



Longdon Park  
School

# Konna

## Meet Konna

When you meet 15-year-old Konna, you get sense that this capable young man is an integral member of the community here at Longdon Park. As part of the school band Konna performs at school open days and is even helping to write the Longdon Park school song. However, Konna's previous educational experiences haven't all been this positive.

"This is the seventh school that Konna has been to. His education had been so disjointed and unsettled. He's had a horrible time until now," explains Lynn Dorman, Konna's mum. Konna was diagnosed with autism, obsessive compulsive disorder and severe anxiety when he was just seven years old. Since then his family have struggled to find a school where he has been happy and able to learn

As a very capable young man, Konna's needs were often dismissed within mainstream schools. "People thought he was just anxious and that it was all an act," continues Lynn.

"He would then lash out and I often used to get phone calls from the school to say that he had been physically restrained. It put so much pressure on us as a family."

What impressed Lynn most about Longdon Park, was the fact that the school has a completely different approach to working with children who have been diagnosed with autism. "They really connect with the children and find strategies of working with them. Konna is massively into his music, so that's how they work with him," explains Lynn.

To see Konna not only in fulltime education, but engaged in learning and studying for a BTEC in music is an incredible achievement. "He's now settled, he's happy and he wants to go so school. The school support him in everything and when they make promises, they act on them," says Lynn. "I don't think there's a better school in Derbyshire."

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