

Looking for a School for your child?

Questions to ask

When looking for a new school for your child it can be difficult to decide on which ones are best placed to meet you and your child's needs. We have noted a few questions that may be useful to ask when you are visiting schools.

- Covid 19: Can you see a copy of their Risk Assessment?
Government guidance suggests that schools should share their risk assessment(s) with parent/carers.
- Covid 19: What provision do they have for virtual meetings or online teaching??
Some schools may also carry out virtual school visits.
- School size: How many children attend the school?
The size of a school can be an important factor to many parents who may be concerned about their child's adjustment into a large school with vast numbers of children
- Class size: How many children will be in your child's class?
- Does the school have experience of children with similar needs and how were they supported?
- What extra-curricular activities does your school offer?
Some schools may offer after school activities that are in line with your child's current interests
- Making friends: Do the school actively engage the children in opportunities to 'make friends' in the new school environment?
- How is behaviour and bullying managed?
Ask for a copy of the school's Bullying and Behaviour Policies
- Does the school have an active Parents Group?
- Are there specific groups for parents of children with SEND?
- Who is responsible for the SEND provision at the school? Is it a team or an individual?
- How are Teaching Assistants sourced?
Some schools will use agency staff to support children with special educational needs; others employ and train their own staff
- How are Teaching Assistants deployed around the school?
Is your child likely to receive support from one person or does the school rotate Teaching Assistants around the school periodically?
- How are Exclusions dealt with at the school?
- Will my child be able to access the After-School Club?

- What support is available to children during playground/unstructured times?
- Does the school operate a Circle of Friends/Buddying system?

If at all possible, ask to meet(virtually) or be shown around the school by the school SENCo, as they are usually best placed to answer your questions relating to SEND resources and provisions.