

Parents' House:

Acorn Park has a parents' house where parents can arrange to come and stay.

"I spend the whole weekend here and it's absolutely wonderful. I get away from London, I relax in this beautiful rural setting and I get time to spend with my daughter - what could be better."

Susan Taylor, Jordan's Mum.



Watch the Film

To watch Jordan's Mum talk about the highs and lows of moving her daughter to a residential setting go to youtube and search for:

Acorn Park: Jordan's Story!



Get in Touch

If you would like to know more about Acorn Park, please contact our Admissions & Parent Liaison Officer Sue Jack

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"I'm just so grateful that Acorn Park exists and that I found it, because Jordan is so happy here."

JORDAN'S MUM

"They put the children first. They keep the children safe and happy, and keep them moving forwards. You can't ask for better than that."

"The staff are lovely. They are absolutely marvellous and so dedicated with the kids."

"I'm kept in the loop constantly. I never feel she's not my child or that somebody's taken her away from me. She is still my child: very much so."

We should like to express our thanks to Jordan's family for sharing their experiences to help other parents find the right placement.



Jordan's Story

Jordan was diagnosed with autism when she was two years old. The confirmation, from a paediatrician at St Mary's Hospital in London, was everything her mother had been expecting. But like all parents, the diagnosis left the family feeling helpless.

"You don't know where to start and you just don't know which way to turn," admits Jordan's Mum.

"I tried to do what a lot of parents do: I put Jordan into a mainstream nursery.

I'm glad I did, but although she had one to one support, when I saw her trying to cope with a huge group of children, and them trying to cope with her, I realised very quickly that it wasn't going to work.

I reached a stage, when Jordan was about ten years old that, as much as I hated the thought, I knew I had to start looking at residential schools. I had spoken to her teachers, her psychiatrist and her social workers and we all knew it was time for Jordan to move on to residential.

I vividly remember the day I first came to Acorn Park because it was in the middle of a snowstorm in February! We did a tour around the school and I was very happy with the small classes and the ratio of staff to children.

I had looked at another school in Surrey, much closer to home, but ultimately I knew Acorn Park was the best environment for Jordan. You have got to think of everybody and try to think what is best for everyone.

The hardest thing I've ever done in my whole life was to walk away and leave her behind: now looking back, it was the best thing I could have done for her. She's so happy and she's confident and she's turned into a lovely young lady.

Jordan has benefited massively from having a peaceful place to stay. Noise can drive her crazy because she gets sensory overload. It gets too much for her at times. Here there isn't all the racket of the city [the family lives in the London borough of Kensington & Chelsea].

She has full-time attention here and with all her activities, I sometimes think she has a better social life than me! She goes horse riding, swimming, to movies, to restaurants, and shopping. She has a great time and she loves it.

They put the children first. They keep the children safe and happy, and keep them moving forwards. You can't ask for better than that.

The staff are lovely. They are absolutely marvellous and so dedicated. They've always been very open. I'm kept in the loop constantly with anything that happens so I never feel she's not my child or that somebody's taken her away from me. She is still my child: very much so. I still have a say.

Acorn Park has done us ALL the world of good. It's given everybody breathing space. When Jordan comes home she tends to be calmer.

I know that she's happy. I'm just so grateful that Acorn Park exists and that I found it because Jordan is so happy here."



Progress Report

"Jordan is a pupil in our Grandin building, where we concentrate on teaching relevant adult life skills. Our focus for pupils like Jordan is about communication: how a pupil like Jordan, without speech and language skills can communicate with us and with people in the wider community. Since she has been at Acorn Park Jordan has made great progress with PECS and her confidence is improving constantly. She has blossomed."

Jennifer Gill, Headteacher

	Prior to Acorn Park	April 2015
Communication	Jordan was using gestures and pointing.	Jordan has developed considerable communication skills by using PECS. At times, she is able to ask for items with no prompting from staff. Her speech, through her use of PECS, has also improved. Her confidence has grown in all aspects of communication.
Regulation	Jordan would become frustrated when her needs and wants could not be understood.	Jordan is now well regulated and is able to request regulating activities when she needs a break from class. Her anxiety levels have decreased considerably. She will access the sensory room and enjoys sitting quietly on the heated areas watching everything going on around her.
Education	Data not available.	Jordan enjoys many school activities, is confident with staff members and is able to apply herself in lessons. She is able to write her name.
Out of School Activities	Data not available.	Jordan is enjoying numerous activities, including horse riding, & handling small animals including guinea pigs and rabbits. Her confidence on activities has grown. She enjoys trips to the beach, the local forest, going bowling, going to restaurants and going shopping.

"Jordan lives in Lower Woodlands where there is always a happy and homely feel. It's an all girls area, all recently refurbished and has its own kitchen, dining area, living room and laundry. Jordan interacts very well with her peer group. She particularly enjoys the 'girl's theme night', such as having her nails painted, a foot spa or watching a movie. It's lovely to watch Jordan come home from school and go out to play on the trampolines, or help tend to the flowers in the garden. Jordan came to us with lots of challenges and we've worked through those challenges successfully with her. Jordan chose the Hello Kitty pink mural on her bedroom wall, which is bright and cheerful, and we continually look for ways to help her progress with her communication."

Melissa Mathews, Registered Manager

The Onsite Multi Disciplinary Therapy Team at Acorn Park uses an individual range of strategies with each pupil

Jordan has accessed



Speech Therapy



Nurses on site



Occupational Therapy



Psychiatrist



Psychotherapy



Foot Health Practitioner



Music Therapy



Physiotherapist



Psychology



Activity Coordinator



Nutritionist

"Jordan enjoys a wide and varied range of activities on and off site. She has developed excellent coping strategies if the environment is too noisy for her. Jordan loves the sensory rooms at Acorn Park and visits them on most days. In her speech therapy, she has been a pleasure to work with, increasingly showing her interest and enjoyment. She is working well and is able to initiate communication with people around her.

In her occupational therapy she has been exposed to different sensory based activities and has responded very well. Jordan has a sensory diet which she accesses throughout the day with staff support. She participates actively in music lessons and activities. Changes to her medication - in dose and timings - have had a positive impact, and she now happily attends medical check ups with the on site nurses, having overcome a dislike of blood pressure checks."

Scot Greathead, Deputy Principal