



Pontville
School

Archie's story

Archie arrived at Pontville School with a diagnosis of ASD which contributed to him finding social communication, social interaction and flexibility of thought challenging. His paperwork also highlighted that he experienced some sensory hypersensitivities, a lack of awareness of danger and found articulating his frustrations or dealing with mistakes testing.

Archie was highly anxious and angry, often displaying challenging behaviours including refusing to engage with learning, highly defiant behaviour and a lack of interest in developing and sustaining friendships. All these behaviours were impacting on Archie's academic, social and emotional progress and something needed to change.

"Archie now engages in all lessons and is making strong academic progress in all areas. The frustrated young boy is no more and in his place we have a confident and aspiring pupil."

Developing a toolbox of support

Archie underwent an assessment from the school's Occupational Therapy Team and it was highlighted that he found auditory and movement processing difficult. The assessment also identified that Archie was in a hyper vigilant state, which was evident in his behaviour and his ability to deal with situations.

Based on Archie's needs, his Occupational Therapist put into place a sensory diet that aimed to provide him with sensory input to contribute with his overall regulation throughout the day. In addition, classroom staff received tailored training to learn techniques that could be carried out throughout the school day to assist with Archie's overall regulation levels.

Archie himself also completed work around self-awareness and recognised what worked for him during a crisis. His toolbox of support was developed with sensory support and he identified deep pressure techniques and therapy putty as ways to help him stay calm. Archie started to recognise when he needed these and became independent in asking for them.

Progress

Archie has now made great strides in progress. He thoroughly enjoys life at Pontville and has also developed friendship groups which have helped him to develop his self-esteem, confidence and a sense of belonging. Archie now engages in all lessons and is making strong academic progress in all areas.

The frustrated young boy is no more and in his place we have a confident and aspiring pupil who has shown that with the right level of support and care, impossible is nothing.



www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/pontville-school



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Meet Archie

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