

Vincent is now beginning to fulfil his potential thanks to the caring staff at Torfield School



Kate Poyser lives in Bexhill with her sons, Alfie, aged 27, and Vincent, aged 7.



Vincent joined Year Two at Torfield in June 2017, having previously attended a mainstream primary school.

Reading progress

Vincent's life has been transformed since he started at Torfield School. Kate is delighted that he is now much happier and enjoying learning. "When he was at his mainstream school he couldn't read and could barely write his name. Now he can read well and his handwriting is amazing. He can also count in fives and tens up to 100."

Positive changes

Kate is thrilled to see such changes in him. "He is like a different child, it is as though he has started to like himself now. The improvement isn't just educational, his mental health has been boosted as well. I can do a lot more with him and take him out with me. Nothing is off limits any more," she says.

Good care

"What is good about Torfield is they are not just educating your child between nine and three, they are interested in what's going on at home. You can discuss any problems with the staff and you can go on courses to learn the skills you need to manage an autistic child.

Unhappy time

"Vincent was diagnosed with ASD when he was five. He did not cope well in a mainstream school and had lots of periods of exclusion, which was difficult for me as I am a single mother and need to go to work. When he was off school he would have to go to a child minder, or be looked after by my son, or my elderly parents.

Left outside

"Vincent was sometimes violent and disruptive at his last school and most of the time they were trying to educate him in a hallway. When he became too difficult they would telephone and ask me to pick him up. When we applied for Torfield the Local Authority said he could cope in mainstream which was clearly not the case as they didn't have the capacity to deal with him properly. But after I appealed against the decision not to offer him an EHCP, he was eventually offered a place at Torfield," Kate says.

Quick learner

"Vincent settled almost immediately and his life was transformed after he started. I particularly like the communication book they send home because there is always something positive in there about what he has been doing. He responds well to Torfield's reward system and has learnt that he can save up his smiley face rewards to get a bigger prize.

Patient staff

"The care they get from every member of staff is remarkable. Once he refused to get in his taxi and when I phoned the school the headteacher offered to come and collect him. Eventually he let me drive him there but wouldn't get out of the car when we arrived. The headteacher came and sat in the car with him and eventually he allowed her to take him into the school. It shows how much they think about the children that she offered to collect him herself.

Excellent facilities

"My father used to be a special needs teacher and he is very impressed with Torfield and thinks it completely outshines the school he taught at. Vincent enjoys all the facilities and activities. He enjoys swimming in the school pool and being taken on outings. At his last school he was never allowed on outings because they couldn't manage him, which was really sad for him," Kate says.

Great support

"The staff give me wonderful support when I have problems and teach me coping mechanisms which is very helpful. They are teaching Vincent to manage his own feelings and to let other people know how he is feeling. Thanks to the staff at Torfield he is now at last fulfilling his potential."



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