



**Cheshire East
Information, Advice
& Support**

**Information leaflet
for parents & carers**

Providing confidential, impartial support and advice for parents, carers, children and young people in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disability

Choosing a new school

The following are suggestions for the sorts of question you might ask. You may not need to ask all of them - highlight the ones which suit your situation. Please feel free to copy as needed or download the questions on their own from the CEIAS website.

Name of the school: _____

Date visited: _____

Things to look out for during the visit	You can write your comments here
How you are dealt with at the school reception?	
How does the reception staff deal with pupils?	
How do pupils behave towards each other?	
How do pupils behave towards staff?	
Is the school noisy?	

Do pupils stick to the rules about uniform and jewellery etc?	
Research shows that a good environment can raise a pupil's self-esteem. Do pupils/staff seem to have pride in their school?	
Do staff have time to talk and have they been properly briefed?	
How do staff speak about pupils with SEN?	
Does the school have a physical environment that would suit your child?	
Are pupils of all abilities represented in the work displayed around the school?	
How many pupils in class groups?	
How does the school introduce new pupils to the school?	
Who would my son daughter talk to if they had a problem?	
Where do pupils spend their breaks and lunch times?	

What examinations can the school offer?	
What proportion of the children in the school have special needs?	
These are my child's needs, do you have staff with specialist qualifications/experience?	
Could you outline the support he/she will get?	
Is this just in their current year or throughout the school?	
How are Individual Education Plans (IEPs) monitored?	
How will subject staff know about my child's needs?	
How will they be helped to support my child?	
Does the school have a buddy system?	
How does the school communicate with parents?	

When will you keep me informed of my child's progress?	
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Things the school might ask you for	
A copy of your child's statement, if any, or details of his or her needs.	
Level and type of support child has now	
Phone number of current school	
List of any other agencies involved	
Your child's reading, spelling and comprehension ages (or National Curriculum Levels) if you know them, or can easily find out	

The "Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years" can be downloaded from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>.

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