

Central Bedfordshire SENDIASS

LOOKING AT SCHOOLS



Special Educational Needs & Disability
Information, Advice & Support Service

Introduction

Deciding which school you would prefer your child or young person to go to is an important decision for any parent/carer. If your child or young person has special educational needs, there are extra things you will want to think about.

If you would like information about:

- Admissions to schools in Central Bedfordshire;
- the transfer process; or
- the schools that serve your local area

You can contact the CBC School Admissions Service:

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Telephone: 0300 300 8037

Email: admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Arranging a visit to the school

- If your child is due to start school, you should contact the school to arrange a visit.
- Schools are busy places and it is a good idea to ask who you will meet at the school and how much time they will be able to spend with you. It would be a good idea to ask to see the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO).
- Think carefully about whether you want to take your child with you on the visit (you could discuss this first).
- Decide if you want to take someone along with you, such as a friend or relative. This can be helpful, to talk through your view of the school after the visit.
- You may find it useful to have a guided tour of the school. You will get a better feel for the school if you can do this in school hours when the children are there.

What you can do before visiting the school

All schools have to produce a school prospectus or brochure. It might help you to ask for a copy and to read through this before you visit the school.

You could also ask for:

- the school's Special Educational Needs Policy;
- other policies, such as the Behaviour or Anti-Bullying Policy;
- the OFSTED Inspectors' report on the school. This is also available from the OFSTED website: **www.ofsted.gov.uk**

Reading through this information will give you an idea of what the school is like and help you think of things you want to find out more about.

Checklist

- The organisation of classes – whether they put the children in sets according to their ability (particularly in English, Science and Maths)
- What IT facilities there are – how many computer rooms there are and whether there are enough computers for every child in the class
- You may also think of other things that are important to you and your family.
- If you are going to visit more than one school you might want to jot down some notes to help you remember.
- How many pupils will be in my child's class?
- What will the school do to make sure that all staff know about my child's individual needs?
- How does the school arrange extra support for children who need it?
- How will the school involve me in planning for my child's needs?
- How will the school help the other children to understand my child's needs?

Further Information

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0300 300 8088



sendiass@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/parentpartnership



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