



## Elle never wants to miss school because she loves daily life at Hebden Green

**Michelle and Paul live in Rudheath with their daughters. Elle has complex epilepsy and learning difficulties and uses a wheelchair because of her frequent seizures. She has been a pupil at Hebden Green for nine years.**

### Taking part

Elle's parents feel it was the best decision they ever made moving their daughter out of mainstream schooling to attend Hebden Green. Michelle says: "There was no inclusion at her mainstream school but at Hebden Green she is able to do everything with everyone else. Elle loves Hebden Green and never wants to miss school because she enjoys taking part in everything."

## Moving schools

Elle had to leave her mainstream primary school when she became poorly at the age of six. "Eventually she went back to the same school but we realised it wasn't the best thing for her so we moved her to Hebden Green when she was eight. I wish I'd moved her earlier now, but I was a TA in the mainstream school and thought at the time that I was doing the right thing by persevering with it," Michelle says.

## Best choice

"We looked at lots of schools for Elle and Hebden Green was the nicest one we saw. It is a lovely school and Elle fits in so much better. Three months down the line we realised it was the best thing we have ever done. I suppose you are reluctant to leave mainstream schooling to begin with but you quickly get past that," Michelle says.

## Music and singing

"Elle has more than 100 seizures a day so it is very hard to record her progress with things but we can definitely see an improvement in her since she started at Hebden Green. She is learning social skills at the school and is showing respect for her teachers and her peers. She enjoys going in the hydrotherapy pool. There are lots of places that wouldn't want to let her go in the water but they look after her well at Hebden Green. She loves music and singing and enjoys going to choir club," Michelle says.

## Learning targets

"She has learnt about money, cooking, cleaning and general social skills. She has to be in a wheelchair most of the time because she has multiple seizures and could hurt herself if she fell, so it is for her safety," Michelle says. "The school have given Elle achievable targets because they know her well and know how to get the best out of her."

## Happy life

"Elle is a very sociable and happy girl. Even though she has multiple seizures she loves life, going to school, her carers, teachers and friends and won't ever want to leave Hebden Green," Michelle says. "The nurses, physiotherapists, speech therapists and everything else she needs are all available in the same place. She loves the residential night because it is like going on a big sleepover and we are confident that she is always well looked after. All we have ever wanted is for her to be happy, which we know she is at Hebden Green."

## Outstanding school

Michelle says: "The school have always been very helpful when we have needed support. The head is always approachable and the staff will make phone calls for you. The children are bused in and out so parents don't tend to meet each other socially, but the school organise regular coffee mornings so we can all get together and talk about things. They have also put on a sports club for the children in the holidays as it is a long break for them in the summer. They listen to the parents and try to provide what we need. It was not really surprising that Ofsted found the school outstanding and the inspector said afterwards how much he had enjoyed his visit."



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