

The Parent Partnership Service exists to provide parents of children with Special Educational Needs impartial advice and support.

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Parent Partnership Officer

 **The Parent Partnership Service**
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Other information available from Parent Partnership:

The SEN Code of Practice
Sources of Information
Dictionary of Terms
Exams and Tests
Choosing a Secondary School
Helping Your Child to Learn
School Action & School Action +
Annual Reviews and Other Meetings
Statutory Assessment & Statements of SEN
Your Child's Contribution
Your Right of Appeal

This information is available in large print and in other languages, upon request.



Choosing a Primary School



Choosing a Primary School

Deciding what school is right is difficult for all parents. If your child has SEN it can seem even harder.

Most children will go to mainstream schools. Only a small number of children go to specialist schools.

Kingston's school admissions team publishes a booklet every year that lists all the mainstream Nursery and Primary schools in the borough. If you live near the border you might also want to find out about schools outside of Kingston.

You can contact the Admissions team on **020 8547 5757**.

Or, you can visit the website http://www.kingston.gov.uk/browse/education/schools/school_admissions.htm

Collecting Information

- ◇ Find out about the schools nearest to your home.
- ◇ Find out about the school's admission criteria
- ◇ Read the school's prospectus.
- ◇ Visit the school.
- ◇ Request a copy of the school's SEN Policy.
- ◇ You may also like to look at the recent Ofsted reports.

You can get this from your local library, or from the school's website, or the Ofsted website, www.ofsted.gov.uk.

- ◇ Make a shortlist of schools you are particularly interested in.

Talking to the SENCO

It's a good idea to write down what you want to ask before you meet the SENCO or Headteacher.

Over the next few pages you'll find some questions that you might want to ask.

1. Ask how the school can meet your child's special educational needs.

- ◇ What happens if my child is not making enough progress?
- ◇ Does the school use individual or small group teaching?
- ◇ How often does the Educational Psychologist visit the school?
- ◇ Do any therapists visit the school?
- ◇ What other professionals are used to help children learn?
- ◇ Is training available to all staff on SEN?

School Visits & Open Evenings

Some things to look out for:

- ◇ Are pupils happy and working calmly?
- ◇ Does the design of the school meet your child's needs?
- ◇ Are there resources to suit your child's needs?
- ◇ How does the school deal with bullying?
- ◇ What happens at break time and lunch time?
- ◇ How do parents contact the teacher?
- ◇ Are the classrooms bright?
- ◇ Is the children's work displayed well?

2. Ask about pupil assessment

- ◇ Are all pupils assessed when they start at the school?
- ◇ What assessments are used for children with SEN?
- ◇ What arrangements can be made for your child during National Curriculum Tests and public examinations?

3. Ask about communication between staff

- ◇ How would all staff be told about my child's needs?
- ◇ Who would advise staff on what approaches to use when teaching my child?
- ◇ How would all staff know about my child's Individual Education Plan (IEP) targets?

4. Ask about Pastoral Care

- ◇ Would my child have a particular member of staff to support them in school?
- ◇ What behaviour management can the school give?

How would your child be included in all school activities, including school trips?

5. Ask about communication with parents

- ◇ How are parents told if there are concerns about their child?
- ◇ How often are targets reviewed, and by whom?
- ◇ What is the easiest way for parents to communicate with the SENCO?

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Hopefully, the answers to your questions will give you a good idea about how well each school will include your child and meet their particular needs.

**The final question to ask yourself is -
“Will my child be happy at the school?”**