



# Jamie's life has been transformed and he is now making excellent progress thanks to the targeted education offered by dedicated staff at Rising Stars

Janet and Norman live in Hull and care for Jessica, aged 20, Jamie, aged 13, and Violet, aged one. Jamie attends Rising Stars, Rise Academy's provision for students with cognition and learning, and speech, language, and communication needs.

## Thriving in class

Janet and Norman are thrilled that Jamie is happy and progressing in leaps and bounds in his small class at Rising Stars, which has its own building with all its own facilities, on the site of Francis Askew Primary School. Janet says: "Since he started at Rising Stars, Jamie's life has been totally transformed. He is reading now, whereas before he never wanted to sit and read a book. He also tries hard with his homework and will do it willingly."



## Laptop skills

Jamie has learning difficulties and problems with his motor skills, but has come on amazingly since joining Rising Stars. "He has problems with the ends of his fingers, which bend backward, so he struggles with handwriting, but he is able to use a laptop to write stories now and is also doing well in Maths," Janet says.

## Seeking the right school

Jamie came to live with Janet and Norman as a one-year-old and the couple have been like a Mum and Dad to him and his older sister, Jessica. Janet says: "Jamie attended a mainstream primary school, where he was given additional support, but he was not on the same level educationally as his peers and was sometimes bullied and could not maintain friendships. It became clear he would not be able to manage in a mainstream secondary school so we refused to let him go to one. We considered a special school that catered for disabled children, but he was not offered a place, as he was not classed as having that level of disability."

## Smooth transition

Janet and Norman were told about Rising Stars at Rise Academy by teachers and they chose it because they felt it would work for Jamie. "The staff went to a lot of trouble to make his transition from primary school as smooth as possible so he wasn't anxious about starting. We went with him for a session and the staff visited him at home and then he did a couple of sessions on his own, so he was well prepared," Janet says.

## Making friends

"Jamie was collected by bus each morning, but because of where we live in relation to the school, he had to sit on the bus for a long time before he got there. However, after he mentioned it, they arranged to pick him up on a later bus and he then made friends with the children travelling with him. There are five children in each class with a teacher and a TA, which is ideal for him. He is learning to play the guitar with a plectrum, even though he has problems with his fingers, which is good exercise for his motor skills. The staff are succeeding with him because they are patient and give him lots of one-to-one tuition. When he showed us one of the stories he had written on the laptop, we were amazed how good it was," Janet says.

## Enjoying learning

"Jamie loves Fridays when the class go out on a trip, or work on the school allotment, but also enjoys the rest of the curriculum. The children all get on well together and he has now made a good friend. Jamie has a wonderful relationship with his teacher and we like the way the staff praise and encourage the children. They text us regularly to let us know how he is getting on. In the last two years at Rising Stars he has come on amazingly. He would like to be a mechanic and is now looking at possibly going to college. We would recommend Rising Stars to anyone."

## Children say

**Jamie says:** "I love school and really enjoy Fridays when we go out and do interesting things."



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