



Choosing a school for your child with SEND

Things to consider:

- **The school website:** what information does the website say the school offers to children with Special Educational Needs and or disabilities (SEND) and how SEND provision is organised. Read their SEND related policies, behaviour and bullying prevention policies
- **Ofsted:** Read the most recent full Ofsted report for the school (school/Ofsted website)
- **Location:** Is the school easily accessible by public transport/by foot/by car?
- **Size of school:** How many classes are there, how many children attend the school etc.
- **Breakfast/ after school clubs/holiday clubs:** If this is something you would like to be available for your child see if it is available on site; or if there is suitable transportation

Things to do before you visit:

- Make a checklist of all the things that are important to you and your child. This will help you to ask the right questions.
- Put together any relevant information about your child to share with the school, such as their EHC plan or any specialist reports. If you are going to an open evening, it may not be possible to have an in-depth discussion, so you may want to make a separate appointment with the schools Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO).

When you visit you could discuss:

- How SEN provision is organised in the school.
- How teaching is organised, class sizes, teaching assistants, group or individual work etc.
- Whether the school have any experience of children with similar needs to those of your child and how they were supported.
- The support you could expect for your child (include previous examples or how you help your child at home)
- How the school communicates progress to parents.

Some things to look at when visiting a school (relevant to your child's needs):

- Accessible rooms and outdoor spaces
- Children and staff who appear contented/positive
- A calm working environment
- Displays representing the work of all children and celebrating the children

Following the visit.:

- Consider your child's views, what do they like about the school. Is there anything which concerns them?
- Re-contact the school if there are any further questions which arise following your visit...you can't remember everything!

Further information:

Cheshire East School Admissions:

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/admissions/admissions.aspx>

Cheshire East Local Offer:

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell/local-offer-for-children-with-sen-and-disabilities/local-offer-for-children-with-sen-and-disabilities.aspx>

	<p>Cheshire East Information Advice and Support (CEIAS)</p> <p>Website: www.ceias.cheshireeast.gov.uk</p> <p>Telephone: 0300 123 5166</p>
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