

Letter from a current Clarity parent to a prospective parent thinking about coming to Clarity Independent School

28.2.23

Dear whom it may concern,

I write in relation to my daughter [child]'s current school, Clarity Independent School.

I spent some time, fighting to get [child] into this school, and ended up at a tribunal. [child] began her education in a mainstream school, alongside her siblings. [child] started reception with an EHCP and 1:1 already in place, again due to fighting for this as she was selectively mute and severely anxious. [child] already had a diagnosis of Autism and Reflex Anoxic Seizures. School placement simply had to be perfect for me to feel remotely happy to allow her to leave me everyday, her safe place. This school was just that in the beginning however, once [child] reached year 2, she had simply outgrown it. The staff were fantastic and did all they possibly could at my request to make things easier for her, however, her mental state from 'masking' just took over and she could not cope. She was having very dark thoughts every single day after school due to holding in her emotions, trying to fit in every day. She became a shell of herself and was extremely anxious every single day, not saying a word to anyone. One Friday evening, I made the decision not to send her back.

I intended to home school at this point as I did not believe there were any suitable provisions out there. However, [child]'s current school were keen for her return and decided to keep her on the school roll. I made it clear this would not be the case. I made contact with SENDIASS who were extremely helpful and I was later recommended a school, Clarity Independent School who had just opened in Chelmsford, with a provision for 12 children. I made contact and viewed the school and instantly knew this was exactly the school [child] needed. It was a school I never thought would exist. The Local Authority refused to place her there based on financial reasons and as such, I went to tribunal. Clarity assisted in this tribunal and offered the Local Authority a free term trial, to prove this was the right place for [child]. This was agreed and after seeing the incredible progress she made, the Local Authority accepted that this was the perfect placement for [child].

Since this time, [child] has exceeded even Clarity's expectations and targets. [child] freely speaks, attends every day and partakes in all activities offered. She has recently enjoyed archery and high ropes as part of a standard week. She enjoys baking and also enjoys her core lessons. The progress is simply outstanding. [child] is well liked amongst her peers and shows her true side at school, something she hid for years elsewhere. Clarity have a nurturing approach and understand that children with such profiles, are prone to meltdowns and struggles due to overload. This is not seen as 'bad behaviour'. There is a whole team of therapist involved and on hand as a standard offer, and advice is on hand at all times.

[child] is much happier, confident and has gained academic skills and a group of true friends who understand her. She is in a small nurturing setting who 'get it' and the support offered to us as parents is unmatched. I absolutely recommend this school and would never send my child anywhere else.

Kindest regards

Mum of daughter aged 12 years.