

Nicholas has grown in **confidence** in the **friendly atmosphere** of Oakfield Community Primary School



Nicholas Grey, who is in Year Six, lives with his parents just outside Dartford.

Helpful staff

The Grey family are full of admiration for the staff at Oakfield who have gone out of their way to accommodate Nicholas's specific requirements. Mr Grey says: "They have all been absolutely incredible and have made an amazing amount of adaptations to the school routine to help him since he started at Oakfield at the age of seven."

Ensuring inclusion

Nicholas has special needs as a consequence of a genetic condition. His father says: "As a result of this he has had to have a below knee amputation of his right leg and now gets around in a wheelchair. This has obviously caused the school to have to make adjustments and they have done lots of things to enable him to be included in the everyday life of the school."

Confidence building

Nicholas moved to Oakfield from another primary school when he was due to start in the junior school. Mr Grey says: "The junior school that Nicholas was supposed to attend could not adapt the building to suit his needs so we agreed to move him. We are so glad that we did. When he started at Oakfield he was very quiet and withdrawn but they have helped build his confidence and now he has come out of himself and is really thriving there."

School trips

Staff at Oakfield have adapted the curriculum so that Nicholas can be included in everything. "For example, in PE his class play rounders and they ensure that Nicholas can take part in his power wheelchair," Mr Grey says. "They have also done a lot to enable him to go on school trips. At one point they were considering transporting him separately but then they managed to find a coach that he was able to access so that he could travel with the other children and did not feel left out."

Polite pupils

Nicholas enjoys mixing with the other children and has made a lot of friends. Mr Grey says: "I have been very impressed with the behaviour of the other children at the school towards Nicholas. They are a polite and courteous bunch of children who see Nicholas as just another pupil and don't want to leave him out of anything. He has made some good friends at the school."

Enjoying learning

Nicholas's parents feel there is a good balance between the academic and pastoral side at Oakfield. "Although Nicholas has had to miss school a lot because of his medical needs he is doing well academically. He is at least average in most subjects and above average in some. He is very keen on Science and is looking forward to doing more science in secondary school. He likes topic work because they do some really good projects and make the work interesting for the children. He enjoys building models for his topic work," Mr Grey says.

Coping well

Mr and Mrs Grey admire the way staff at Oakfield take everything in their stride "We've noticed that the staff are good at coping with things. They show they are confident about what they do and they keep calm. They have always been certain that they can cope with Nicholas and the teaching assistants who look after Nicholas are really good with him. It is reassuring for us to know that he is in safe hands and that nothing is too much trouble for the staff," Mr Grey says.

Highly recommended

The Greys would definitely recommend Oakfield to other parents. "Nicholas has had a great experience during his time there. The school want the best for all the children who go there so other parents can be confident that the staff will do their utmost to cater for their child's needs," Mr Grey says.

Children say

Nicholas says: "I like being at school with all my friends."

