



Visiting a new school. A guide for parents and carers of children with SEND.

When looking for a new school for your child, visiting a number of schools may help you make an informed decision. We have noted a few questions that may be useful to ask when you are visiting schools.

Before you visit a school

- Go on the school's website and read online information very carefully, especially the SEN information report
- Carefully think about and write down any additional questions or points that are particularly important for your child.
- Think about how easy the journey from your house to the school is
- Will you be able to meet the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and staff who would be involved with your child?

What factors should I think about when choosing a school?

- What is the general structure and timetable for the school day?
- How is the supervision for lunchtimes and breaks arranged?
- How many children would be in my child's class?
- How many members of staff would be in my child's class?

- How is bullying dealt with at the school?
- How does the school support children with Special Educational Needs? What reasonable adjustments are made?
- How does the school deal with challenging behaviour?
- Are there other children in the school with similar needs to my child?
- Are there any particular areas of expertise/provision in school, e.g. social communication groups, circle of friends, literacy support?
- Will my child be able to access breakfast or afterschool club in the school?
- How does the school enable parents to discuss their child's progress and contribute to target setting and learning opportunities?

After the visit, discuss your thoughts and feelings about the school with a relative or friend.

- Did you feel welcomed at the school?
- Did the children seem happy, friendly and helpful?
- Do you think your child would be happy and safe at that school?
- Have you got any other questions that you would like to ask the school?

More info at www.hackneylocaloffer.co.uk/sendiaqs

Date of this version: 1/2/2017