



Aisha, age nine lives with her family and attends Kennel Lane School.

Kennel Lane provides Aisha with a happy and stimulating environment

Moving from mainstream

Aisha initially went to mainstream primary school, and her mum admits that it took time for her to come to terms with the fact that her daughter would fare better at a special needs school.

“Aisha has learning difficulties, plus physical, mental and emotional delays,” explains mum.

“However, she is a very happy child and I hoped that she would do well at the local primary school, which her sisters attended. The school was very helpful and supportive, but she was still in nappies until she was about eight years old and I realised that this could have a huge impact on her emotional wellbeing. I came to terms with the fact that Aisha needed a school with smaller class sizes that could meet her needs better and realised that Kennel Lane was the right school for her.”

Individual care

Outstanding levels of care and safety are primary concerns for Aisha's mum.

"I am very happy with the care that Aisha receives in school and the safety measures in place," she says. "The teachers are very considerate about focusing on the needs of every child and won't simply put all the children 'in the same box'. Children are treated as individuals and their personal plans are adapted just for them."

Specialist facilities

Aisha's mum is a child social worker and regularly visits other schools, but is delighted with the facilities at Kennel Lane.

"In terms of stimulating the kids, the facilities are very good," she says. "I visit lots of schools in other areas due to my work, and am impressed with Kennel Lane, with its sensory room, and swimming pool, forest school and many other facilities. It's excellent."

Keeping in touch

The school works hard to communicate effectively with parents.

"Communication is good, and I get a lot of important information by email or text. Aisha also has a home school diary, so I always know what is happening. The school also offers additional behaviour support if this is needed, and information on topics such as what to expect around puberty and throughout your child's adolescence. The staff are very easy to talk to and the Headteacher makes sure that parents' voices are heard."

Happy times

Aisha's mum is delighted with her progress at Kennel Lane, and her obvious happiness at being there.

"Aisha didn't speak much until she was about five, but her communication is coming on now," she says. "It's lovely that she can now put little phrases together, and is more communicative. She has also made some lovely friends and talks about them all the time."

Out and about

Aisha enjoys many activities, particularly trips out and fun sports days.

"The school does so much with the children," says mum. "For example they take the children to the pantomime, and trips to the park, and they can enjoy sporting activities, but everything is centered on the needs of the child. At Kennel Lane it's all about taking part, rather than being competitive. There is a lovely atmosphere."

Take a look

Aisha's mum advises interested parents to visit the school to see for themselves how good it is.

"I really can't praise the school enough and highly recommend it," she says. "Wherever Aisha goes the staff all know her, and she knows them. If you want your child to be happy, this is the right place to be. Go and have a look around, and meet the staff. The children are all so lovely to each other, which is great to see!"



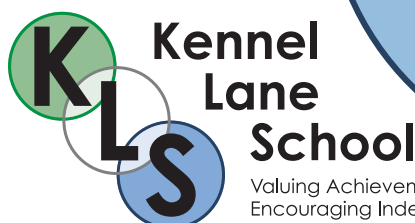
Kennel Lane School
Kennel Lane
Bracknell
Berkshire
RG42 2EX

Email: secretary@kennellaneschool.com

Website: www.kennellaneschool.com

Tel: 01344 483872

Fax: 01344 304224



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