 until she moved to secondary education and Jessica is currently in Year 4. "Brooklyn has always been a very shy and timid child and she has some learning difficulties, too, so many aspects of school life were very difficult for her," lala explains. "I wanted her to attend a mainstream primary school because her problems are not severe enough to exclude that option, and I was happy that Bursar Academy was prepared to accept her. During her time there, the school put into place many interventions to help her and these made her life at school so much easier."



A willing and effective approach

What has greatly impressed lala is the school's pro-active approach to addressing Brooklyn's particular needs. "There were little things like taking her on school trips in a car as she was scared of going on the coach, but they also arranged for her to have outside help during school time from other agencies such as educational psychologists and a bereavement councillor. Everything the school has done has made such a big difference to Brooklyn; we never expected her to be able to take her SaTs tests but she did, and did well. Bursar Academy has always recognised and addressed Brooklyn's difficulties, willingly and effectively."

New confidence

lala's husband, the children's father, passed away some years ago when both Brooklyn and Jessica were at a very vulnerable age and this naturally affected them all deeply. The bereavement counselling helped Brooklyn a great deal but Jessica was in an even more sensitive situation. "Jessica has had to play a large part in caring for Brooklyn, which is a huge responsibility for any child," says lala. "The school realised how stressful she was finding things when she developed selective mutism and although she's a chatterbox at home, she was unable to speak at school. Bursar Academy arranged for a counsellor specialising in helping young carers and for speech and language therapy, and she is now so much more confident, very happy at school and with a great circle of friends."

Practical and social support

It was not just the children who were badly affected by their father's death of course, but lala also; not only did she have to deal with her own grief but with the practicalities of caring alone for the girls. "Another thing the school did for us was to put us in touch with other agencies and with organisations such as Sure Start, where I made many new friends and had the chance to get out and meet other people. Through Bursar Academy, I have had both the practical and social support which has helped us all to get through some very difficult times, and I have regained much of the confidence I lost. That means a lot to me."

Time and willingness to help

Perhaps what lala values most about her children's school is the genuine desire to help, in whatever circumstances and for whatever the reason. "The staff have not only supported my children massively but me as well, and in many ways. They have put us in touch with the right people to help, given me and the girls more confidence in dealing with the various issues we have had to face, and have done it with kindness. The Headteacher even offered to come to watch 'Brooklyn The

Bullet' running in Sports Day at her new school! My children make me very proud, and I have to thank Bursar Academy for always having time for me, and for giving us all the chance to make life that bit better."

Children say

Jessica: "I love swimming lessons and sports, and I enjoy my violin lessons and singing. I have lots of friends."

Brooklyn: "I loved Sports Day and the teachers were very kind and caring. I would like to go back to Bursar Academy if I could!"



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