

Points to consider when viewing a school

Points you may wish to consider prior to visiting are:

- Think about what you would like to find out, the questions to ask and people to meet (e.g. the school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator)
- Ask for and read the school's own brochure/prospectus (information can be found online)
- First impressions are important but you should base any decision on a range of responses and the organisation of the school.

Points to consider when visiting the school:

- Arrange a visit at a time when children will be in the school
- Try to spend enough time in the school to allow you to make an informed decision
- You may want to visit with a friend or relative with whom you can discuss important issues later on
- Try to meet the staff who could be involved with your child - SENCo, teachers and learning support assistants
- It may be helpful to explore whether there are, or have been, other children in the school with needs similar to those of your child
- What arrangements are there for you to discuss your child's progress and contribute to target setting and planning
- Overall, how welcoming does the school feel? Do children seem well behaved and happy?

Within the classroom it may be helpful to explore:

- How the structure and timetable of the day and the teaching and learning in the class will meet your child's needs
- How the individual needs of children in the classroom are met
- Which adults work in the classroom and their role in supporting your child
- Whether there are other children in the school with needs similar to those of your child
- What arrangements there are for you, as a parent, to discuss your child's progress and contribute to target setting and planning, learning opportunities, especially homework.

Consider external support, it may be helpful to explore:

- Which external professionals visit the school, e.g. speech and language therapist, occupational therapist, if this is relevant to your child's own needs
- Whether the classroom assistants deliver programmes set up by qualified therapists
- Whether your child would have to miss the same lessons or subjects to regularly work with any visiting professionals.

Remember, you can always telephone or visit the school again if you want more information following your initial visit.