



Janett and Robert Balfour live in Slough with their grandson, Cameron, aged 12. They have three grown up children.

Cameron has been given a **great start** to his education by the **friendly staff** at Littledown Special School

Cameron has lived with his grandparents since he was born. He left his mainstream primary school to start at Littledown at the age of five and a half after being diagnosed with ADHD.

#### Good opportunity

Janett and Robert were worried that Cameron's behavioural problems would get worse when he started attending Littledown. 'But I now know it was the best thing that could have happened to him,' Janett says. 'Whenever I saw new youngsters starting at Littledown I would always tell their parents that eventually they will be glad their children had the chance to go to Littledown because of all the help they will get.'

### Short stay

When Cameron first started at his mainstream primary school he was only there for a few weeks before he broke his arm and had to be off school. Janett said: 'Then when he went back he climbed a fence and fell and broke his arm again. After that the school called me in for a meeting and said they couldn't handle him.'

### Small class

'We had to take him to be assessed and he was diagnosed with ADHD. He was moved to Littledown when he was five and a half. At his previous primary school he had been in a class of 30 children but at Littledown there were just three children in his year, so he was given a lot more attention,' Janett says. 'It took him about 18 months to settle in. I was initially worried his problems would get worse at a special school but when he started to improve I realised moving him to Littledown had been the best thing for him.'

### Incentive scheme

'Littledown operate a points system to motivate the children to behave well. They take them out on a trip every Friday. They go swimming or horse riding or to the cinema and have a lot of fun. If a child loses too many points during the week they don't let them go on the trip. Cameron had to miss out on the trip a few times at the start. He was only a young boy and it took him a while to learn what the consequences would be if he didn't behave. But it was a great way to motivate the children,' Janett said.

### Brilliant staff

'Cameron used to have art therapy and massage to calm him down, which were both very effective. He really got on well with the teachers at Littledown and they were all brilliant with him. Every week his teacher would phone me to tell me how Cameron was getting on. They were really good at keeping us informed about his progress.'

### Secondary education

'Now he is attending a special secondary school he is doing very well. He is still on medication but he has been really good at his new school and they have had no problems with him. Cameron hates change and we thought he would have difficulty settling but he went to his new school for a week during the summer holidays and they did lots of fun activities with him and so he was happy to start there at the end of the holidays,' Janett says.

### Enjoying music

'His new school is a specialist social, emotional and mental health secondary school. Cameron enjoys lots of the activities they do there and is developing new interests. He now loves listening to classical music and playing the piano. He is continuing to do well at his work and we are very proud of him.'

### Children say

Cameron says: 'Littledown helped me understand the consequences of my actions.'

