



Choosing a school for a child with Special Educational Needs/ Disabilities

Summary

This factsheet is designed to give you information on things to think about before choosing a school for a child with Special Educational Needs/ Disability (SEND)

Before you visit a school, think about what you would like to know beforehand, and consider questions to ask. The questions below may give you a starting point. It might be helpful to take a notepad and pen so that you can write down the answers to all your questions.

General questions

- Is the teaching flexible enough for your child to take part in as much of the curriculum as possible?
- Do any of the staff have specialist training linked to your child's needs?
- Are there any other children in the school with similar Special Educational Needs Disabilities (SEND) to those of your child? If so, has their placement been successful?
- Are all areas of the school accessible to your child? Are any adaptations required (wheelchair access, ramps, wide doors etc)
- If your child needs help with things like collecting lunch at lunchtime, changing for PE, how will the school provide this help?
- Do the classes change for every lesson? If so, does your child need help getting from one to another? What can the school offer if they do?
- Does your child require any therapy e.g. physiotherapy? If so, how would this be managed?
- What support or activities are available during break-time and lunch-time?
- Do you have open access to school staff or do you need to make appointments?
- How will your child travel to and from school?
- Ask for a copy of the school prospectus to see the school policies such as SEND, Anti-Bullying, Behaviour & Discipline, Uniform, Homework etc.

If your child is moving to the new school

- How does the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) of the new school liaise with the SENCO of your child's current school?
- Will the new school continue to build on the current Individual Educational Plan/targets?
- If your child currently has Teaching Assistant (TA) support, how will the new school ensure that TA support is in place when your child starts the new school?
- How will the move to the new school be planned? Is there a Transition Plan in place?



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- Will your child be invited to visit the school before they start?

After the visit

- Were you made to feel welcome? Were you shown through the whole school?
- Do you think your child will be happy there? Do the staff and pupils seem happy?
- Is there sufficient access for your child to all buildings/classrooms?
- Look around any other schools that you are interested in and compare your findings.
- To find schools in your area check your Local Authority's Local Offer:
[Worcestershire Local Offer](#)
[Herefordshire Local Offer](#)

If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan

- When you have visited all the schools that you have selected, discuss your preferences with your Casework Officer. It is important that you check with your Casework Officer if transport is likely to be a problem because access to school transport can be very limited and you may not be eligible for Local Authority (LA) assistance.

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