

Karen and Willie are glad they battled for Bleasdale when they see how happy Kibibi is at the school

Karen and Willie Hadden have an eight-year-old daughter, Kibibi, who has attended Bleasdale School for nearly two years. The family live at Bentham in Yorkshire and Kibibi has two brothers, Tyrone, aged 13 and Maitiu, aged three. Kibibi has profound and multiple learning disabilities caused by a complex chromosomal disorder and she is registered blind.



Settling well

Karen and Willie believe Kibibi has made progress in all areas since starting at Bleasdale School. Karen says: "She is happy and clapping when she arrives at school in the morning. She has got used to the school and is now able to anticipate what is going to happen next. She has started to do things such as stacking bricks, whereas before she started at Bleasdale she wasn't interested at all."



**Bleasdale
School**

Learning Together / Achieving Together

Enjoying each day

The family had to fight to get their local authority to agree to Kibibi attending Bleasdale because it is outside their area. Karen says: "It was so worth the battle. We wanted Kibibi to have a happy and fulfilled life and we can tell she is enjoying school by the way she giggles while waiting for the staff to come and collect her and how she comes running up to us at the end of the day. She can't tell us, but we can tell from the way she behaves that she has had a great day at school."

Family atmosphere

When Karen and Willie moved from Somerset to Yorkshire the local authority offered Kibibi a place at a school 30 miles away. Karen says: "We thought it would be too far for her to travel every day so we looked for somewhere closer. As soon as we saw Bleasdale we really liked it. The school feels like one big family and it means a lot to us to know that Kibibi is safe and well cared for. We believe Kibibi deserves to have everything she needs and more. It is important for us to know that she is happy because she can't speak or do sign language; we just have to watch her body language carefully."

Place in community

Karen says: "Bleasdale is a lovely, friendly school and an important part of the community. The children are regularly taken out on trips and to attend events. For instance, Kibibi took part in a dance performance at the Guildhall in Preston where there was a good mix of mainstream and special needs schools from all over Lancashire. The local people have a lot to do with Bleasdale and get involved with events at the school."

Keeping in touch

Karen and Willie have confidence in Bleasdale because the school communicate well with them about Kibibi's progress. She says: "We would not hesitate to recommend the school to other parents. When we go to collect Kibibi at the end of the day she is clean and dry and been changed and looks as though she has been loved and cared for, which is very important to us."

Building for the future

Kibibi can stay at Bleasdale until she is 19 and the staff will be able to build on what has been achieved with her. Karen says: "There will be consistency and no question of everyone having to get to know her all over again at any stage. We know by the way Kibibi behaves she is a happy little girl who enjoys going to school. We wanted her to make friends at Bleasdale and are pleased that some children in particular now come up to her and take hold of her hand."



Contact us

Headteacher: Mrs Kairen Dexter

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Sue Wildsmith

Bleasdale School
27 Emesgate Lane
Silverdale
Carnforth
Lancashire
LA5 0RG

Tel: 01524 701217

Fax: 01524 702044

email: admin@bleasdaleschool.lancs.sch.uk