



Littledown
School



Syed Atif Abbas and his wife, Navida, live in Slough with their son, Syed Rayyan Abbas, aged seven. Rayyan started at Littledown Special School on a dual placement with his primary school but he now attends Littledown full time.

Rayyan is receiving a good education and **plenty of attention** from the **dedicated staff** at Littledown School

Best move

Atif and Navida were initially worried about the stigma of their son attending a special school but now realise that it is a good thing. 'We wanted the best for Rayyan and we know he is getting that from Littledown. He is now doing much better academically than when he was at his mainstream school and his behaviour is a lot calmer,' his parents say.

Dual placement

When Rayyan started at nursery his behaviour was very wild. 'He would run around a lot and not sit down or listen. He couldn't concentrate on anything and it was thought he might have ADHD. It was suggested that he started attending Littledown part time and he went to their nurture group at the age of four, while spending the other half of the week at his mainstream primary school.

Academic progress

'But his behaviour at his mainstream school just got worse and he became even more disruptive, so he was sent to Littledown full time. At the time we were worried about what the parents of the children at his mainstream school might think, but we realise now that Littledown is providing Rayyan with a much better education than he would otherwise have had and he is doing well academically,' his parents say.

Individual attention

'The staff treat each child as an individual and tailor the teaching to suit their different needs. If you asked Rayyan, he would probably say he doesn't like school, but in reality he loves Maths, he likes his teachers and he likes the way the children are given incentives to behave well and work hard. It is also good that he is in a small class so the teachers have the time to really focus on each child.

Quiet time

'Rayyan spends quite a lot of time in the quiet room away from the classroom. He can go there voluntarily and have time out if he feels he needs it. He also knows he can ask the teachers about anything and they will always have time for him. I like the way the teachers encourage him and praise him rather than telling him off. If he gets very agitated they will calm him down with a hug and he likes that. He is a lot calmer these days thanks to the way he is being looked after,' his parents say.

Rewards scheme

'The reward for having a good week is to go out on a trip at the end of the week. Rayyan doesn't always make it but we still think it is a good scheme. Sometimes his behaviour will flare up and he will have a bad few weeks, but this month he has done well. If he has a bad period at school he will usually have one at home as well. The staff call it a wobbly day and they will tell us about it when we go to pick him up.

Good communication

'We had the perception that Littledown was a school for naughty children but we now know that it is a school which caters for every child's specific needs. Whenever we go to pick him up in the evening we are worried about what his day has been like but we are always made to feel welcome by the staff, who communicate with us well. Rayyan is now nothing like he used to be and overall his behaviour has really improved,' Atif and Navida say.

Children say

Rayyan says: 'I enjoy learning Maths and I like my teachers.'

