

# Kate cannot fault the support her family receives from Ellison Primary School to ensure her son's health needs are met

Kate and Terry McDermott live in Wolstanton with their children Ryan, seven in Year 2 and Lauren, eleven in Year 6.



## Family connections

Choosing Ellison Primary School was an easy decision for Kate and Terry. It was the school Kate and her brother attended as a child, as well as her mother. With strong family connections, and relatives who first started the Parents' Association, it seemed right for Kate's own children to attend.

## Impeccable care

Ryan was diagnosed as having Type 1 diabetes in Year 1. The support received from the school has provided a huge sense of reassurance about his safety and welfare. "When we first found out about Ryan's diagnosis, the steps the school put in place to ensure Ryan was safe at school were excellent. Staff have been trained by the specialist diabetic nurse to a competent standard and signed off to give the care which Ryan requires daily. I can't fault the care they have given to Ryan and to us as a family," says Kate.

## Complete peace of mind

When your child has a health issue, knowing their needs are being met whilst they're away from home is of the utmost importance. "We have a communication book that goes between school and home on a daily basis," says Kate. "The school will also call us if there is anything we need to know about Ryan's health. It's made a big difference to us all and we've complete confidence in the care Ryan receives at Ellison Primary School."

## Ensuring inclusion

One of Kate and Terry's concerns following Ryan's diagnosis was that he still felt included in school activities. They do not want him to ever feel his diabetes restricts him from doing things other children can do. "The staff have been fantastic in ensuring Ryan can be involved in everything. Ryan particularly loves going on school trips and while he requires medication, there is always a trained member of staff available," says Kate. The school is also very pleased that Grandad takes such an active role and is often able to assist Ryan on these trips.

Not only has diabetes been a big change for Ryan, but it's had an impact on Lauren's life too. "She's seen big changes in what we have to do for Ryan. She's a really caring big sister and always checks up on him at school. The staff always make sure she's OK and happy too."

## Ensuring acceptance from others

After his diagnosis, Ryan was given the opportunity to tell the class about his diabetes, which Ryan found really valuable. "Allowing Ryan to explain about his diabetes opened up the topic for the other children. Ryan could explain things from his perspective. He's been treated really well by the other children as a result and has always felt accepted," says Kate.

## Great improvements

Kate is enthusiastic about the great improvements she's seen at the school over the last couple of years. "When you go into parents' evening you can see the standard of work is going from strength to strength. The school is developing at such a rate," says Kate. "Both of my children are doing really well academically. We're really pleased with the way in which the children are interested in their lessons and want to go to school."

"The teaching at Ellison Primary School is brilliant. They do everything they can to increase the children's confidence and independence by identifying and focusing on individual strengths," adds Kate.



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