**Choosing a School**

These are our suggested main areas to focus on, but you can change them to meet your needs. You can replace School A/B/C with the names of the schools you have visited. The boxes will get bigger as you type into them.



|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Topics/Questions to Consider** | **School A** | **School B** | **School C** |
| **Your child’s views** * likes
* dislikes
 |  |  |  |
| **Your general impression*** likes
* dislikes
 |  |  |  |
| **How will your child’s needs be supported?*** specific SEN experience of the staff/training
* adult support, such as teaching assistant support and specialist teachers
* equipment/materials and adjustments to the environment
* adjustments to teaching and curriculum
 |  |  |  |
| **Specialist support*** what is there?
* how is it arranged and given?
 |  |  |  |
| **Communication with you*** how often will you meet the SENCO and staff?
* Who will be your main contact
* how will day to day and other issues be discussed and resolved?
 |  |  |  |
| **Communication with your child*** how will they be involved in decisions about their school life and support?
* how will day to day communications between staff and your child work?
* Who will be your child’s ‘go to’ person?
 |  |  |  |
| **Communication between staff*** how will information be shared?
* how will teachers be involved in assessing, planning, doing and reviewing support?
 |  |  |  |
| **Transition plan (moving to the school)*** group and individual visits
* SENCo contact between schools
* storyboard/book
 |  |  |  |
| **Size of school*** class sizes
* ratio of staff to students
 |  |  |  |
| **School buildings and environment** * noise and busyness
* access if your child has a physical disability
* what is available at breaktimes
* sensory challenges
 |  |  |  |
| **Homework*** how much?
* what adjustments can be made?
 |  |  |  |
| **School activities*** after school and in school activities
* school trips
 |  |  |  |
| **Social contact*** peer friendship groups
* buddy system
 |  |  |  |
| **Behaviour*** what adjustments can be made to the school policy for your child?
* how is behaviour supported?
* what approaches are used, for example restorative or relational approaches (see our SEN support jargon buster for more info)?
 |  |  |  |
| **Bullying*** what is the policy?
* how is it dealt with?
 |  |  |  |
| **Travel*** length of journey
* how will your child get there?
 |  |  |  |
| **Uniform and PE*** can adjustments be made and if so what?
 |  |  |  |

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