



**Annemarie Stevens
lives in Sandhurst
with Carl age 12.**

For the first time in his life Carl is happy to be at school, says Annemarie

From tears to joy

Carl did not have a happy start to his secondary education but Kennel Lane has changed all that.

“Carl has autism, ADHD and some sensory processing difficulties, and originally went to mainstream secondary school, but didn’t transition well and only lasted until 3rd October,” recalls Annemarie. “He was so unhappy that he had five months off school. During that time we managed to secure him a place at Kennel Lane and he started in March 2015.”

Perfect placement

To Annemarie's delight, Carl settled at Kennel Lane very quickly.

"For the first time ever, Carl is extremely happy and settled at school," she says. "It is brilliant, there is no longer any fighting about going or doing homework, he totally enjoys it and has done since day one."

"He saw a friend he knew when we visited, and realised how small the class sizes were and that everyone was so helpful and understanding and he just felt completely and utterly comfortable there. It is such a relief! He recently fractured his collar bone and was upset that he couldn't go, which was amazing!"

Warm welcome

The atmosphere at Kennel Lane is warm and inviting.

"The school is a very welcoming place to be," confirms Annemarie. "Everyone is friendly, and there are happy, smiley faces everywhere. When I visited I could see that the children were all engaged in what the teachers were saying, which was brilliant."

Bright and cheerful

The classrooms and specialist facilities at Kennel Lane cater for children with many different conditions.

"There are time out rooms if needed, and a lovely swimming pool," says Annemarie. "I also like the fact that the layout of the school is on ground floor level. Carl doesn't like stairs, so for him this is lovely. There is a new sensory garden and lots of outdoor space. The classrooms are cheerful and bright, with pictures and charts on the walls. It's great!"

First names

Children are encouraged to call staff by their first names.

"The staff are lovely and friendly," says Annemarie. "It's much more warm and welcoming than mainstream school and the children call staff by their first names. Communication is great and I like the fact that the children have a home-school diary."



Keeping calm

In a very short time Carl has made great progress.

"Carl is now keen, confident, and his learning is coming along brilliantly," says Annemarie. "A lot of this is due to the communication skills of the staff and how they relay information to the children. It's made Carl much calmer and less frustrated. I was very happy when Carl was chosen to go on a trip to a sheep farm, and he rode on a tractor. He absolutely loved it and it was great that he felt comfortable and confident enough to do that."

Highly recommended

Annemarie doesn't hesitate to recommend Kennel Lane.

"Kennel Lane is a lovely school," she says. "If your child is struggling at mainstream school like Carl was it really is worth fighting to try and get a place. Carl went downhill severely and very quickly at mainstream school, and was diagnosed with anxiety and depression. Now he just couldn't be happier."

What Carl says:

"I like PE and science with Steph because it is fun.

My favourite person at school is Carol who is a teaching assistant. I love to go to school! Mum and I often have a race to get ready first and I normally win!"



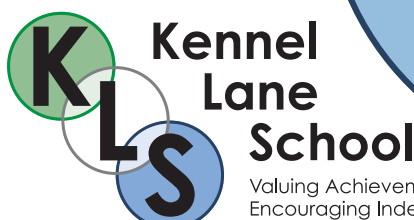
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