# Before arranging a visit:

* Ask the school for their School prospectus and read it (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))
* Look at the school’s SEN Information published as a linked document to the Torbay Local Offer
* 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? (i.e. 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? (i.e. 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? (i.e. 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?