

New Fosseway has transformed Tasha from an anxious young girl into a happy child who can't wait to go to school every day

Debra Goodman lives in Hartcliffe, Bristol with daughters Tasha eight and Racheal, 18



Moving from mainstream

Two years ago Tasha was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder and recently moved from mainstream school to New Fosseway.

"Tasha was diagnosed with chromosome deletion 21 syndrome," says Debra. "Last year she moved from mainstream school where she was very unhappy, to New Fosseway School and the change in her has been unbelievable, as she's come on so much."

Fantastic progress

Debra is delighted with all areas of Tasha's progress.

"Before going to New Fosseway Tasha wouldn't speak to anyone and nobody could understand her but since she's been here her speech has really come on and she's learned Makaton and is doing really well," says Debra. "The school has also provided Makaton lessons for me and Racheal, so that we can communicate better."

"Tasha has already moved into different classes as she's doing so well with her maths and English."

Home from home

Teachers and students are on first name terms at New Fosseway and Debra describes it as a real home from home.

"At New Fosseway it really is like being part of one big family," she says. "The teachers always say 'hello Debra' and ask how I am, and Tasha can manage to say people's first names so she communicates better with them. Tasha absolutely loves going there. When I saw her so looking so happy out in the playground I broke down and burst into tears because it was such a relief."

Joining in

The school hosts many fun events throughout the year and staff and pupils all join in.

"When the school took part Comic Relief Tasha went to school dressed in her One Direction Onesie, and the staff were all dressed up as well," recalls Debra. "No matter what diagnosis a child has, everyone is always treated the same and is encouraged to join in. Nobody is higher priority than anyone else and I've only good things to say about the teachers, who are fantastic. Communication is great and I can relax and trust that they will take care of her."

Developing confidence

As well as making progress with her education, Tasha's confidence is growing.

"Tasha has developed more confidence and is becoming more outgoing," says Debra. "When she comes home from school she can't wait to tell me what she's been doing every day. One of the main problems was getting her to eat properly, and the school is working hard to encourage her to try different foods. Last week she ate all of her lunches every day and as a reward was given a Star of the Day certificate, which made her so happy!"

Opportunities

Children can try a variety of lunchtime and after school clubs and activities, which Tasha enjoys.

"Tasha has been on lots of school trips, and enjoys after school clubs and things like school discos," says Debra. "At the moment she goes to football club and cookery club, but will soon be starting street dance and after Christmas they are doing a ballet club. The school provides them with so many opportunities and I honestly cannot recommend it highly enough. Moving Tasha to New Fosseway was the best thing we have ever done for her!"



Photo right to left:
Racheal, Lorraine
Bessex (Family Link
Worker), Debra and Tasha.