

Never look down on anybody unless you are helping him up. Jesse Jackson



Barley Lane School

Hard work, humility, kindness

Proud to be a part of the and in partnership with



Good things others say about us...

“I saw some top quality teaching and some young people who were highly engaged in learning. You have some really good teachers and a very strong, supportive senior management team. This is all a tremendous credit to you, the work and hours you have put in over a number of years really has borne fruit in my opinion.”

Visiting Headteacher and Ofsted inspector 12.05.15

I can say categorically that Barley lane works cooperatively and is immensely supportive with me in helping the child I have been working with so that would be a very strong 1 (strongly agree).

I would also like to say that Michael and his team have been invaluable to me and my team in working with the young person and the contribution they made was exceptional and way beyond the call of duty; for that I am very grateful.

It appears now that the child is moving rapidly in the right direction and I have been able to confidently pass on his case to a colleague in the long term child in care team. It is hard to imagine this being the case without the contribution of Barley Lane and the great team of staff within it.”

Student’s social worker 12.12.15

“Good practice was observed in all classes. Different strategies to promote positive relationships, improve teaching and learning, organise the classroom and manage pupils’ behaviour were employed.”

Report of visiting educational psychologist 18.03.15

“The extraordinary willingness to be creative in achieving what the child needs and going the extra mile on many levels, at many times and in many different ways.”

Student’s social worker 08.06.15

“The respect that the staff had for the pupils: So many times during my visit I heard the staff telling the boys that they could achieve just as well as anyone. This worked particularly well when real life examples were given, e.g. boys achieving college places or the number of questions they could already answer on a GCSE paper.”

Master’s student on placement 10.03.15

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"Expectations are clear and up held- hands up, no calling out, tables down, no swinging on chairs, no gum, no swearing, no rude/personal comments...They are clearly the one in charge!"

Visiting newly qualified teacher 23.01.15

"My kid brother was at Barley Lane, and you guys did so much for him: our family love you!" He is really bright: he used to really hate that, until he went to Barley Lane; now he's really happy with it."

Students older brother bumped into staff and students on school trip 12.02.15

"I have recently placed a young person into Local Authority care. Simon supported me and especially the young person by accompanying me to the foster care placement with the young person on the day of placement. Having Simon there placed the young person more at ease, this helped reassure the young person that the people who know and care about him are there for him. "

Student's social worker 02.03.15

"I have always found staff at Barley Lane to be accommodating and respectful in terms of me visiting the young person I support, this has helped me carry out my work effectively. During a difficult period between myself and a parent, Barley Lane were able to offer support to both of us to find a way forward in the best interests of the child. This is a testament to how staff at Barley Lane go above and beyond! "

Student's social worker 19.06.15

"I know that there is a strong emphasis on equality and the recognition of diversity across the school and have never felt or experienced any prejudice from staff. I have often witnessed staff challenging some of the stereotypical attitudes and discriminatory comments from pupils and believe that these challenges take place as a result of the school's ethos and culture."

School's career advisor feedback 2015

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“I always feel valued by the school. I am made to feel very welcome by all staff...I always get the sense that the school respects everyone and would not tolerate any discrimination.”

School Nurse feedback 2015

“Thank you very much for having us yesterday! My team told me that your children were great fun and I quote: "attentive and interactive in all the best ways". Please do pass on our praise and thanks to the children.”

English Touring Opera 30.04.15

“Such a turnaround – nice he wants to come to school...hasn't said that for a very long time...very happy when he arrives home from school”

Parent and Carer feedback 2015

“His teacher is amazing, fantastic...communication from her really good and valued...I feel connected”

Parent and Carer feedback 2015

In response to the question “My child is learning and developing as a person” (20 parents and carers responded) 100% agreed strongly or agreed with a large majority 15/20 agreeing strongly.

Parent and Carer feedback 2015

“Staff model appropriate behaviour exceptionally well and deal with disruptive behaviour very calmly. As a result, pupils make good progress in telling right from wrong and managing their own behaviour.”

Ofsted 2013

“Dear Mike,

I just wanted to pass on part of a conversation that took place in the car on the way to outdoor education yesterday. The lads were talking about how they all came to leave their previous schools and how they had then had periods of time out of education. When I asked them how they felt about being at Barley Lane they all had very positive attitudes to the school and to the staff. They realised that they would find it very difficult in any other educational establishment and that BLS was working hard for them. Hope this help; it certainly made me feel proud of them and the work we do.”

Teacher feedback on student comments 07.01.16

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“At least 3 boys over the last few years have come out as gay or bisexual in school, in a climate of all boys this is a very brave thing and I think we have helped these boys to be able to do so, and showed other boys that it is quite okay. All staff are quick to challenge homophobia - and boys will come and tell me if they have heard a homophobic comment, or if they have witnessed one challenged by staff.”

Senior teacher

“This is a fun school...This is the first school where I have not been bullied”

Student 15.01.16

Dear Mike,

Further to our visit this morning, Alison and I just wanted to highlight the obvious skill level which we observed amongst your staff. This has led us to consider re thinking the package of support which we previously discussed so that it can result in you receiving the Devon Inclusion Award.

Devon Specialist ASD team

Dear staff at school,

I just wanted to say thank you for the support you give to my son each day. The improvement I have seen is remarkable. His quality of life has improved massively. His progress and development has moved quickly since attending the school and it has changed the lives of our entire family. I wanted to thank you all. The job you do is difficult and challenging but no doubt rewarding too. Once again, many thanks.

New parent 03.03.16

Hi Mike,

I've reflected on yesterday too.....really pleased it was of value and support to you Mike. Also wanted to say how much I gained from it, so it really isn't a one-way street. I've found myself today waxing lyrical to colleagues about the amazing pupils, atmosphere and ethos - 3 of my current staff have worked at BL, so can completely identify with it. The place is transformed from when I was last there.... And that's testament to incredible skill and dedication.

It was an absolute pleasure to meet pupils and staff.

Visiting headteacher 02.03.16