

Rose Hemmings lives in Bracknell with son Cameron age 17.

Cameron has grown from a child to young man at Kennel Lane, and is developing independence

Primary concerns

Cameron has attended Kennel Lane since he was four years old, and was diagnosed with ASD.

“The school has been fantastic,” says Rose. “When Cameron first started everything was new to him, which wasn’t easy, but he soon settled and now, when I ask him if he likes Kennel Lane he always says he does and seems really happy.”

Challenging times

Kennel Lane has helped Cameron to deal with challenging behaviours.

“When Cameron turned 11 his behaviour became challenging and unpredictable,” recalls Rose. “However the teachers were very good with him. They know him so well and can tell what triggers him and have developed a strategy for dealing with him. The strategy is something that I work on at home, so we try and work together.”

Safe room

Cameron is learning to visit a safe room when he feels particularly stressed.

“When Cameron was small you could just lift him up, but as he grew bigger and stronger this became more difficult,” says Rose. “At school he has access to a safe room, and knows that he can go there if he feels that he can’t control himself.”

“Cameron is very sensitive to sound, but the staff try and keep everything calm and if he gets too upset they remove him to a safe room. The kids are really valued, it’s lovely.”

Peace and quiet

Kennel Lane has excellent facilities, and children can always find a quiet haven if they want to.

“There is quite a big outdoor area for the children, so they can always go and find a quiet space if they need to. It’s also a very secure and safe environment, so you know the children won’t get out.”

Moving on

The school helps to prepare children for life beyond Kennel Lane.

“Cameron has just turned 17 and the school has given me lots of information about colleges, etc,” says Rose. “They also hold coffee mornings and some college staff come to meet the children and parents and do their best to prepare them for the transition when they eventually leave Kennel Lane.”



Gaining independence

Cameron’s is gradually developing life skills and being introduced to the community.

“Cameron’s communication skills are very poor and he will only communicate with adults that he has known for a long, long time. However, he likes computers, and art and enjoys watching plays that the school puts on. He recently went on a visit to the local mosque. He is also learning life skills such as cooking, and how to make tea and the staff try and make him as independent as possible.”

Family support

Rose is grateful for all the support she receives from the school.

“The school has helped me so much,” she explains. “I often have to complete lots of paperwork, and the school has really helped me with this. Cameron will never be able to cope out in the community on his own, and the school is helping me to get the support he needs. I’m really grateful for this.”

Dedicated staff

Rose recommends the school and the dedicated staff.

“The staff are all very experienced and dedicated and know the kids really well, which is so important,” she says. “Everyone knows everyone by name, and knows what their little quirks are and their likes and dislikes. It’s just lovely to see. They talk to the kids calmly and at their level, as they know that stress and change can trigger them. Kennel Lane does everything possible to help them.”



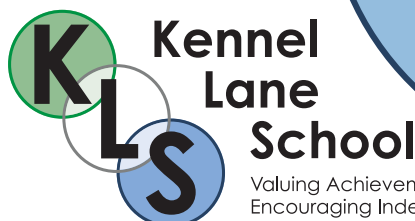
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Valuing Achievement
Encouraging Independence