



Trevor and Karen Shaw live in Addington with Josh, 10.



Seal Church of England Primary School

At Seal we feel we matter and are valued.
Together we achieve and succeed.

Seal C of E School provides fantastic support to help Josh with his dyslexia and Trevor and Karen couldn't be happier

Making the move

Trevor and Karen transferred their son Josh, who suffers with dyslexia, to Seal C of E School a year ago and are delighted with the support he receives.

"We decided to move Josh because we felt he wasn't getting the support he needed at his old school," recalls Trevor. "We looked at several schools that claimed to be dyslexia friendly, but we weren't convinced by the support they provided. However, at Seal School the head teacher was really pleased to show us around and by the time we'd finished our visit, the SENCO teacher had read Josh's report from the educational psychologist and created an action plan. We were very impressed."

Seamless transition

When Josh moved to Seal School his parents were anxious that the disruption would upset him. However, thanks to the support he received, Josh settled in very quickly.

“From day one the move for Josh was a really easy, seamless transition,” says Trevor. “The kids and teachers gave him all the help he needed to make him feel comfortable and there was never a problem. Josh absolutely loves Seal School and is very happy.”

One-to-one support

Trevor and Karen are over the moon with the progress Josh has made.

“Josh has come on in leaps and bounds,” says Karen. “When he first started he could hardly read but the school provided a lot of one-to-one sessions and after just six weeks we noticed a big improvement in his maths, reading and writing. Even better, he is now very keen to learn.”

The great outdoors

Students at Seal School can benefit from its excellent outdoor facilities.

“The school has a wonderful nature trail,” says Trevor. “At Josh’s old school there wasn’t even a playing field on the site, but Seal has a big playing field, a climbing frame, woodland area and even an outdoor classroom. All this makes a huge difference to the children, who love being outside.”

Opportunities for all

Karen is particularly pleased that all children have the opportunity to enjoy afterschool clubs.

“There are many afterschool clubs and most are free,” she says. “This enables all the children to try different things. A lot of parents couldn’t afford to send their children if they had to pay and so the school tries to raise funds to help pay for the clubs.”

Catering for special needs

Finding a school that could provide support for children with special needs was important to Trevor and Karen, but the school is also very supportive of children that are gifted and talented.

“When we were looking for a school we were obviously keen to find one that could cater for a child with dyslexia,” says Karen.

“From the moment Josh started the staff just couldn’t do enough for us, but we also know that they provide extra support for children that are gifted and talented and want to take the eleven plus.”

Pleasantly surprised

“We would highly recommend Seal School,” says Karen. “The school has done so much for Josh that Trevor has become a Governor, and I help out with the PTA when I can, as we want to try and give something back.

“If you’ve not previously considered Seal School then we would advise you to go and look, as you will be very pleasantly surprised. The teachers are brilliant and the head teacher knows every child and parent. We wish that we’d sent Josh there years ago.”

Children say:

When asked what he likes best about Seal School, Josh says: “It’s a really friendly school. The teachers and kids all helped me to fit in and be happy. If you struggle and need help everyone is behind you and helps you to do well.”



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Seal Church of England,
Primary School,
Zambra Way,
Seal, Sevenoaks,
Kent, TN15 0DJ

Tel: (01732) 762388
www.sealprimary.com
Email: headteacher@seal.kent.sch.uk