

The Brier School unlocks potential in children, much to the delight of Luke and Cameron's parents



Louise and Mark Turley live in Dudley with sons Luke 13 and Cameron, nine.

Making a difference

Louise and Mark were so pleased with the progress of Luke at The Brier that they didn't hesitate to enrol their youngest son.

"Luke has autism and dyspraxia, as well as epilepsy, developmental delay and learning disabilities," explains Louise. "The Brier was recommended to us, and he has been here since he was three.

"His younger brother Cameron has Asperger's syndrome and ADHD. Luke has done so well and is a different child from when he started."

Unlocking potential

The Brier aims to create a positive and nurturing environment for all children.

“When he first started school Luke had no speech and would bite, throw things and kick from frustration,” recalls Louise. “The school worked really hard and now Luke has limited speech and can tell us what he needs, which has made a huge difference. They have fantastic teaching methods and can unlock your child’s potential.”

Improving life

Staff work closely with children and parents to bring about major improvements.

“Initially Luke was in nappies and couldn’t sit unaided, but now he can speak and walk,” says Louise. “He’s also completely toilet trained and life is much better.

“Cameron is also doing really well. Although he has speech he lives most of life as a super hero in a super hero’s world. He can tell you in great detail about Batman, but finds it more difficult to answer other questions. Nowadays he can do this if you get eye contact and bring it down his level, which the school are great at doing. He is also completely toilet trained.”

Fantastic facilities

Louise and Mark are impressed by continuous improvements at the school.

“The facilities are fantastic,” says Louise. “It is continually changing and improving. For example they recently built gardens so the children could learn more about plants, and there is an astro turf football pitch and outdoor adventure playground.”

Trust and confidence

It is vital that parents trust that their children are well looked after.

“When your child is diagnosed with a life long disability you need a lot of support,” says Louise. “You need to trust the staff, particularly when children have limited speech. I feel that trust and confidence at The Brier.”



Luke says: “My favourite thing was going to Astley Burf residential, being away from home and spending time with my friends.”

Cameron says: “I like play time and all the different activities like the adventure playground, the tyres and the football pitch.”

Leadership skills

Louise is delighted with the hands on approach of the head teacher.

“Mr. Hinton eats his lunch with the children every day,” she says. “The children all know him. When Luke has an epileptic fit and I fetch him home it is often Mr. Hinton that sits with him until I arrive. In some schools the head is always in their office, but not Mr. Hinton.”

Away days

A residential trip to Astley Burf proved to be a highlight of Luke’s school life.

“Luke loved that trip,” says Louise. “Because he fits a lot the school arranged for two staff members to stay in his dorm, but he absolutely loved being with his friends.

“On the trip he went horse riding, to a safari park, sat around the camp fire singing songs and doing all the things other people take for granted. It really made them bond as a class.”

Happiness and harmony

The Brier has a great family feel and sense of community.

“The Brier is the happiest and most harmonious school I have ever been in,” says Mark. “You know that every pupil and staff wants to be there.”

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