



Kirsty and Michael Jones live in Bracknell with Laura Rose (16) and Hope (12).

Kennel Lane has been the perfect school for Laura to grow up, says Kirsty

Personal care

Laura has been at Kennel Lane School since she was three years old and Kirsty says that she never wants to leave.

“Laura, has verbal dyspraxia, and has been at Kennel Lane ever since she was three years old,” explains Kirsty. “It is such a friendly school and the teachers go out of their way for the children. For example, she was recently diagnosed with epilepsy and the teachers have contacted me in their own time to see how she is. They really care about the children and Laura says she never wants to go to another school.”

Special needs facilities

Having so many facilities on site is extremely convenient for families.

“As well as a heated swimming pool there is also a small splash pool where they sometimes do aromatherapy,” says Kirsty. “There is a fantastic sensory room and great outdoor facilities and play equipment. In senior school the kids have access to a kitchen where they learn to make drinks and serve people etc. Kennel Lane has all the facilities of a mainstream school, with additional facilities for children with special needs such as a physiotherapy unit, and a doctor’s office for the visiting paediatrician.”

Growing independence

The children are encouraged to participate in enrichment activities to help them develop independence.

“Laura recently visited a synagogue as part of her RE course, and really enjoyed that,” says Kirsty. “Last year she did her Duke of Edinburgh award and went on a two day camping trip. She has been also on the school council and enjoys learning life skills such as shopping. The school aims to make them as independent as possible.”

Coping with challenges

A traumatic event affected the entire family, but the school helped Laura to cope.

“About ten years ago, a week before Laura was due to go back to school in September, we were in a horrific car crash,” recalls Kirsty. “The school really helped us to deal with that and kept a very close eye on Laura. Last year she was diagnosed with depression and the school was brilliant, always telling me if she had a bad day. They have now found someone she can talk to, which has really helped.”

Four legged friends

Teachers at Kennel Lane have found a unique way to help communicate with the children – by bringing in their dogs!

“The staff sometimes bring their dogs into school, which the kids love,” says Kirsty. “The teachers’ dogs are like mascots and on one Friday afternoon the kids did a sponsored dog walk for Children in Need, taking it in turns to walk them. The Headteacher and all the staff are very friendly and helpful. They love their jobs.”

Family involvement

Kirsty is happy to recommend the school, which she says is not just for children, but the whole family.

“I really recommend Kennel Lane,” she says. “The staff do so much for the children, but they help the whole family too. If you want to get involved there are many opportunities. You can join the PTA or volunteer to help listen to children read. A couple of years ago I helped with swimming lessons, which was very rewarding. Come and visit Kennel Lane and see for yourselves how fantastic it is!”

Laura says:

“The school is different from other schools as we call the teacher by their first names not by surnames. The teachers are helpful and they will make you happy. It is a very small, friendly school that I love.”



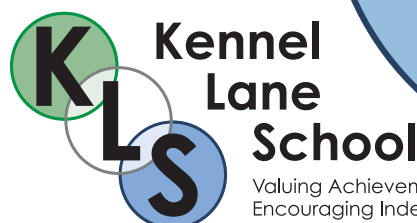
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Valuing Achievement
Encouraging Independence