

Mags and Gary are delighted with how much Bleasdale School have been able to offer their son Zak

Mags and Gary Hall live in Sedbergh, Cumbria with their seven-year-old son, Zak, and 15-year-old daughter, Ashleigh. Zak has cerebral palsy as a result of a birth injury and suffers from Lennox Gastaut Syndrome, a type of epilepsy that can cause him to have up to 40 seizures a day.



Enjoying facilities

Mags and Gary are delighted with the good start Zak has made at Bleasdale. Mags says: "Zak has no understanding of the world around him but can use his senses so he really enjoys the sensory room at the school, which provides light therapy, music therapy and smells. He also loves relaxing in the hydrotherapy pool. I am pleased with the way the school have been able to tweak the curriculum to suit his needs."



**Bleasdale
School**

Learning Together / Achieving Together

Settling in

Zak began by going in two mornings a week to get used to Bleasdale before starting to attend all day on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Mags says: "His former school could no longer meet his needs and for a while we considered home schooling but we decided he needed to be with other children of his own age. We looked around and when we first went to see Bleasdale we were very impressed. It had been recommended to us by other families and we felt that it was the nearest school to us that could adequately look after Zak."

Experienced staff

"The school buildings are superb and there are stunning views across the bay from the windows," says Mags. "We saw children who had even more complex needs than Zak who looked happy and were achieving things. The staff are all very competent and experienced and it is great to be able to turn to them to ask for advice when we need it."

Detailed information

Mags and Gary are impressed by the amount of work Bleasdale put in to transfer what they do at school to home. Mags says: "Two days a week Zak will have home schooling and it is wonderful that the home/school books are extremely detailed as we will be able to continue with work from the curriculum. The home/school book is invaluable to us because it is a vital window into what Zak has done at school and Bleasdale take pride in providing detail in these books."

Continuous care

"Because of what we have been told about Zak's life expectancy, we don't have time to fight for things he needs. Bleasdale can meet all of his needs, physically, emotionally and medically," says Mags. "They are able to take children up to the age of 19 and so there will be no question of a break in continuity, whereas if he had stayed at his previous school he would have had to move into the main school when he was older, which would not have been suitable for him."

Festive events

Mags and Gary also like the way Bleasdale has forged links with the local community. Mags says: "The school often bring the world to the children rather than taking them out into unfamiliar environments. Local people will come in to see the plays and attend the parties, concerts and festive events. There is no shortage of fun for the children and a highlight for us so far was to see Zak go to school dressed as Spiderman to take part in the fund raising event for Children in Need. We are also thrilled that Zak has been chosen to play 'Buttons' in this year's school nativity."



Contact us

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