

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

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 **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
Choosing a Primary School
Exams and Tests
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 Secondary School

Choosing a Secondary 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.

Most children will go through the normal admissions system. You can learn about this from the RBK Choice Advisor, **020 8547 3258**, or from the Admissions team at Guildhall **020 8547 5757**. Or, you can visit the website:

http://www.kingston.gov.uk/browse/education/schools/school_admissions.htm

If your child has a Statement you will be sent a letter in the summer between Year 5 & 6 to explain what you will need to do. You will go through a separate admission systems to most other parents and carers.

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

5. Ask about communication with parents

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

6. Ask about Key Stage 4 provision

- ◇ How are parents involved in their child's transition plan in Year 9?
- ◇ What would the role of the Connexions Personal Advisor be?
- ◇ How would my child be prepared for education or work after age 16?

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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?”

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?

Collecting Information

- ◇ Find out about the schools nearest to your home.
- ◇ Read the school's prospectus.
- ◇ Go to the Open Evenings in the autumn term your child is in Year 6
- ◇ Ask for an appointment to see the SENCO to hear about their provision for children with SEN.
- ◇ 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.

School Tours & 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 form teacher?
- ◇ What types of courses are offered in Years ten and eleven?
- ◇ Does the school have college links?

You might want to take your child with you so that they can tell you which schools they like.

Talking to the SENCO

It is a good idea to write down what you want to ask before you meet the SENCO.

In the next few pages you will find some questions that you might want to ask.

1. Ask how the school can meet your child's SEN

- ◇ 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?