

Transition to school **What parents and preschool might want to know and ask when looking at Schools**

This is a general list of questions for you to pick and choose from to match your child's needs

You might want to ask schools these questions or think up your own.

Not all of these questions need to be asked; think about what you want to know about the School you are considering and tailor what you ask the school based on your child's individual needs.

Things to think about as you look around

- How welcoming are the school staff?
- How engaging is the outdoor area for my child?
- Have you asked your child/ what do you think your child wants out of School?

School routine and general questions

- In September, how flexible are you about when my child can start?
- What happens if my child won't settle at school?
- What happens at the beginning and end of each day?
- What happens if I am late at the beginning or end of the day?
- How many different school transitions are there throughout the day?
- How often during the school day are children able to get outside?
- Is the outdoors accessible all year round?
- Is there after school/ holiday club provision? Where is it and how do they get there? Will there be a familiar adult there?
- If there is a school trip how will my child be supported?
- Does this School have links with other schools?

SEND, inclusion and additional support questions

- How accessible is all of the school for my child? (steps, ramps, sizes of classrooms – too big as well as too small)
- How experienced are your members of staff with regards to disabilities/ special educational needs? (Makaton, Picture Exchange Communication System, physical handling etc.)
- How does the school practically support different learning abilities/ styles (i.e. visual, play, props, songs etc.)?
- Do therapists regularly visit the school?
- Would my child have to miss lessons in order to receive additional support?

- Is there a nurture group or language support?
- Does the school access outreach support from other provisions? (THOMAS Outreach Project, Primary Behaviour Service, Special school outreach)
- How is progress measured, how frequently does it happen and who tracks this?
- How do SEND children progress in the School?
- How will the School involve me in supporting my child's learning?
- What is the adult to child ratio?
- How will the school decide which class my child will go into?
- If my child struggles with anything at school what help will be offered? (Individual Education Plans, adapting curriculum etc.)
- Is there a school nurse on site and will there be a care plan in place?

Communication/ information sharing with School questions

- What transition arrangements do the school make with the preschool and other professionals who know my child well?
- How will staff communicate with parents? (tapestry, home school books, face to face, phone calls).
- How can I approach school with concerns or questions about my child at school?
- Is there a parent support group?
- How often are parent's evenings?
- Can I visit the School when it is not an open day?

Self help questions and Lunch time and Play time questions

- Does the School have a wet room/ changing facilities?
- If my child has a toileting accident in school what happens?
- Does my child need to be able to dress and undress independently when they start School?
- How much supervision is there for my child at break times and how will they know who to go to at playtimes?
- What do you do if a child only eats certain foods? Can I bring in snack/ lunch from home?
- Where do they eat lunch?
- Who will be supporting lunch time? Will my child know the lunchtime supervisors?

Try to look around several Schools before you make your mind up; you will get a 'gut feeling' for the right School for your child.