

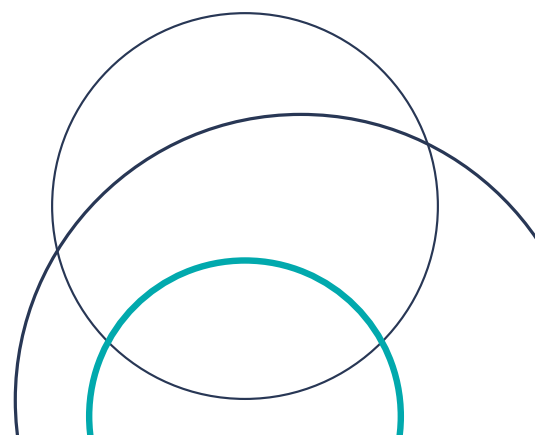
James is now making good progress because of the attention he is receiving at Woodstock School

Steve Clark and Deborah Moss live in Lawrence Weston with their son, James Herniman, aged ten, who has been at Woodstock School for a year. He has behavioural issues and is currently being assessed by an autism specialist, although no clear diagnosis has yet been established.



Help with work

Steve and Deborah scoured the internet looking for a suitable school for James as his primary school couldn't cope with his needs. His Dad, Steve, says: "When we discovered Woodstock, we realised it ticked all the boxes. We had to push for James to move to Woodstock in meetings about him, but now we are pleased that we did. We cannot praise the staff at Woodstock enough because they are brilliant and have helped James a lot. He is now actually doing some schoolwork, whereas he didn't do anything at all at his previous school."



Falling behind

Steve says James was behind with his schoolwork because his previous school couldn't deal with him and so they had just shut him out. "James got nothing out of going to school. I would take him there in the mornings and within a few minutes they would ring me up and ask me to collect him again because they couldn't cope with his behaviour."

Individual attention

The staff at Woodstock have been brilliant with him. Steve says: "He has separation problems from myself and his Mum but the staff deal with it really well when we take him to school in the mornings. They are succeeding with him because they are working around his needs. They take every day as it comes and see how he is reacting. All the children have issues but they treat each one as an individual with different needs. That's how they are managing to get the best out of James."

Computer skills

Steve says James is now trying hard at his schoolwork. "He is doing some reading and writing and is attempting some Maths. He is good with computers and likes working on them. At least we can see he is now making an effort thanks to the encouragement of the staff at the school. He likes lots of things about going to Woodstock but his favourite thing about the school can change from day to day."

Outdoor learning

James doesn't particularly like sport although he will occasionally have a kick about with a football. "Sometimes when we pick him up from school we have seen him joining in with a game. He likes learning outside the classroom and joining in with Forest School, which involves a range of nature-based activities in the woodland behind the school. It is a nice environment for learning about the outside world. The school is in a beautiful setting and the buildings and grounds are well set out and have good facilities," Steve says.

Friendly staff

"I have a lot of dealings with the staff and talk to them about the progress being made by James. They are all very helpful. They will come out to talk to us and let us know how he has got on at the end of the school day. The headmaster's door is always open. He will see you and let you tell him about any problems you might have, even if you do not have an appointment. He is very approachable," Steve says.

Good move

"His Mum and I cannot praise the school enough as parents. I wish more schools were like it. We found Woodstock School ourselves because we wanted something better for James by looking at schools on the internet to try to identify one that would be able to cater for his needs. Therefore I would not hesitate to recommend Woodstock School to other parents. I just wish we could have moved James there a lot sooner," Steve says.



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