



## Tina has appreciated the fantastic support and respect offered by Hope School and believes it has made lasting changes to her family

Tina Treble lives in Stockbridge Village with Thomas, ten. Thomas joined Hope School aged nine. He has Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) which mainstream education found difficult to manage and difficult to meet his needs.

### Mutual respect

Tina has been thrilled with the progress Thomas has made since he joined Hope School. Tina believes Hope School has offered fantastic support to Thomas but has also provided her with amazing support. "I feel like Hope School understands me as a parent of a child with special needs," says Tina. "I don't feel alone anymore. There are other parents like me there and Hope School understands the difficulties and the issues we have."

Tina believes this level of support is down to the caring and empathic nature of the staff. "They've been like the backbone for our family," says Tina. "They speak to you the way they expect to be spoken to. For Thomas this has worked well and they've put boundaries in place that he respects. I really feel this has a lot to do with the level of respect they show to him."

## A joined up approach

Tina believes the kind of support offered at Hope School allows for a joined up and more consistent approach between school and home life for Thomas. "The 'Family Works' days are brilliant. I no longer feel like I'm the only mum with a son who has special needs. Hope School understands. They don't judge parents, they just offer fantastic support, which has really helped me personally," explains Tina. "If Thomas doesn't want to do his homework, for example, I can pick up the phone to the school and we'll work on the issue together. Thomas understands that we'll work together, which I feel is important. It really helps him to understand and know the boundaries."

## Positive changes

One of the difficulties Thomas has as part of his ADHD is managing his emotions. "Some days, Thomas will be very upset and will find it difficult to express himself in a calm way," explains Tina. "When Thomas was in mainstream school he was in a class with 32 other children. Hope School has the capacity to offer much more dedicated support to allow him to manage how he feels. This really seems to work far better for him."

Tina adds: "Thomas is now more able to recognise his emotions and respond in a more appropriate way. He'll now stop himself from screaming and swearing, which is such a difference to what we experienced before he joined Hope School."

## Fantastic academic progress

Not only has Tina seen some reassuring developments in Thomas' ability to manage his emotions, she is also seeing fantastic changes in his academic progress. "A few months ago, Thomas could only write 'Tom'. After a couple of months at Hope School he can now write his full name and is putting verbal and written sentences together," says Tina. "He's come on so much in such a short space of time!"

## Making children feel valued

Tina feels this progress has a lot to do with the caring, patient approach shown by the staff at Hope School and the positive reinforcement they provide when children do well. "They involve the world around the children to support their learning and they offer some lovely rewards, such as school trips." says Tina.

Tina believes the fact the school rewards Thomas for his good behaviour and positive progress has really helped to build his confidence and self-esteem and has helped him to feel valued. "The school listens to Thomas and they understand him. Their wonderful reward system reinforces good behaviour and progress and it makes the children want to do well," says Tina.

Tina adds: "Thomas going to Hope School is the best thing we could have done! The school gives everyone a chance and they offer you respect."



## Children say:

Thomas says: "My favourite thing about being at Hope School is the fantastic trips out we get to go on. The sleep over at Crosby Marina was brilliant!"

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