



Lynn Goodwin feels Hope School offers great communication from staff who care and provide a safe, secure and happy environment for children

Lynn Goodwin lives in Dovecot with her son, Josh, 12. Josh has Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and has attended Hope School since he was six years old.

Welcoming staff with the right skills

When the decision was made for Josh to attend Hope School, Lynn remembers feeling some anxieties about the changes and how the school would manage Josh's behaviour. "Josh's behaviour was chaotic when he first transferred to Hope School. He lacked concentration and would be disruptive in class, but things have really settled for him," says Lynn. She feels this has a great deal to do with the attention Josh receives from the staff and their welcoming nature.

Lynn also feels the specialist knowledge each staff member has about ADHD plays a major role in supporting changes in Josh's behaviour. "Mainstream education isn't able to offer the same kind of skills that Hope School can," says Lynn

A consistent approach to behaviour

Lynn has found that Hope School's consistent behaviour policy has been a real positive for Josh. "All of the teachers use the same techniques when disciplining the children. For Josh, it has meant that he's learned what to expect from them all. It's helped him to understand what behaviour is considered right and wrong," says Lynn.

Positive changes and influencing others

Lynn has seen some calming changes in Josh's behaviour during his time at Hope School. She's very proud of the fact that Josh has been elected as an Anti-bullying Ambassador. "It's a great opportunity for Josh - he loves that he's been selected and been given extra responsibility," explains Lynn. "The school won an award for its anti-bullying strategy in 2013, which is fantastic! It was a huge boost to everyone involved!" says Lynn.

Rewarding good behaviour

At Hope School, each child has set behavioural targets to reach. During each class they'll receive a number of points based on how they did. Lynn has found that this has worked well for Josh and that he really enjoys the trips that are provided as a reward. "Josh has received lots of rewards for his learning and his behaviour. He's loved going out of school for special lunches! He comes home thrilled that he's scored enough points and that his hard work has been recognised," says Lynn.

Adapting to different learning styles

Lynn has noticed some positive changes in Josh's educational progress too. "Josh has never been one for writing but this has changed lately," explains Lynn. "As well as praising him when he does well, Hope School caters to



different learning styles. I think this has helped Josh's enthusiasm. For example, they use a pyramid with different words on each side to be included in their big write tasks. That visual way of learning has really helped Josh," explains Lynn. She adds: "I've observed a maths lesson too and I was really impressed with way staff focus on the learning experience of each child and ensure they're supported. They have some fantastic resources - the large touch screen is a great way to get everyone involved."

Great opportunities for parent involvement

Lynn also speaks positively about the family days held by the school. "They're a brilliant way of going into school and seeing the work that Josh has completed and a good way of communicating with staff and other parents."

As a parent governor, Lynn feels she has a wonderful opportunity to gain extra insight into the school and to contribute as a voice of parents. "The role involves liaising with other parents and providing their feedback at governors' meetings. Helping to shape the experiences of parents and children is really rewarding," says Lynn.

Safe and secure

Lynn adds: "For me, the best thing about Hope School is the great communication. They'll call you, text you, invite you in. It's a safe, secure, happy environment and I feel Josh is really well looked after there."

Children say:

Josh says: "I love that I'm an anti-bullying ambassador for Hope School. I really enjoy the fact the school has given me some extra responsibility!"