



Dear Applicant

Thank you for your interest in Bright Futures School. Together with my late husband, I set up the school in 2010, because our local authority was unable to meet the needs of our autistic son. We had found an approach that made a real difference to our ability to understand and communicate with our son and which significantly improved his social reciprocity and our family quality of life. The approach was called Relationship Development Intervention (RDI). RDI is one of a handful of social communication interventions which meets all the criteria outlined in NICE guidelines CG170 for approaches that use the adult (usually, parent)/child relationship to work on the difficulties at the heart of autism.

We considered these core autism difficulties to be the greatest obstacle to our son's ability to engage in learning and more widely, in life. Our vision therefore was to set up a school that embedded this approach within its curriculum.

Since then, children with autism have attended the school and we currently have 15 pupils on roll with a waiting list stretching into 2026. We have broken new ground in securing RDI 'home and school programmes' for some of our families via their child's EHC plan: working closely with an external RDI Consultant, these parents are taking the lead in changing their communication and interaction style to help their child/ren master the milestones that they missed when autism got in the way. Our staff at school support this work by mirroring what parents are doing in specific sessions in school.

Now, with our current Head of Learning retiring at Christmas, we are looking for someone who can build on the excellent foundations already in place and who has the emotional intelligence and courage to lead the school with vision, passion, curiosity and resilience.

Not many jobs come along that offer a real opportunity to change and improve lives, but this really does. Don't take my word for it...

#### Quote from CW's Mum

'I honestly can not express how happy we are at how quick C has settled into the school. He skips to the bus in the morning and has really come out of his shell. Thank you all so much for everything you are doing for C.'

#### Quote from OF's Mum

'Thank you for all your help with O. He has made monumental changes since being under your care and we cannot thank you enough.'

Quote from HG's Mum

'Just wanted to let you know if you could possibly share with the staff, that H's IT tutor at College has just phoned with an update, to say how proud he is of H, and how well he is doing, he said he wouldn't know that H had special needs, as he's engaging, working brilliantly, enthusiastic, mixing well with the others, making friends in his class, and how he's laid back and entertaining, 😊😊

He's engaging well with his maths and English on line/ and zoom IT classes: no prompting needed, and he's even finding his way to the pick up point independently now for his taxi!

Anyway, I just wanted to say a huge thankyou again to all at BFS for making this all possible for him... I never imagined I'd see the day!

.....

If you think you can take Bright Futures School forward, working closely with me and the small but dedicated staff team, I'd love to hear from you. I'd like to welcome you to the school for an informal visit - just email me at [info@brightfuturesautism.com](mailto:info@brightfuturesautism.com) to make arrangements - and I look forward to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely

Zoe Thompson  
Head of Development and Proprietor, Bright Futures School