

Tania and Derron can see their son improving at The Brier School every single day



Tania and Derron Robinson live in Dudley with their son Kiaya, 13.

First impressions

Kiaya has been at The Brier since 2006, following assessments and a recommendation for a special needs school from his nursery.

“Kiaya has mild to moderate autism although it was very severe when he was younger and he also had behaviour problems, but thanks to The Brier and the introduction of routines, all of that is under control now,” says Tania.

“I looked at a few schools but his nursery school teacher said The Brier was a beautiful one and as soon as I walked through the door I fell in love with it!”

Warm welcome

A warm greeting from staff and students confirmed Tania's opinion.

"When we went to visit the school all the children shouted out Kiaya's name and made him feel very welcome," recalls Tania. "They asked if they could show him around and I didn't think he would go with them but before I knew it he had gone quite happily and I was surprised as he was always very clingy. I knew this was the school for us!"

Safe and secure

Tania feels that The Brier offers Kiaya and other children a very safe and happy environment.

"It is absolutely marvelous," she says. "I have never known any bullying or problems but I know if I had a problem the staff would be on top of it really quickly because they are very organised and attentive. They are also very easy to talk to and listen to the students and take their point of view into account, which is great."

Supporting parents

The staff also helps parents to cope with challenging behaviour at home.

"The school have helped me a lot over the years, and many of Kiaya's behaviour problems were to do with a lack of routine," says Tania. "I knew he had problems, and he was only diagnosed two years ago, but the school was giving him everything he needed, including speech and language therapy. Gradually everything has improved. Each year he improves, and if I am honest he gets better every day."

Mainstream maths

Children who are capable of attending lessons at the neighbouring mainstream schools are encouraged to do so.

"Educationally Kiaya is improving with his reading and writing, but he is exceptional at maths," says Tania. "For three days a week he goes to Crestwood, the mainstream school next door and does maths."

"At first when he went to Crestwood he was a bit quiet but now he comes home and doesn't shut up about it!"



Kiaya says: "The things that I love best about The Brier are my friends and the teachers and going to Crestwood school for maths. I also love doing PE and football!"

They give him homework to do on the computer and he can't wait to do it because he's so enthusiastic. I wondered how Kiaya would cope but he has an assistant with him who sits at the back of the class and he is getting on really well."

Simply brilliant

Tania is delighted with the facilities that the children can enjoy at The Brier.

"I could not put into words how great the facilities are there because they are absolutely brilliant. The school is always taking them out to farms, museums, pantomimes and all kinds of places. Kiaya was also picked to play football for the school, which he loves! I cannot fault anything at The Brier, it is absolutely the best place for my son."

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