



Shivani and Vidya Sagar Singh live in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, with their children Saumya, 17, Rishi, 15 and Avi, 13. Rishi has autism with moderate learning difficulties and is in Year 10 at St Luke's School.

Shivani feels St Luke's School has a **real talent** for nurturing individual **strengths** and showcasing **talent**.

Great ambience with excellent opportunities

Shivani and Vidya Sagar were really impressed with the opportunities available at St Luke's School. "The school had a nice ambience and open feel to it. There were animals and opportunities to get close to nature. And the music department looked very encouraging. Rishi is really into music so this was very appealing."



A strong sense of integration

When moving Rishi to St Luke's School for secondary education, Shivani found that Rishi always looked forward to going to school. "It was really refreshing to see," she says.

Shivani feels the way Rishi settled into life at St Luke's School was largely due to the way the staff helped him to feel integrated. "Rishi is part of a family group at St Luke's School. I really feel this has helped him to settle so well," explains Shivani. "Moving from one class to another was never an issue for Rishi and I think this is because it was explained to him and put to him in a way that has helped him to really feel at ease."

Huge growth in confidence

According to Shivani, Rishi's confidence has grown a huge amount during his time at St Luke's School. "He used to be a child that would run away from situations. His confidence has grown a great deal over the last few years. Socially, he has really thrived at St Luke's School. He's very confident to do things with people now, which is great to see!" says Shivani.

Great opportunities to learn

The opportunities to be involved with nature and to get out and about has been an enjoyable aspect of school life for Rishi. "Rishi has learned about horticulture and has got a lot from being able to be outdoors," says Shivani. "He's also really enjoyed dance at St Luke's School and the opportunity to showcase that skill. I really think these opportunities away from the normal academic subjects have done a lot for Rishi's confidence."

Awarding achievement

Shivani also believes the school's willingness to mark individual achievements has helped Rishi's confidence to grow. "He recently won a prize for his dance performance. He loves his dance and the opportunity to showcase his talent. He has won an award each year he has been at St Luke's and this year the school recognised his progress by giving him a further special award for his continued hard work," says Shivani.

Individual needs recognised

A real strength of the school, for Shivani, is their ability to recognise the needs of each individual child. "Lessons will be the same, but catered to each child's individual needs. Rishi has been getting subject awards too and I think the school's ability to communicate the lesson to meet the child's needs is a real skill that has supported Rishi's learning," says Shivani.

Practical learning

The curriculum has included both class based and practical lessons. Shivani feels this has been of real benefit to Rishi. "When learning about money, they took Rishi along to a shop and put it into practice. St Luke's School are very good at adapting classes to meet different learning styles," explain Shivani. "Whatever class it is, they find a way to adapt it in a practical way that makes more sense to children like Rishi."

St Luke's School allows social skills to blossom

Shivani is hopeful that Rishi will continue at St Luke's School for sixth form education. "His social skills have really blossomed," explains Shivani. "The autism base means the teachers have the training they need to get the best from children on the autistic spectrum."

Shivani adds: "Everyone gets attended to and their strengths are showcased. Everyone is someone in the true sense at St Luke's School."



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