



Littledown
School



Phillip Cooper and Alex Suggitt live in Slough with their son, Caden, aged nine, and their daughter, Penelope, aged two. Caden was moved from Year One at his mainstream primary school to Littledown Special School when he was five years old after he became unsettled and highly anxious at school.

Caden is calm and happy and really starting to **fulfil his academic potential** in the friendly atmosphere of Littledown School

Good work

Caden is much calmer and happier and is producing some excellent work now he has settled into the cosy environment of Littledown Special School. His Mum, Alex, says: 'Caden is a lot more confident and feels much more secure at Littledown than he did at his previous primary school and he is now beginning to fulfil his academic potential.'

Meeting needs

'Although Caden has never been diagnosed with any specific disorder, such as autism, it has been established that he has higher emotional needs than most children, which Littledown are now catering for. This is because he has unresolved trauma from something that happened when he was very young,' Alex says.

Small environment

'When he first started school he was fine in the nursery and reception class but in Year One he became unsettled and was upset a lot. From being unhappy and tearful when he was at school he progressed to becoming very disruptive in the classroom. We had a number of meetings with the school and it was eventually suggested he attended Littledown for half of the week and his mainstream primary school for the other half. After a while it became obvious that he was much more tranquil and happy in the smaller environment at Littledown and was producing much better work there, so it was decided he should attend Littledown full time,' Alex says.

Learning well

'Caden is doing really well academically now. He loves to read and has a high reading age. He is good at Maths, although it is not his favourite subject, and he enjoys Science and PE. He is very bright and creative and particularly looks forward to art therapy. He loves animals and can tell you many interesting facts about them. He enjoys reading about them and looking things up in an encyclopaedia. I would say that moving to Littledown hasn't hindered his education at all and he has become a very able student.

Rewards system

'Caden has definitely benefited from the fact that Littledown is smaller than his mainstream primary school and has told us he prefers it,' Alex says. 'He is aware that it is a special school and that the teachers are trained to deal with different types of behaviour from the children but it doesn't bother him at all. He is happy there and responds well to the points system that rewards good behaviour and hard work.

Therapy dog

'He likes going out on the reward visits they organise for the children and has only had to miss out occasionally, but he has always been disheartened if he hasn't been able to earn enough points in a particular week. He likes all the activities they do at Littledown and is particularly fond of Lilly, the school's therapy dog, and is always excited when he gets the chance to see her.

Moving on

'Because Caden hasn't been diagnosed with a specific disorder there is less choice available to him for his secondary education. 'We have been looking at mainstream schools and considering the ones that have a transitional unit he could go into. We think he now has a good chance of being happy and succeeding in a mainstream secondary school because of the way he has been taught and encouraged at Littledown,' Alex says.

Children say

Caden says: 'I like PE and Science and love to be able to read at school.'

