

OLIVER'S STORY

CASE STUDY



Oliver, age 8



The aim of Wooden Spoon funded projects is to enhance the lives of children and young people with disabilities or living in disadvantage in local communities across the UK and Ireland.

INTERACTIVE SENSORY PADS SUPPORT PUPILS LIKE OLIVER

State-of-the-art sensory pads have made a big difference to pupils attending Red Marsh School in Lancashire.

Pupils like eight-year-old Oliver Healy whose learning has been enhanced thanks to the school equipment funded by Wooden Spoon Lancashire.

Oliver's mum, Sally, explained: "My son Oliver has Autism, ADHD and learning difficulties. He spent a year in mainstream education, but when they played outside, he found the space was huge.

"It was too much for him and he would run absolutely wild. He was constantly hurting himself with bumps and cut knees.

"Oliver absolutely loves being outside and definitely learns better when he is outside. When he is learning in the classroom, he has a really short attention span.

"That is why the sensory pads are so good – they offer a bit of a break-out session and a chance for him to get outside and carry on his learning."

Based in the village of Thornton, Red Marsh School specialises in education for two to 19 year olds with severe and complex disabilities.

"They are lovely and colourful and really inviting to the children. From a parent point of view, it is also great knowing how safe your children are."

Sally Healy - Oliver's Mum

Providing a safe and inclusive outside area for PE and sports programmes, the interactive panels form part of an outdoor activity area which enables young pupils to explore in a safe and comfortable experience.

Praising both the staff and the environment, Sally said: "They are lovely and colourful and really inviting to the children.

"From a parent point of view, it is also great knowing how safe your children are."

"They have held sports days using the pads and it is great to see all the children together enjoying themselves."

The interactive area was officially opened in 2019 by Wooden Spoon Lancashire's honorary president and England legend, Sir Bill Beaumont.

A spokesman for Red Marsh School said: "The sensory sports pads have benefited our pupils and visiting pupils as part of our inclusion program with local mainstream schools. Our pupils now have a safe and inclusive area to enjoy different sports activities and social time with their peers."