



Mary believes Hope School offers a calming environment where staff have the skills to really relate to individual children

Mary Weaver lives in Toxteth with her partner, her son and her grandson, Ethyn, 11. Ethyn has been attending Hope School since the beginning of 2014.

Mary has always found that Ethyn's behaviour has been more manageable at home but that he struggles in the school environment. "Ethyn has a history of aggressive behaviour at school. He's been to a few schools where he would swear, throw chairs around and be generally disruptive. Hope School has been marvellous for him," says Mary.

A calming environment

Ethyn can struggle with larger groups and lots of noise, so Mary has found that the smaller, calmer class sizes at Hope School have been a positive change for him. "Initially, changing school was a bit daunting for him but we've seen some lovely changes in Ethyn since he moved to Hope School."

When things do get too much for Ethyn, Mary has been particularly impressed with how Hope School deals with disruptive behaviour. "The School has a silent room which seems to work well for Ethyn. It's a space he can take his work along with him away from everyone else; a quiet, calm space where he can think about what he's done and just focus on his work," explains Mary."

Understanding and respect

Mary believes Ethyn's progress is largely due to the staff at Hope School and their ability to treat each child individually and with respect. "I can't say enough positive things about the staff at Hope School. They really are marvellous!" says Mary. "They've got so much understanding and they know how to talk to the children."

Support and involvement

Whilst Mary has been pleased with the positive impact Hope School has had on Ethyn she has also found the staff to be very supportive towards her too: "I go up to school on a Friday and sit with some other mothers for the Family Learning days; it's an opportunity to receive some support and to have a look through some of the work that Ethyn has done," explains Mary. "It's fantastic to see how well he's been getting on. He's done some great stuff!"

Being able to participate in Ethyn's education is something Mary is grateful for. "Being able to get involved helps both of us," says Mary. "I can see the kinds of strategies the staff use with Ethyn. They're great at communicating and are always inviting me along on school trips and Family Learning days. Not only is it a good source of support for me but it helps me to participate in Ethyn's education, which is a lovely way of being involved with my grandson!"

So much to enjoy

Mary has also been impressed with the fantastic facilities on offer at Hope School. She feels they have also contributed to the changes she has seen in Ethyn's behaviour.



"Ethyn has just commented on how he never wants to leave Hope School!" says Mary. "It has so much for him to get involved in. The activities on offer are great, it's easy to see why the children enjoy being there. There's climbing, the gym, football, netball - he's even learning how to cook, which I think is great for Ethyn."

Teaching independence

Mary has been thrilled at how Ethyn's independence has grown during his time at Hope School.

"Ethyn can make himself a cup of tea now and he can be trusted with his own front door key," explains Mary. "He's much more respectful at home now too - he doesn't really answer back any more. The changes have been marvellous!"

Mary adds: "Hope School is a school I would recommend to anyone. The staff are wonderful, they're very skilled, willing to help and they really care about your child."

Children say:

Ethyn says: "I'm made up with Hope School. The staff listen to me and there's always loads to do!"