

Four-year-old Darwin has started at Whitfield Aspen thanks to transport funding

# Disabled Dover boy's dream of going to school comes true



Darwin Burnett, pictured with MP Charlie Elphicke, now attends Whitfield and Aspen School

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A four-year-old Dover boy with learning difficulties has had his dream of going to school come true after receiving help getting transport funding.

Darwin Burnett started at Whitfield Aspen School in September after having taken part in the school's outreach programme to special needs students while he was at Kid Ease nursery in Dover.

His family, delighted at the progress he had made, hoped that he would be able to attend Whitfield Aspen School but were struggling with arranging transport for him.

## Funding

Darwin's family got their wish when Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke convinced Kent County Council to provide funding for Darwin's transport.

Mr Elphicke said: "It was brilliant to meet Darwin last week. He really is a charming young lad and it's great to see his confidence growing."

"When his family were struggling with school transport I was delighted to help out."

At Whitfield Aspen School, Darwin is now in an environment where children with special educational needs mix with the rest of the school.

The school's outreach programme continues to help children across Dover and Deal and

currently has staff visit 16 nurseries in the area.

Six of the children involved in the programme were this year able to go straight into mainstream schools from nursery.

The school has also revealed plans for its new £25 million building, an expansion which means it will be able to help more children in the future.



Charlie Elphicke (right) looks over plans for Whitfield Aspen School's expansion with head teacher Jason Cook

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