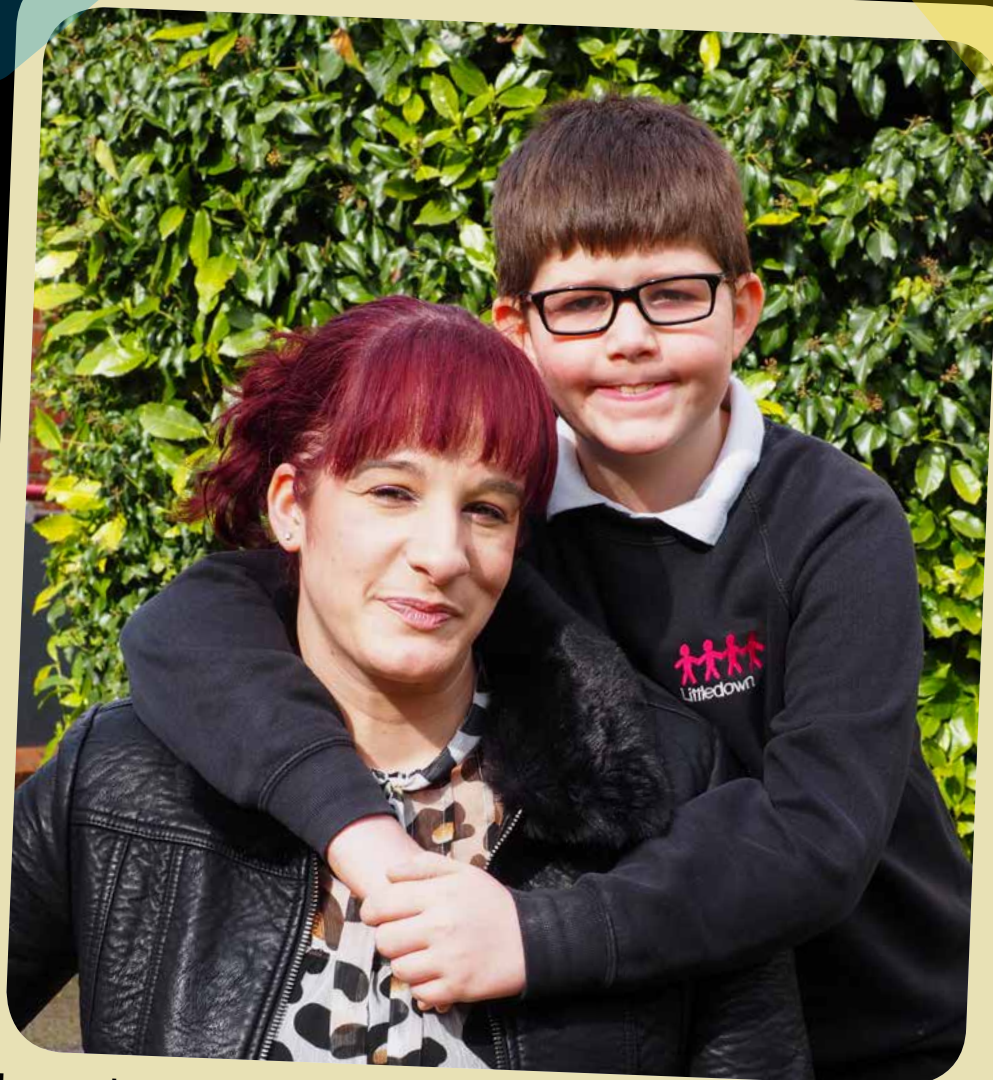




Little Down  
School



Lauren Jenkins and her partner, Jay Eyres, live in Slough with their children, Freddie, aged 13, Alfie, aged ten, Sophia, aged five, and Molly, aged three. Alfie has attended Little Down Special School since the age of four and was diagnosed with autism when he was seven.

# Alfie's ability has been recognised and **encouraged** by the **dedicated staff** at Little Down School

## Good move

After Alfie started at Little Down it was identified that he was gifted and talented and he is now surpassing all his academic targets. Looking back, his Mum, Lauren, realises moving to Little Down was probably the best thing that could have happened to him. 'Alfie started in a mainstream school and just couldn't cope. It was too loud, there were too many other children and there was no structure to his day. One day I went to pick him up and I was told he was going to be sent to

Little Down. At the time I was devastated but I now realise it was the right decision,' Lauren says.

## Making progress

After Alfie started in Little Down's nurture unit he settled in well. 'He was happy and making good progress so eventually the decision was taken to try to reintegrate him at his mainstream school, but it just didn't work. When they tried to reintegrate him into the reception class, his behaviour became volatile again,' Lauren says.

## Spelling success

After Alfie returned to Littledown, he settled down again. 'His progress has been amazing and his spelling is remarkable. His spelling age is 14 plus. It is unbelievable the words he can use and spell,' Lauren says. 'The staff usually work with him one to one. They have taken the time to see what he is good at and this has boosted his confidence. Alfie also loves Maths. The teachers make it fun, but he is learning a lot.'

## Teaching continuity

Alfie is helped by being in a small class at Littledown, Lauren says. 'He is currently one of a class of six children with three members of staff working with them, so all the children get plenty of attention. The staff are really familiar to the children. Whereas at a mainstream school, the kids are sometimes taught by supply teachers, at Littledown there is always continuity.'

## Good communication

'The staff are good at liaising with us at home and speak to us practically every day. If Alfie seems unsettled they are able to tell me why he has become like that. We also get feedback from the people who pick him up and drop him off about how he has been on the journey to and from school. The teachers will either ring us or email us about his academic progress.'

## Enjoying outings

Lauren says Alfie likes being rewarded by going on trips to the park and adventure playground. 'The points system operated by Littledown is brilliant. The children can see from charts on the wall of the classroom where they are with the points system. It makes them think about their behaviour because if they lose too many points they don't get rewards.'

## Charting behaviour

'Alfie is now unrecognisable from the volatile, dangerous and unpredictable child who first started at Littledown. He is a changed boy and knows what is expected of him both at school and at home. His support worker has made charts for him to use at home like the ones he has at school. If he is good at home he gets rewards. He knows his behaviour at home affects what he does at school and his behaviour at school affects what he does at home,' Lauren says.

## Secondary education

'Alfie was diagnosed with autism when he was seven and will go on to attend a secondary school that specialises in autism. Littledown are being very supportive, helping us to get school viewings and pick the right school. They will also make sure his transition goes well.'

## Children say

Alfie says: 'I like learning spellings and going on trips.'

