

If you have any questions  
that are not answered here  
please contact the school  
on 01902 558810

or  
speak to

the SENCO  
(Mrs Porrett)

or

Your child's  
Year 6 teacher.



**Getting The Most  
From**

**Your  
Secondary  
School  
Open Day**



What to look for when  
choosing a secondary  
school for your child  
with SEN



## Knowing what you are looking for

## Notes of your visit

*It can be quite daunting looking for the best secondary school for all parents, but when your child has special educational needs you will probably have specific questions you want to ask about what the school can do to support your child.*

*Please read the information from the Wolverhampton Local Authority carefully and be prepared to ask any questions you think will help you choose the right school for your child.*



## Questions to Consider Asking

What experience do school staff have of working with children with similar disabilities?

How will staff be informed about my child's needs? How often? How will this happen each year?

Does the school have a specialism or extra facilities for SEN

How accessible is the school site (e.g changing/toilet facilities, stairs, lockers)?

Will my child's support be from the same people? What happens if my child's teacher or support staff are absent?

How will school communicate with me?

How will school ensure my child's views and wishes are heard on how best to support?

There will, of course, be questions more specific to your child's individual needs

## How many schools should you visit?



If your child has an EHCP you will discuss the best options for your child at a transfer review.

It is important to visit the schools you are considering with and /or without your child. Make sure you visit more than one even if you are fairly certain you know which you prefer. It is important that your child has an opinion about the choice of school—after all it is for them.

Visit more than once and arrange to see the SENCo, either at the Open Day or at another time, in order to ask questions about how your child will be supported. Visiting during the day will give a better feel of how easy it will be to move around the building, deal with the larger numbers of children etc.

Every school must publish an SEN Information report which details its approach to supporting the progress of pupils with SEN, including a clear description of the types of SEN the school provides for, how pupils with SEN are identified and how needs are assessed; the name and contact details of the SENCo, how pupils with SEN are taught, how the curriculum and learning environment is adapted and the expertise and Wolverhampton Information, Advice and Support Service "For Special Educational Needs and Disability" 2 training of staff to support SEN. For more SEN information reports read our leaflet "Support for Children & Young People in Education"

## Which schools should you visit?

If your child has an EHCP you may be looking for a school with a resource base, and therefore expertise in a particular field. Every school will have a SENCo and staff dedicated to supporting children who find learning a greater challenge for whatever reason.

Below is a list of the schools in Wolverhampton with resource bases to support a variety of needs. It may be a good idea to visit schools with different levels of support in order to compare how they would plan for your child

|                       |   |  |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Aldersley High School | Barnhurst Lane,<br>WV8 1RT<br>01902 556868            | ASD/Speech,<br>language and<br>communication |
| St Matthias School    | Deans Rd,<br>Wolverhampton<br>WV1 2BH<br>01902 556400 | Hearing<br>Impairment                        |

## Things to Think About

- My child's particular strengths
- 
- What my child likes to do
- 
- Specific worries or concerns
- 
- How medical needs are met, input of school nurse
- 
- Transport to and from school
- 
- How many pupils attend the school and how many classes are in each year group
- 
- Size of school and how my child will get around
- 
- Friendship groups and opportunities to make friends
- 
- The support available during playground and unstructured times (e.g lunchtime)
- 
- Lunchtime arrangements
- 
- Extra-curricular activities and support for pupils to access activities