

"I used to love school..."



...it was great in the juniors and my teacher was really kind to me but it is not the same now that I have gone to High School. I want to do the homework but I get in trouble 'cos I don't get it in on time. I can never find my stuff and there is nowhere quiet in our house to do it - if I put it down anywhere it gets thrown out or messed up. My favourite lesson is food tech because we get to cook and then take the stuff home, but it's got really embarrassing because I never have the ingredients that I am supposed to take in so I use my mates stuff and we share.

I love P.E. especially when we go swimming but I can't go now 'cos I have really bad verrucas and the P.E teacher says I need to get rid of them before I can go in the pool. They sent a letter home, but my mum didn't get the stuff to get rid of them - she says they will go away on their own.

I have a really short temper, just like Darren and it is worse when I'm tired. Sometimes the other kids wind me up about stuff...I've lashed out a couple of times at school but nothing serious.

My mum and Darren are really chilled...not like some of the other parents. They let me stay up 'till past midnight if I want and I play on the playstation. As long as I don't go in the room where they are...they don't mind me being up. Sometimes I fall asleep playing games and wake up the next morning on the floor or in the chair.

I am late for school most days, but I get away with it...I think my teacher expects it now and he doesn't say much. We used to have some women that came in from the social to help my mum, and it was better for a while. They helped her with the tea and house and stuff but she doesn't need them anymore 'cos I am getting older now and I can help out more. There are some after school clubs that I would like to join - the boxing and the football but my mum says that she wants me to come straight home so that I can pick Kimberley up from school on my way back home.

I know it's hard for my mum...having the younger kids and all, and I don't want to cause problems between her and Darren, 'cos he can get nasty. So I just do as I am told and help out with the younger kids 'cos Darren says I am lucky really - he gives me a roof over my head and he doesn't have to, 'cos I'm not his..."

Troy Taylor's story

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