



# Jack is now happy at school and catching up with his learning in the nurturing environment of Rise Together

Samantha lives in Hull with her sons, Alfie, aged 15, Jack, aged 13, Charlie, aged 10, and Tommy, aged nine. Jack moved from a mainstream primary school when he was in Year Five to join Rise Together, where children's social, emotional, and mental health are supported in a caring environment by highly trained staff.

## Dedicated site

Samantha is delighted with how well Jack is doing in his small class at Rise Together. She says: "Jack enjoys school now because it is not all about academic work, but involves other important things as well. He is now a lot calmer when he comes home from school, having benefited from being taught with just a few other children by staff who know how to cater for children with additional needs."



## Calm environment

Samantha says by the time Jack was in Year Five it had become clear that his mainstream primary school could not meet his needs. "He was classed by the school as 'a naughty child' but really, he had complex, undiagnosed issues. An outreach worker recommended Rise Together to me and after he started there, Jack became much calmer straight away. He stopped throwing things about and shouting once he was in his new environment."

## Needs identified

"The staff at the school did not see Jack as a problem and seemed to just know what he needed. They arranged for him to have assessments and he has now been diagnosed with both autism and Tourette syndromes and has an EHCP in place. They have identified that Jack has a learning disability and estimated that when he started at Rise Together, he was about five years behind where he should have been," Samantha says.

## Maths success

Jack now has his own bespoke timetable and Samantha is confident that he is getting the right help at Rise Together. "Maths is his strongest subject and the teachers have told me he has a good brain for the subject, but he is catching up in all his other subjects too. Jack now has a close friend at school, the first time he has ever made friends with anyone. The big difference for me now is that he always wants to go to school. It is a huge relief to see the improvement in Jack because two of my other children also have additional needs," she says.

## Kind staff

Samantha believes Jack is now making progress because there are only four children in the class and they have two teachers to help them. "I am pleased that Jack has a brilliant relationship with both of his teachers and that there is also another member of the staff who he feels confident that he can go to if he has a problem. He would never have gone to a member of staff at his old school to ask for help. The staff understand that Jack cannot sit on a chair for long and they do not mind, provided he gets his work finished," Samantha says.

## Farm visits

"As part of the curriculum, they regularly take him to a farm where he benefits from being with the animals

and he also likes going swimming with the school. The staff are very good at keeping me informed about how he is getting on and ring me practically every evening to tell me about his progress. They also tell me if there is anything specific I need to know about. Jack travels to and from school in a taxi and, if he has had a bad day at school, they will ring me and let me know what happened and how they dealt with it, so that I am prepared for when he arrives home. The teachers have all been fantastic with me."

## Children say

**Jack says:** "I love being taken to the farm and going swimming."



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