



Information, Advice, and Support Service (IASS): Choosing a School - Things To Consider When Visiting a Secondary School for a Child With a Hearing Impairment

You should visit all the schools your child might attend. It's a good idea to make a list of each school's advantages and disadvantages shortly after the visit (while it's still fresh in your mind).

Before your visit, get a copy of the school's prospectus and any recent OFSTED reports. Look for information about special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).

General Questions to Ask:

- How many children will be in each class?
- Are there any other deaf children in the school? Of what age? Is there a unit or special provision?
- Who would be responsible for my child's Individual Education Plan?
- How does the school communicate with parents? How often?
- What deaf awareness training has the staff received, and is the school willing to have deaf awareness training?
- Will my child follow the National Curriculum (if appropriate)? If not, how will it be adapted?
- What SATs/GCSE results have any previous deaf students attained?
- How does the school deal with bullying issues?

Questions About Support for Your Child:

- What support would be available for my child, both in lessons and outside of lessons, e.g. extracurricular activities, lunchtimes, homework?
- Will my child have support in class / be withdrawn from lessons for individual support?
- Would there be a key worker for my child?
- Will my child be asked how they would like to be supported?

Questions About the Facilities and Environment:

- Are the acoustics of classrooms acceptable? E.g. any rooms adapted for deaf children, e.g. Soundfield system? Carpets? Height of ceilings?
- Does the School have quiet areas where your child can work?
- Do all children have access to computers?

Questions About Communication Issues:

- If your child has a communication support worker, is the school aware of how they will support your child?
- Ensure that the school is aware of your child's technology, e.g. FM system, cochlear implant, hearing aids etc. How would this be managed in school?
- Does the School have helpful technology such as text television, subtitled DVDs/videos, and interactive whiteboards which your child will be able to access?

Questions About Additional Needs:

- Could the school cope with any additional needs your child may have?

And Finally:

- Ask yourself if you can imagine your child fitting in at the school.

Information, Advice, and Support Service (IASS) for SEND in Northamptonshire

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