

## Checklist for visiting schools

### Before arranging a visit:

- Ask the school for their School prospectus and read it (n.b you may also want to read the school's latest OFSTED report [www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Inspection-reports](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Inspection-reports))
- Carefully think about and write a list of questions that you would like to ask the school.
- When you would like to visit ? (it is best to visit during school hours)
- Will you be taking your child ?
- Do you want someone else to accompany you ?
- Is the school easy to get to ? (think about transport arrangements)
- Would you like to talk to the SENCO ?
- Do you want a guided tour ?
- Will you be able to meet staff who would be involved with your child ?
- Will you be able to talk to other parents who have children at the school ?

### Sample Questions:

- What is the general structure & timetable for the school day ?
- How many children would be in your child's class ?
- How many members of staff would be in your child's class ?
- How do the school support children with Special Educational Needs ?
- How do the school feel about providing 1:1 support ?
- Do the school know anything about your child's disability / learning needs ?
- Have the school ever taught any other children with the same disability / learning needs ?
- Are all areas of the school accessible to your child ? (are adaptations required)
- How will your child be supported outside lesson time ?
- How do the school deal with difficult behaviour ?
- How is bullying dealt with at the school ?
- How does the school help children mix and make friends ?
- What extra activities does the school provide at lunchtime and after school ?
- What will you have to provide for your child ? (uniform/stationary/money for trips, events, extra activities, etc.)
- How does the school communicate with parents ?
- When can parents talk to their child's teacher ?
- What arrangements are there for parents to get involved with the school ?
- What opportunities are there to meet other parents ? (P.T.A., organised events, etc.)

### After the visit:

Discuss your thoughts and feelings about the school with someone else:

- Did you feel welcomed at the school ?
- Did the children seem happy, friendly and helpful ?
- Do you think your child would be happy at that school ?
- Did the school answer all your questions ?
- Have you got any other questions that you would like to ask the school ?
- Would the school be able to meet your child's needs ?