

The Brier School has helped Jack achieve things that Paul and Denise never thought possible



Paul and Denise Emery live in Kingswinford with Jack, 11.

Highly recommended

Jack suffers from Coffin Lowry syndrome, a rare disorder that causes learning difficulties and developmental delay. “Jack went to an enhanced nursery where it was recommended that he go to a special school,” says Denise.

“We looked at a few schools locally, but The Brier was definitely the nicest. I liked the fact that the head teacher Mr. Hinton walked around with us and knew all the children by name and how they were doing, it was so nice to see.”

On the move

The Brier has been designed to ensure that children can move around the school easily.

“The Brier has fantastic facilities and is basically all flat, which was particularly good for Jack, as his walking was not very good,” says Denise.

"I also like the way the classrooms and toilets are all in the same place throughout the school, making it very easy for the children to know where to go."

Problem solving

Staff work closely with pupils and parents to resolve problems and implement health recommendations.

"Nothing is too much trouble," says Denise. "If you have a problem you can talk to the staff about absolutely anything. They always listen to what you have to say and act upon it."

"At one time the hospital recommended that Jack had a box under his desk to put his feet on to help him to sit straight and the school was great about sorting this out. Another time he lost his glasses and the school bought him a new pair, although his old ones turned up in some bushes later! The school didn't have to do that but they insisted."

Great progress

Jack has made fantastic progress, much to mum's delight.

"Jack was not toilet trained when he started but is now," she says. "The school was a great help with that. In the last few months he has learned to write his name and I never thought he would be able to do that. He can also read some words. The staff spend a lot of time with Jack and it's really paying off."

Picture perfect

Knowing what your child does at school can be very reassuring.

"The school often send me photographs of what Jack does at school, which is lovely," says Denise. "For example, when I sent in a birthday cake for his birthday they did a little party and sent me lots of pictures, and I really wasn't expecting that."

"Communication is very good. The children all have home diaries and the staff often send letters home so we know what is going on."

Parental involvement

For the past two years Denise has been a parent governor, and there are many opportunities for parents to get involved with school life.



Jack says: "I love going to school!"

"Parents are invited to special assemblies and all kinds of events like sports days and Christmas fairs etc. It's a great school," says Denise.

Friendly faces

Denise is impressed by the care shown to Jack and all the other children.

"The Brier is a very friendly school," she says. "Every morning the head says hello to every child and it's obvious that this is not just a job for any of the staff, and they really care."

"Sending Jack to The Brier was the right decision and I highly recommend it. He has lots of friends and I've made friends with the mums. We all look out for each other and it's a lovely place to be."

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