

CHOOSING A SCHOOL? (Created by SUFC)

Parent/Carer Checklist

Information

Have you checked the school website for their Information Report (Special Education Needs and Disability information report – SEND support offer)
Are you given clear, useful information?
What therapies are available within the school?
Is there a designated contact for parent (parent liaison)?
Does your child know any existing pupils within the school?
If you are transferring to this school, how many other children whom your child knows are transferring?
What is the schools bullying policy and how often is this used?
What is the schools behaviour policy?
What is the schools SEN policy?
How would school get to know your child before he/she starts there?
How would my child get to know the school, especially in the first few days?
How are Special Educational Needs, like my child's met? Does school have experience of helping children with similar needs to my child?
What is the schools Inclusion policy?

School Environment – Internal and External

How close is the school to your home?

How large is the site?

How many levels does the school building have?

How many play areas are on the site?

Are there any satellite buildings, mobile classrooms or offsite teaching areas?

How secure is the school?

What are the noise levels outside and inside the building?

Does the building feel logical in its organisation - Is it easy to get around the school? Could your child get to all areas of the school easily?

Are the toilets clean and spacious?

Are the classrooms self-contained or open plan?

Are there quiet room/chill out/calm down rooms for the pupils to use or go to?

Where do pupils eat?

What safety measures are there to ensure safety against intruders?

Are there clear boundaries in the playground?

Where will your child do P.E and where are the changing areas?

Is access to sensory equipment or facilities?

Curriculum/Classroom Policy

Does your child need 1:1 work, if so where does this take place?

Where will your child keep their possessions?

What are the class sizes and will the classrooms accommodate them spaciouly?

How many staff are there in the classroom?

How are the pupils seated e.g., individually, groups, randomly etc.?

Is there a pupil peer support/buddy system?

Is there information on teaching methods being implements to curriculum e.g. TEACH?

Do some pupils do easier work than others?

Are pupils encouraged to work and play cooperatively – how?

What considerations are made for pupils who don't appear to want to join in?

How is good behaviour being managed? E.g. recognition, rewards, praise and how often?

How is negative behaviour being managed e.g. reprimands and sanctions?

Are pupils given responsibilities ? ask for examples

How does the lunchtime system work? Is there provision for them to go into lunch early (especially if they don't like noise and crowds)

What's the homework policy and is there times in the day where the home work can be done in school ?

Are there good facilities for individual subjects / specific needs?

How is work adapted for individual pupils?

How is the school organised? By age, ability, subject group?

How does the school assess work and monitor progress?

Social Activities

What are the opportunities outside of school e.g. breakfast clubs or afterschool club?

Is there a homework afterschool club?

Observations & Feelings

Is the school well labelled and sign posted?

Is there a feeling of calmness, orderliness of movement around the school? (look out for movement during school times, e.g. playtimes, lunch time etc)

Is the school environment warm, friendly and inviting?

Is there any visual aids e.g. Pecs or timetables around the school?

What do you observe the support staff doing?

How welcome do you feel ?

What evidence do you observe that parents are welcomed into the school ?

Are there any pupils being withdrawn for 1:1 or small group work?

How do you observe staff communicating with pupils?

How do you observe pupils treating each other?
How do you observe pupils with additional needs being treated by staff and peers?
Visual Stimuli – Is the classroom an engaging environment?
Can you see staff and pupils referring to their planners/timetables?
Do the pupils seem to know what they are doing?
Are all the facilities being used?
What work do you see going on within the classroom?
Are all pupils engaged in different tasks or are they all doing the same thing?
How are staff supporting pupils e.g. nearby or from their desk?
Are any pupils doing nothing?

Communication

What activities are arranged for parents?
How will teachers be informed about my child's SEN?
How will parents be informed on child's SEN?
Is there a home school communication book?

Workforce

Does the person who is showing you around have a good understanding of autism?

Do they demonstrate this understanding?

Are they keen to talk to you, ask questions and get information from you?

How many staff would be involved with your child?

During break times and lunch times, how many staff are on duty in the playground?

How many staff are on duty in the dinner hall?

Is there access to speech and language services?

Is there access to other therapy services?

How interested is the year Head for your child's year group seem?

Other

Is transport provided?

How is your child's personal needs met e.g. toileting and by whom?

How is your child's medication needs met and by whom?

School visited:-

Address:-

Date visited:-

Contact Number:-

General Notes