

Top Tips When Choosing A School

- Where possible ask for your child or young person's input. You could use creative activities like getting them to draw or write about what the perfect school would look like.
- Make a checklist of the things important to your child or young person and your family. This will help you to ask the right questions when you visit the school.
- Do your research. This is very important; we recommend you research all of the local schools in your area. Most schools will have their own website, and many have their own information brochures too, look at these. The 'Good Schools Guide' website is an informative website to use too; it provides information on things such as the performance, results, data and the catchment area.
- Check to see if the schools have any open days or open mornings coming up be sure to go along. It is important you get a feel for the place. Take your child / young person along if possible and observe how they respond to that environment. A lot of parents tell us they know as soon as they walk through the doors whether it's the right place.
- Arrange a meeting with the school's SENCO to discuss your child or young person's needs and ask for examples of their experience in supporting autistic children and young people.
- Think about what motivates or interests your child or young person. Some schools have a strong emphasis on things such as learning outdoors, technology or science. Find this out.
- Check the school's most recent Ofsted report. These are always available online. Also check the school's academic results which are also usually available online.
- Shortlist a few schools and try not to get set on one, most local authorities ask you to list a few schools when applying.
- Talk to parents who have children or young people already attending the school to get their views on the school, but bear in mind everybody's experiences are different and their child may not have the same needs as yours.
- Read through the school's anti-bullying, discipline and SEN policy.