



Jack is now thriving and making good progress academically thanks to the dedicated teachers at Rise Up

Donna lives in Hull with her daughters, Stevie, aged 18, and Casey, aged 16, and her son, Jack, aged 13. Jack attends Rise Up, Rise Academy's Key Stage Three provision in Caroline Street.

Happy at school

Donna believes sending Jack to Rise Academy was the best decision she has ever made. She says: "Jack really struggled in mainstream education and had behaviour issues, but now he has totally changed and is much happier and likes going to school. He also has a much better relationship with both of his older sisters."



Improved behaviour

She is delighted with how well Jack is doing academically at Rise. “Jack is on a pathway to Key Stage Four and will eventually take his GCSEs. He gets more of an education now than he ever did in mainstream schools. But the most important thing is that his behaviour is now so much better. It is thought that he may have ADHD, but we have not had a full diagnosis yet. Before when he had a meltdown, it was almost impossible to deal with him, but now he is much more reasonable,” Donna says.

Understanding staff

“I used to be in denial about Alternative Provision and kept trying him in different mainstream settings but he could never cope. Twenty minutes after I had left him at a school, they would phone me and ask me to pick him up because they couldn't deal with him. It interrupted my working day and was disruptive for the whole family. In mainstream schools, the staff do not have time to really get to know the children, but the staff at Rise understand Jack more than anyone did at his previous schools. He gets a lot more help because they have more time for him and they are very patient,” she says.

Small class

Donna knows now that allowing Jack to start at Rise in Year Seven was the right decision for her family and, most importantly, it was the right decision for Jack. She says: “It is a lovely school. I cannot think of anything negative about it at all. Jack is in a very small class and they break the lessons down for him so he learns for a short time, then has a break, learns a bit more, has another break, and so on. His handwriting is now much better and he is making progress all the time.”

Learning outdoors

Over the last two years Jack has benefited from doing Forest School, working on the school's allotment, and going swimming. Donna says: “Jack particularly enjoys learning outdoors and making fires and cooking outdoors. Jack loves the staff and has a good relationship with them all. They are always positive about him and will often tell me he has had a good week. He regularly wins Star of the Week and comes home with a gift voucher to spend.”

Gift of time

Donna is grateful that the staff can give the pupils much more time than teachers in mainstream schools. “They really get to know them and understand them and take an interest in what they want to do. I can tell Jack is happy at school and that he is learning properly now and doing what he needs to do every day to get on in life,” she says.

Positive change

“I would recommend Rise to other families who have children who are struggling in mainstream. People should not think there is a stigma about attending a Alternative Provision. Making the decision to let Jack attend Rise was the best thing I could have done for him and it has changed all our lives and we are a much happier family as a result.”

Children say

Jack says: “My favourite thing about going to Rise Academy are the trips they take us on.”



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