



Longdon Park  
School

# Gage

## Meet Gage

“Before coming to Longdon Park, Gage was in school for just 12 hours a week,” explains Joanie Piper, the 10-year-old’s mum. “Even then he wasn’t in the classroom, he was separated from the class and it reflected on Gage. He was so angry.”

Gage was registered into a regular primary school when he turned four, but his mum describes those first few years as a rollercoaster that saw Gage become progressively unhappy and aggressive.

Within a noisy hectic class of thirty, the little boy, who was diagnosed with autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and sensory issues, struggled to cope and was eventually excluded. It was by chance that Joanie found out about Longdon Park. Gage was one of the first pupils to enroll when the school opened in 2015 and Joanie hasn’t looked back.

“For children with autism their brains just work differently and what I love about Longdon Park is that it’s all about the kids. It’s been two years since Gage started here and he is a completely different child. Longdon Park has done wonders for him.”

With classes of just six or less pupils, Gage can concentrate and get the personal support and encouragement he needs. Prior to starting at Longdon Park, Gage used to struggle in social environments, but through the school’s life skills sessions, he has learnt to cope with his anxiety and has even made friends.

“His key worker calls me every day and if I mention something we’re struggling with at home, they give me tips on how to cope,” says Joanie. “He can talk about what’s upsetting him and if he struggles the teachers are on it.”

Gage now has a bright future to look forward to. He is a wonderful asset to the school family and because he can stay with us until he is 18 years old, his family don’t have to worry about any more unsettling transitions for Gage. At Longdon Park he can keep going from strength to strength.

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