

sendiass

NORTH YORKSHIRE

Leaflets and Factsheets

Considering a new
placement for your
Child or Young Person
(CYP)

www.sendiassnorthyorkshire.co.uk

Considering a new placement for your Child or Young Person (CYP)

To make the most of this time, have a list of questions ready before you visit a new placement. Prepare before you go by reports such as the placement's SEND Policy and Anti-bullying Policy. These will be available on their website.

You may also want to read their latest Ofsted report and ask other parents about their experiences. It is important to remember that everyone has different needs and therefore a placement may be a good fit for one person and not another. Try and keep an open mind, think of you CYP's needs and how this placement may meet them.

For Mainstream, Special Schools and Colleges

Environment

- How big is the school site - how do students move around, is it safe and secure?
- Will the environment be too overwhelming if your CYP has sensory sensitivities or high anxiety?
- Are there designated spaces for your CYP to work privately from other students or in small groups if needed?
- For CYP that need plenty of space to move around, is this available?
- How accessible is the placement for my CYP and are there ways to support my CYP with accessibility?

- What are the toilets like? Are there facilities for CYP who need changing?
- Is there a uniform and if so, can adjustments be made if my CYP has sensory sensitivities?
- What are the playground facilities like? Are there
- quiet areas for children who don't want to run around or team games?
- What happens at break and lunch times? Are there supervised activities that encourage friendships and working together?

About Learning and the Curriculum

- How are classes arranged?
- Are some students entered for National Curriculum qualifications? If so, what are their choices and how many could they gain?
- What other qualifications are offered?
- Is there a particular pattern to the school day/week?
- Do CYP move to other classrooms and work with different staff members at any time, for example to complete arts and craft activities, PE etc?
- For College students, will there be set days, work experience or other expectations alongside their course?
- What are the responsibilities of teaching assistants? How are teachers involved if my CYP has one-to-one support?
- How big is the average group size?
- What experience does the placement have of supporting other CYP with similar needs to my CYP?
- What support is offered to help my CYP access other activities such as swimming, performing on stage and school trips?

Social Support and Communication

- If needed, is there a transition plan for CYP starting at this placement?
- How does the placement support CYP to settle in and make friends? Are there friendship support groups or buddying systems in place?
- How does the placement manage behaviour linked to a CYP's disability?
- How does the placement communicate with parents/carers?

For Special Schools

If you are looking at special schools or colleges for your CYP, you also may want to ask these questions.

- Does this placement already support and have experience of CYP with similar needs to your CYP?
- Will there be suitable peers in this placement for my CYP to work alongside?
- Do all staff have specialist qualifications that match my CYP's needs?
- Therapies - are there therapists on site? Are therapies delivered on an individual or group basis? Is this by therapists or therapy assistants? How is the therapy integrated into the curriculum? Are these sessions often weekly or for a set time or given as written in my CYP's EHCP?
- What kind of medical support is available? If this is on site, will it be administered by a qualified practitioner? If my CYP uses specialist equipment, will the staff be trained to use the equipment correctly?

- What alternative communication methods are used, for example Makaton/ PECS? Are all staff trained in these? Is assistive technology available for CYP who need it?
- Does the placement have specialist facilities, such as a hydrotherapy pool or sensory room?
- Does the placement use physical restraint, and if so, what is the policy for this? Who provides training on this? Do all staff complete regular up to date training? How are parents/carers informed of this? What support is offered from parents in managing similar situations differently, for example restorative practice?
- Are there links with mainstream schools or colleges?
- If transportation is required, your local authority may provide help if your CYP meets the criteria. Check your council's school transport policy and seek advice on your rights.

Useful Links

- **Ace Education** (independent advice and information on state education in England.)
- **Child Law Advice** (education law advice for families) www.childlawadvice.org.uk
- **Collis Mediation Ltd** (mediation and disagreement resolution service) www.collismediationltd.com
- **Contact** (for families with disabled children) www.contact.org.uk
- **Council for Disabled Children** (umbrella body for the disabled children's sector) www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk
- **IASSN** (information, advice and support services network) www.cyp.iassnetwork.org.uk
- **IPSEA** (national charity providing legally based information advice and support) www.ipsea.org.uk
- **Our Website** www.sendiassnorthyorkshire.co.uk
- **SEND Code of Practice** (explains the statutory duties of schools and local authorities) www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25
- **SEND Tribunals Service** (organisation responsible for handling claims) www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/send

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NORTH YORKSHIRE

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
Information, Advice and Support Service

If you would like any further information please see the links below to our website and social media pages.

Alternatively, if you would like some extra support for your child/young person you can call or email our

Advice Line service on 01609 536923 or

info@sendiassnorthyorks.org.uk

Our Advice Line is open 9:30-1pm Monday to Friday during Term-Time and 9:30-1pm Tuesday and Thursday during School Holidays.



Information



Advice



Support



Education



Rights



EHC Plans



www.sendiassnorthyorkshire.co.uk



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