

# Jean and Brian believe Hawthorns School offers a life-changing experience, where children thrive:



*Jean and Brian Mole live in Droylsden with their three children. Their daughter, Lauren, fifteen, attended Hawthorns School before leaving for specialist secondary education.*

## An environment in which to grow:

It became clear that Lauren was struggling in a mainstream education environment. She had been diagnosed with Dyspraxia and was showing some moderate learning difficulties as well as some difficulties socially. Lauren transferred to Hawthorns School aged nine and stayed until the end of primary school education, during which time, according to her parents, she thrived.



## A very special kind of school:

It was immediately apparent to Jean and Brian that Hawthorns School was a very special kind of school. As part of the settling in process, the family was invited to look around and Lauren was invited to a couple of taster days. "It's a beautiful school and the staff are so friendly. Lauren absolutely loved her taster days!" says Jean.

"At mainstream primary school Lauren struggled in class but at Hawthorns School, her confidence grew hugely and she started to enjoy her classes and see that she was achieving. She was making friends and being invited places. We'd never experienced this before - it was amazing!"

Jean adds: "Before joining Hawthorns School, Lauren would come downstairs nearly every morning with a different reason as to why she couldn't go into school. Once she joined Hawthorns, she couldn't wait to go!"

## Amazing staff with unique skills:

Jean feels the staff at Hawthorns School are the main reason the children enjoy the school and thrive in the environment. "They have some very special and unique skills. They're amazing and I know Lauren misses them very much now that she's left. We found them incredibly understanding and they cater for every need," says Jean.

## Nothing is too much trouble:

What stood out for Jean about the staff was their ability to make the children feel comfortable. "Nothing was ever too much trouble," explains Jean. "They always had the time to talk to Lauren if she was anxious about anything and she could spend time in A Quiet Place to help her feel calm. For Lauren, and for us as parents, to know they were so attentive and caring was wonderful."

## Praise for all children:

Another strength of the school for Jean and Brian was the praise Lauren always received. Jean explained "At mainstream school, Lauren was rarely praised. She never felt she was doing well at anything but at Hawthorns School, this all changed. As a result, Lauren's self-esteem grew, she became more confident and we're certain this has lots to do with the level of praise and positive reinforcement she received from staff. It was lovely to see."

## Learning for all levels:

Jean believes one of the key skills of the school's staff is their ability to bring education down to all levels of learning. She says: "The way they teach at Hawthorns School ensures all children can get involved and enjoy the process. Lauren loved a mock political election that they held. At mainstream school she would never have been involved with this but at Hawthorns School, she could get fully involved because they were able to bring it down to her level of learning and understanding. She got so much from it and was so enthusiastic and interested. It was great to see."

"They also incorporate lots of trips to complement the learning. Being able to get involved in all of these experiences was wonderful for Lauren's confidence."

## A life-changing experience:

Jean adds: "There is definitely something very special about Hawthorns School. Sending Lauren there is the best decision we ever made! It's a life-changing experience, which allows children to grow in confidence and self-esteem. Hawthorns School provides an environment in which children can really thrive."



## Children say:

When Lauren was asked what the best thing about Hawthorns School was, she said: "Everything!"