

TOP TIPS

Tips for visiting Schools/Colleges

Ask Questions

- Is the school/college experienced in working with pupils with special educational needs?
- Are there any special transition arrangements from my current school i.e. extra visits
- Are there any provisions such as social skills groups or learning mentors to support emotional wellbeing?
- What happens at break and lunch times? Are there safe spaces for students to go who may need peace and quiet? Are there clubs?
- How is behaviour managed in the school/college? What are the sanctions and systems?
- The peer group: are there any peer support systems or friendship/ buddy systems? How does the school/college deal with bullying?
- The homework policy; is there any flexibility for students who may struggle with home learning?
- Special arrangements for exams.
- Is there pastoral care support?
- What does my timetable look like?
- Do they have my chosen course of study available?



While you may want to ask a lot of questions, it is also important to experience the “feel” of the school and your own emotional response to the environment and the people you meet.

When you visit:

Use your eyes and ears as you walk round. Do you feel welcomed? Do the students seem cheerful, busy and interested? And do the staff? Try to observe how staff speak to the students. What is the Head teacher like?

Family Action Ealing ISAID! Service (Impartial Support Advice and Information on Disability and Special Educational Needs).

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