

Helen believes Meadowside School offers a warm, friendly and encouraging environment with staff who genuinely care about the needs of each child



Helen Byrom lives in Birkenhead with her children, Michael, 23 and Kate, 20. Kate attended Meadowside School; she has Cerebral Palsy and is a wheelchair user.

A special place

The ambience of Meadowside is what stood out for Helen when she was choosing a school for Kate. "It has such a lovely atmosphere and the staff are very friendly. I got such a good feeling for it and it felt like the right place for Kate," says Helen. "She loved attending Meadowside right from the beginning. It was the staff, the rapport that she had with them, and the support they offered that made it a special place for her. She'd go back tomorrow if she could!"

Strong relationships

Kate's language skills are quite well developed so her main need for support centres around her development and motor skills. Helen is really pleased with how Kate progressed during her time at Meadowside. "She came on really well. The staff were very encouraging and built good relationships with Kate. I think this really helped her confidence to communicate with other people. She's learned how to take people and has a much better understanding of others and about being independent."

Encouraging staff

Helen also found Kate's motor skills progressed thanks to strong encouragement from her teachers. "She still needs help and support but we noticed some really positive changes during Kate's time at Meadowside School. I found staff genuinely care about the children and are very encouraging which really helped Kate to develop from where she was when she first started. They were very good at supporting and encouraging Kate to use her weaker side, for example with things like encouraging her to feed herself. Whilst it's an on-going process their support means she's definitely stronger now."

Excellent communication

A real positive for Helen was the communication with staff. "If I ever had any worries I knew I could call them or that they would call me if they had concerns. Staff were always very happy to speak to me and to listen, nothing was too much trouble and I felt it was a real two way process. Kate is quite a healthy girl so we never had too many concerns but they were very good at feeding back to me about any issues and how we could all support her."

A happy environment

Helen recalls Kate's love of music at Meadowside School. "Music was always her favourite lesson - she really liked her

music teacher as she was her first teacher at Meadowside and she maintained a real connection with her throughout her time at the school. Kate really liked the staff because of the way they communicated with her and the laughs they had together. She found it a really happy environment to be in."

Reassuring and caring

Kate has now left Meadowside School and is attending college. Helen was pleased with the way that staff ensured Kate was ready for the next step in her education. "Kate's a clingy person; she would always get upset when students left Meadowside so moving on was difficult for her. To help her, staff ensured she was taken on visits to the college so that the surroundings were familiar, helping her to feel prepared. I think this was really important; it was reassuring for Kate and helped her to adapt to college."

Understanding of individual needs

Helen adds; "The staff are excellent and always had the best interests of my child at heart. It's a warm, friendly and welcoming school that genuinely cares. They look after, support and encourage each child and they really understand everyone's needs. I can't praise Meadowside School enough."



Meadowside School,
Pool Lane,
Woodchurch,
Birkenhead, CH49 5LA.

Tel: 0151 678 7711
Fax: 0151 678 9155
www.meadowsideschool.com

