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LEGS and Additional SEN - Everyone can achieve!

Describe your experience of going through the tribunal process in order to secure placement at Mary Hare.

It was very hard work to fight for our son's placement and working on Danny's case for two years before he could join the school in Year 9. Danny should have started in Year 7 but the Local Authority refused to place Danny there. Once Ofsted gave a rating of 'Good', we decided to go through the Tribunal process to secure placement. We also gave lots of evidence about Danny's social, emotional and school life.

What support did you receive from professionals and the school?

We had lots of evidence and support from the Speech and Language department at Mary Hare and North Tyneside Head of Hearing Impairment Service. We also had help from an NDCS Tribunal Advisor, teachers and the Vice Principal at Mary Hare. The British Deaf Association also gave us advice. Before the tribunal, we visited lots of other schools, making notes of the pros and cons of each school.

What was the outcome of the tribunal and how did you feel?

There was a very positive outcome when we won the tribunal. We were delighted that Danny could go to Mary Hare. We knew it was the best match for his needs and we had wanted Mary Hare for a long time.

KEY FACTS

Name: Danny

- Year group 9
- Started Mary Hare in Year 9
- Severe bilateral hearing loss
- BSL - First language
- Hearing aid user

What changes have you noticed in your son since starting at Mary Hare?

Danny's speech has improved and he has more confidence. He has made lots of deaf friends of his own age. His target levels have improved and the pace of the lessons is much better. He has a good social life and is learning lots of life skills to become more independent.

What advice would you give to other families going through a similar experience?

We would advise other families to pursue Mary Hare if that is the school they want. We have set up a Facebook page for parents to share our experience and give some advice.

Campaign your Local Authority for the school you want. The NDCS will also help families if they have to go to tribunal.

Securing the future of deaf children and young people