**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.

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| **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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