

Questions to Ask When Visiting a School

Choosing the right school is a big decision. These questions can help you understand how each setting supports children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and what day-to-day life might look like for your child.

About the School

What is the school's approach to supporting children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)?

What is the teacher-to-student ratio in classrooms?

How does the school assess and track a child's progress?

What qualifications or training do staff have for working with SEN children?

How does the school involve parents in their child's education?

SEN Support & Inclusion

Does the school create Individual Education Plans (IEPs) or an equivalent for each child with SEN?

How are 1:1 support needs assessed and implemented?

What therapies or additional services are available on-site (e.g., speech therapy, occupational therapy)?

How does the school support social interaction and inclusion for SEN students?

Are quiet or sensory spaces available when children need a break?

Teaching & Curriculum

How is the curriculum adapted to meet SEN needs?

Does the school offer life skills or vocational learning for children with developmental delays?

Are extracurriculars and school trips accessible to SEN students?

Environment & Facilities

What facilities support mobility or sensory needs?

Are classrooms and communal areas inclusive and accessible?

How are behavioural challenges or sensory overload managed?

Day-to-Day Care & Safeguarding

How are medical or dietary needs managed?

What's the policy on bullying and safeguarding SEN students?

How are communication devices and other assistive technologies supported?

Transitions & Future Planning

How does the school support transitions (starting school, moving year groups, or into secondary)?

Does the school prepare SEN students for independence or further education?

For Mainstream Schools

How are SEN students included in mainstream classrooms and activities?

Is there a dedicated SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) and how involved are they?

Are there SEN teaching assistants in mainstream classes?

How does the school balance the needs of SEN students with the wider school population?

For Special Schools

What types of SEN does the school specialise in?

How does the school encourage interaction among peers with different abilities?

What is the average class size for students with similar needs to my child?

Are there opportunities for integration with mainstream education if appropriate?

Parent Partnership & Community

Can I speak with other parents of SEN children who attend the school?

How does the school ensure open communication with families?

Are there opportunities for parents to be involved in the school community or decision-making?