

Summary: Chapter 5 - The admissions process

Unless children have a Statement of SEN, they must be treated in exactly the same way as all children, even if they have identified special educational needs (SEN).

Parents need to start looking at schools at least 18 months before their child is due to start. The local authority publishes a guide to local primary and secondary schools, you may need to ask for a copy.

Make a list of what is important to you and your child and then visit the schools you are interested in applying to. Most school will have open days for interested parents.

If your child has support, why not ask someone who knows your child well to come to look at the new school with you? This is good practice.

Early years setting and all schools should plan together to manage children's successful transfer. This is especially important if the child has SEN.

Make a point of meeting with other parents to discuss what worked for them. Find out about support groups in your local area. Supportive Parents can help with this. We run our own support groups too.