



Littledown
School



Barry and Christine Dunbar live in Iver in Buckinghamshire with their granddaughter, Chelsea, aged nine, and Chelsea's Mum, Lisa Dunbar. Chelsea left her mainstream primary school after having behavioural problems and started at Littledown Special School. She has since been diagnosed with ADHD.

Chelsea is now starting to blossom in the **warm, friendly environment** of Littledown School

Enjoying school

Chelsea is now settled happily at Littledown. Her grandfather Barry says: 'She likes going to Littledown so much that sometimes when she is having a day off at home she will say that she wished she was at school.'

Learning well

Since joining Littledown, Chelsea has been much happier about going to school. Barry says: 'All the staff there are really good with her and she is now getting on well educationally, after having missed out before. Her Maths is very good and she is doing well at English too.'

Good move

Chelsea and her family belong to the traveller community and the family were worried she might have been treated differently but this has never been the case and Chelsea has settled in easily. 'It is very different from the time she spent at her mainstream primary school,' says Barry. 'She didn't get on well there at all and sometimes used to just walk out of school. Eventually the staff said they couldn't manage her and so we considered alternative schools and thankfully we found out about Littledown and she started going there instead.'

Plenty of attention

Barry thinks that one of the benefits for Chelsea of being at Littledown is that there is a much lower ratio of children to staff than there was in her mainstream primary school. 'It has done her a lot of good because she has been getting a lot more attention than she was getting before which has definitely helped her a lot.'

After school club

Chelsea particularly enjoys going to an after school club at Littledown on Thursdays. 'The club is run voluntarily by some of the teachers for the children. Her Mum goes as well and the staff encourage them to bond with each other. Although Chelsea lives with us we support her Mum as well and encourage them to spend plenty of time together,' Barry says.

Points system

'Now Chelsea has settled in she is very happy at Littledown. She enjoys going out on trips with the teachers and tries to build up her points so she can go out with the other children. It is all dependent on her behaving well but sometimes she has to miss out on the trip because she has behaved badly. She still has a blow up every now and again. I think awarding points to the children to reward their good behaviour and good work is a great system to use as it encourages them to try to be good and do well.'

Good communication

'The teachers are very good at letting us know how Chelsea is getting on. They will phone me up and tell me if she gets out of hand or if she has done something particularly good. They communicate with us about Chelsea's progress really well.'

Fun with Maths

'Chelsea has liked all her teachers and loves spending time with Lilly, the school dog, although we have a cat at home. She likes to bring home reading and homework and particularly likes doing her Maths. I think she likes Maths because she knows she is good at it and it gives her confidence knowing she can do it. She is willing have a go at most of the activities they do at Littledown,' Barry says.

Children say

Chelsea says: 'I like doing Maths and going to the after school club on Thursdays at Littledown.'

