

During the visit

Write down the name of the school, headteacher and SENCo and the answers to any questions you have asked (using the space provided inside). This will make it easier to compare schools after you have finished making all your visits.



If you have any questions on any of the above or require information and support on any aspect of your child's special educational needs and disabilities, we may be able to help.

**INFORMATION,
ADVICE AND
SUPPORT TEAM**



You can contact us in the following ways:

The Information, Advice and Support Team



0300 123 6706



information.lineteam@lancashire.gov.uk.



www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND

you can read the FIND newsletter, get details of the Parent Carer forums in your local area and find activities and groups for your child to attend



www.facebook.com/lancashirelocaloffer



our facebook page for regular updates

INFORMATION, ADVICE AND SUPPORT TEAM

for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Choosing a School

If you have a child with special educational needs or a disability and are looking for a school for them, you may find the following information useful.

Try to find time to read:

- ~ the school prospectus
- ~ the school SEND Local Offer/ SEND policy/SEND report
- ~ latest Ofsted report for the school
- ~ the school behaviour/ discipline policy

These will all be available on the school's website or if you contact the school they may send you paper copies.

Think about your child.

What are your child's needs?

What are you hoping the school will provide?

Put together a list of the schools you are going to visit.

Before the visit

Contact the school(s) you want to visit and make an appointment to meet the Headteacher or Special Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo).

Arrange for someone to accompany you if you think it would help.

Make sure that the children will be in school when you visit and that you will be able to visit a lesson in a classroom.

Think about questions you would like to ask, it is helpful to write them down and take them with you (see inside).



Possible questions to ask

- How many children attend the school, how big are the classes?
 - What additional support is available?
 - How are classes organised? ~ Open plan, individual classrooms, mixed age?
 - How are children grouped? ~ Ability or mixed ability?
 - Is teaching by whole class, small group, individual teaching or a mixture?
 - How are children introduced to the school? ~ Can they visit before they start? is there an option for gradual start, is this flexible?
 - Will staff from the school visit your child in their present school / placement?
 - Will staff liaise with people already involved with your child?
 - How does the school propose to meet the needs of your child.
 - Are there children in the school with similar needs to your child?
 - Does the school have staff who have expertise in your child's difficulties?
 - How would your child's progress be reviewed / monitored, how would you be involved in this?
 - Does the school seem interested in your child, and confident in being able to meet their needs?

INFORMATION, ADVICE AND SUPPORT TEAM



Use this space to write the answers to your questions