

Information for parents of deaf children - looking at secondary schools



You are advised to visit all the schools your child might go to and it is a good idea to make a list of the advantages/disadvantages of each school soon after the visit while things are still fresh in your mind.

Before your visit: get a copy of the School's prospectus and any recent OFSTED reports; look particularly at information about Special Educational Needs.

General questions:

- How many children will be in each class?
- Are there any other deaf children in the school? Of what age? Is there a unit or special provision?
- Who would be responsible for my child's Individual Education Plan?
- How does the school communicate with parents? How often?
- What deaf awareness training has the staff received and is the school willing to have deaf awareness training?
- Will my child follow the National Curriculum (if appropriate)? If not, how will it be adapted?
- What SATs/GCSE results have any previous deaf students attained?
- How does the school deal with bullying issues?

Support for your child

- What support would be available for my child, both in lessons and outside of lessons e.g. extra curricular activities, lunchtimes, homework?
- Will my child have support in class / be withdrawn from lessons for individual support?
- Would there be a key worker for my child?
- Will my child be asked how he/she would like to be supported?

Facilities and Environment

- Are the acoustics of classrooms acceptable? E.g. any rooms adapted for deaf children e.g. Soundfield system? Carpets? Height of ceilings?
- Does the school have quiet areas where your child can work?
- Do all children have access to computers?

Communication issues

- If your child has a Communication Support Worker are the school aware of how they will support your child?
- Ensure that the school is aware of the technology that your child may use e.g. FM system, cochlear implant, hearing aids etc. How would this be managed in school?

- Does the school have useful technology such as text television, subtitled DVDs/videos, interactive whiteboards which your child will be able to access?

Additional Needs

- Could the school cope with any additional needs your child may have?

Finally

- Ask yourself if you can imagine your child fitting in at the school.

For further information or to speak to a Teacher of the Deaf please contact:



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 **SN-IP** www.snipnorthants.org

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