



Tracy and Andrew Conlin live in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, with their children Sam, 20 and Louie, 12 in Year 8. Louie's difficulties include Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), tourettes, dyslexia and moderate learning difficulties.

Tracy believes the caring approach of the dedicated staff at St Luke's School has really helped her son grow in personality and confidence.

Enthusiastic and vibrant teaching staff

Louie moved across to St Luke's School in Year six after main stream school was not meeting his needs. "We looked at other schools for Louie, but at St Luke's School I could see other children like him that I knew he could be friends with. What stood out for me was how enthusiastic, hands-on and vibrant the teaching staff were. It just felt like the right choice for him," says Tracy.



Smooth transition

Moving to St Luke's School happened quickly and smoothly. Tracy explains: "It happened at the end of the six weeks school holiday so Louie missed the meet and greet session. Instead they sent Louie a book with pictures of the animals and drawings by the other pupils. There were also instructions on how to get to his classroom. It was fab! And something we referred to throughout the holidays so he felt familiar with the school before he even got there!"

Ensuring everyone can learn

Tracy loves how St Luke's School caters for different learning styles, allowing all children to feel included in lessons. "Compared to mainstream school, I immediately noticed how St Luke's School uses more visual methods of learning. Signs on doors and timetables, for example, include pictures as well as words, and the teaching itself incorporates 3D models for touch," says Tracy. "When I saw these things in place at St Luke's, I knew instantly that Louie would be able to learn better from methods like this."

Eager to go

For the Conlin family, the fact Louie wants to go to school since joining St Luke's has made a huge difference to their lives. 'Louie really enjoys school now,' says Tracy. "The fact he actually wants to go is wonderful. It's a huge weight lifted and great to know that he is happy at school."

Confidence and responsibility

"I've noticed a big difference in Louie's confidence in the two years he has been there," says Tracy. "I think this has a lot to do with the small responsibilities the teachers give to him which really help his self-esteem."

Tracy feels the way St Luke's School acknowledge achievements has really helped Louie to grow. "Before he came to St Luke's he was always so low down. He's come to St Luke's and is top in PE - being top in something never ever happened before," explains Tracy.

Children are people in their own right at St Luke's School

Tracy is very enthusiastic about the way children are accepted as individuals at St Luke's School. "The children are always praised and receive reward stamps for achievements," explains Tracy.

"Everything is positive! I really think this has benefited Louie hugely and helped him to accept the way he is."

Tracy adds: "And what has really stood out for us is the way that children are considered people in their own right. The school really helps the children accept who they are."

Gradual progression

Tracy and Andrew have seen some wonderful progression from Louie during his time at St Luke's School. "He is making some small steps academically, in line with his difficulties. As a person, his confidence has grown so much. He participates in school plays now - he never would have done that before, nor been given the opportunity. For us, it's not just about academic progress but about how happy your child is. We know Louie is content at St Luke's School."

Tracy adds: "St Luke's School treats every child individually. Teachers meet their needs with enthusiasm, dedication and a real caring approach. It's a fantastic school!"

Children say

Louie says: "At my old school they didn't treat me the way St Luke's School does. There are lots more things I can do at St Luke's. It's a fun place to be!"



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