



Littledown
School



The Specialist
Education Trust



Deanne Davis lives in Slough with her children, Tanisha, aged 21, Jaheim, aged 15, Jayquane, aged 13, and Andre, aged two. Jaheim was diagnosed with ADHD and autism and excluded from school when he was eight. After attending Littledown Special School he was gradually reintegrated into mainstream education.

Jaheim **flourished in the caring environment** of Littledown School and is now enjoying his secondary education

Good support

Deanne is delighted that Jaheim is now doing well in Year Ten, revising for his GCSEs and determined to get good grades. 'He has really turned the corner and it is all thanks to the therapy and support he received when he was at Littledown. I know that if he hadn't gone to Littledown, he wouldn't be where he is now,' she says.

Feeling isolated

From when Jaheim started nursery he had problems, Deanne recalls. 'He was isolated and had no friends. As he grew bigger he became aggressive. When he was in the infants he was never allowed on school trips even though I offered to go with him and take full responsibility for him. He spent most of his time sitting outside the classroom.'

No friends

'Jaheim wasn't allowed to play with other children and was made to walk round the playground holding the hand of a dinner lady. He was never invited to parties and when I gave a party for him and invited everyone in his year, no one came. In middle school he kept running away and the school used to call the police,' Deanne says.

Enjoying school

'After Jaheim started at Littledown it took about a year for him to settle. Then he started to change for the better. He became less aggressive and learnt how to play with other children. For the first time he enjoyed being at school and I noticed an improvement in his behaviour at home.

Integration programme

'I wanted him to go on the integration programme and eventually go to a mainstream secondary school. It took months for the local authority to agree, but eventually he started to go one day a week into a mainstream school with support from Littledown. Eventually he built up to two days and then three days. He did have issues and got into a couple of fights, but he was definitely making progress.

Full week

'One day his taxi came early and he left without taking his medication. I went after him and explained he hadn't had his medication but the mainstream school told me to take him home. I begged them to let him back on the programme and after he started again, he eventually worked up to doing five days a week.'

Making friends

Deanne says the local authority insisted Jaheim wouldn't be able to cope in a mainstream secondary school but she asked them to let him try. 'He quickly made friends there and joined some after school clubs. He is doing well now he is in Year Ten and is predicted to get an A in his Graphics GCSE. I am grateful Littledown's reintegration programme worked for him.

Reward system

'I know he wouldn't be where he is today if he hadn't gone to Littledown. They gave him one to one tuition and therapy sessions. The staff were firm with him and never let him overstep the boundaries but they also had a good reward system that motivated him. Jaheim definitely flourished in the smaller environment and built up a good relationship with his teacher.

Good relationships

'He now gets on better with his older sister, who is at University, and his younger brothers. He has definitely turned the corner and has become a lovely boy. I will be very proud of him when he passes his GCSEs and I will know that he owes it all to Littledown,' Deanne says.

Children say

Jaheim says: 'I enjoyed going on the reward trips.'

