

X arrived at the school in May of 2017 at the age of .nine. In his review paperwork, he was described as having behaviour that had ‘deteriorated to the point where his peers were frightened of him – he had recently attacked peers with a branch of a tree’, and was unable to enter any classroom and needed on going out of classroom activities. After a slow transition through the Nurture Unit, he transitioned into one to the primary classes and his history is as follows:

### X’s Story

I joined the secondary department of Sheridan School in 2019 and I was finding my time at school difficult. I often found it difficult to engage in my learning and I would sometimes get angry and find it hard to control my behaviour. Staff would often have to help me with my behaviour by physically supporting me.

When I first joined my new class in secondary, I found it difficult to adjust to some of the changes and make new friends. I had a part time transition timetable to allow me to settle into the secondary department in a way that I felt comfortable. After a few weeks, I was able to build some good relationships with my teachers and teaching assistants and was coming to school every day on a full time basis. I have made some good friends in my class and we really like playing outside together at break and lunch times.

I really like it and Sheridan because I have the same staff all through the day and this is good for me because I have autism and I don’t like change. When I go to other subjects that I enjoy like PE or Food Tech, my teaching assistants always come with me so I always have an adult I have a good relationship with in the room with me.

I used to hate writing but it was ok because my teacher helped me find new ways to record my work such as taking photographs, drawing and using a computer to type up my ideas.

I have been having 1:1 weekly music therapy sessions and this has really helped me to communicate my feelings in a different way. My therapist always speaks to my teacher and they can talk about the different things that I am struggling with and help me to learn new ways to deal with these.

I really like the school shop where I can pick things that I would like to buy with my tokens. I love going to the shops with my class and picking different hot wheels cars that I can put into the school shop and exchange them for the token that I earn each day in class for making good choices.

My teacher will speak to my mum every day and explain to her what sort of a day I have had. I really like this because then mum knows what I have been learning about at school and I can get rewards at school and home when I make good choices.